



## Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council

Draft Minutes for February 11, 2016 Meeting



**Council Members Present:** Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture (DoAg); Linda Auger, Taylor Brooke Winery, Hilary Criollo, Hopkins Vineyard; Jonathan Edwards, Jonathan Edwards Winery; ; Dr. Frank Ferrandino, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Jim Frey, Walker Road Vineyard;

Michelle Niedermeyer, Lost Acres Vineyard; George Motel, Sunset Meadow Vineyard. Participating by Phone: Russell Holmberg, Holmberg Orchards; Jamie Jones, Jones Family Farm & Winery.

**Council Members Absent:** Cameron Faustman, Director, Storrs Experiment Station; Dean Gregory Weidemann, UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources; Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner.

**Other Attendees:** Donald Joy, Lebanon Vineyards; Richard Ruggiero, Paradise Hills Vineyard; Jim Melilo, Priam Vineyards; and DoAg staff.

### **Call to Order**

Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

Michelle Niedemeyer moved to accept the December 10, 2015 minutes. Jim Frey seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Linda Auger moved to accept the January 21, 2016 special meeting minutes. Dr. Frank Ferrandino seconded. Motion carried, with Michelle abstaining from the vote.

### **Chairman's Report/Financial Report**

Commissioner Reviczky reported on the state's budget, Community Investment Account distributions, and recent agency budget changes. A discussion ensued about how this affects the Council work.

### **Old Business**

#### **Public Comment**

Jim Melillo, Priam Vineyards, asked for passport marketing budget clarification A discussion ensued.

### **Passport Subcommittee**

Michelle Niedemeyer reported she is now the Chairman of the Subcommittee, as elected by the Subcommittee. She then reported on activity for the group, finances, price of new passport, prizes, public drawing, and design efforts.

### **Big E Subcommittee**

Jonathan Edwards presented a more defined proposal for a management alternative for the Big E Wine Booth in the Connecticut Building. A discussion included expenses and other similar wine group organized events.

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment**

Richard Ruggiero, Paradise Hills Vineyard, asked questions about the Passport Program, answered by Council.

**Research and Education:** Jane Slupecki, DoAg, asked for an amicable date for the Risk Management grant event. A motion was made by Michelle Niedemeyer to create an Education and Research Subcommittee, with 6 members, which Jonathan Edwards seconded. The Council discussed the topic. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. Slupecki  
February 22, 2016