

OREGON WINEGROWERS ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2009
WATERMILL WINERY, MILTON FREEWATER

Attendees: Kara Olmo (President), Harry Peterson-Nedry (Secretary), David Adelsheim, Tim Kennedy, Terry Brandborg.
On the phone: Gary Conkling, Conkling Fiskum & McCormick

Guests: Jesse Lyon, Davis Wright Tremaine;

Staff: Ted Farthing (Executive Director), Katie Bray, Stephany Boettner, Tara Anderson, Hannelore Buckenmeyer, Annie Cocchia

Call to Order

Olmo called the OWA meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Minutes Approval

Adelsheim moved, Brandborg seconded that the Board approve the minutes from the February 17, 2009 OWA Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Revision to February 17, 2009 Minutes

Mankin moved that OWA achieve a minimum target reserve of one month of operational expense by December 31st 2009, achieve a minimum target reserve of two months of operational expense by December 31 2010 and achieve a target reserve of three months of operational expense by 2011. Peterson-Nedry seconded. [Peterson Nedry withdrew second on 3/31/2009. Motion failed due lack of a second.]

Action Items

Farthing reviewed action item checklist. Adelsheim raised the concern that in deciding not to backfill the Policy Manager position, the function of having an OWA/OWB outreach person has been lost.

Recruitment and Retention Results

Farthing reviewed OWA recruitment and retention results and recommended reducing the FY 08/09 revenue projection to \$170,000.

Financials

Farthing reviewed OWA P&L and Balance Sheet. OWA revenue is up versus last year, however, the final membership number is expected to be lower than the budgeted target due to economic constraints within the industry.

Attorney Resources Required for Privilege Tax Issue

Lyon briefed the Directors on the billable hours that Davis Wright Tremaine (DWT) has incurred in dealing with the Privilege Tax issue, far in excess of the OWA's retainer. Lyon acknowledged that DWT does not expect to be made completely whole, however, asked the Directors to consider raising additional funds from the industry and/or removing items from DWT's priority list, in order to help offset their write-offs. Farthing proposed a payment structure that would allow the OWB to pay DTW a one-time payment of \$15,000 for the Privilege Tax issue.

Adelsheim moved, Kennedy seconded a motion to approve the proposed one-time \$15,000 payment to Davis Wright Tremaine to help offset the unexpected billings incurred from work on the Privilege Tax issue. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative/Regulatory Agenda Update see separate documents: Advocacy Agenda and Advocacy Update. Lyon and Conkling reviewed advocacy items; updates are reflected in the above mentioned document.

Lyon asked for a recommendation on a distance for abandoned vineyards. Board agreed that a one mile area buffer would be sufficient.

Lyon briefed Directors on the current status of the Privilege Tax issue. Lyon stated that if the OLCC doesn't take action by April 1, 2009, the issue would need to be escalated. Conkling offered that a second request could be made to receive assistance from the Governor's office. Directors agreed that working through the Governor's office is the best course of action.

Lyon announced that the work on the Viticultural Area signs is now complete.

Olmo recessed the OWA Meeting at 11:18 am.

Olmo adjourned the OWA Meeting at 3:08 pm.