Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council
Draft Minutes for May 12, 2016 Meeting

Council Members Present: Linda Auger, Taylor Brooke Winery, Hilary Criollo, Hopkins Vineyard; Jonathan Edwards, Jonathan Edwards Winery; Jim Frey, Walker Road Vineyard; Russell Holmberg, Holmberg Orchards; George Motel, Sunset Meadow Vineyard; Dean Gregory Weidemann, UConn-College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Participating by Phone: Jamie Jones, Jones Family Farm & Winery.

Council Members Absent: Commissioner Catherine Smith, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Director Cameron Faustman, Storrs Experiment Station; Dr. Frank Ferrandino, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Michelle Niedermeyer, Lost Acres Vineyard.

Other Attendees: Bureau Director Linda Piotrowicz, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, representing Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky; Blaze Faillaci, Dalice Elizabeth Winery; DoAg staff Jane Slupecki and Rebecca Murphy.

Call to Order: Linda Piotrowicz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Jim Frey made a motion to add the names of those who will be asked to serve on new Research and Development subcommittee to the February 11, 2016, minutes. Linda Auger seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report/Financial Report: Linda Piotrowicz gave a brief report on the state and agency budgets, emphasizing the new economic reality and unsustainable level of agency staffing for council work. Jane Slupecki reported on outstanding invoices and a remaining balance of $50,329 in the council's account, which includes $24,000 planned for upcoming programming. Several purchase requests will be submitted July 1.

Subcommittee Structure Discussion
A discussion regarding subcommittee names occurred. Hilary Criollo made a motion to continue the groups as is with a name change from "subcommittee" to "working group" to reflect participation of individuals outside the council. Jim seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Passport Working Group: There was no report.

Big E Working Group: Jonathan Edwards presented additional information about the Big E booth. Rebecca Murphy, answered his questions based upon input from Commissioner Reviczky and Linda Piotrowicz. A discussion ensued about transparent accounting and associated costs, with the council reaching consensus regarding a simplified method for accounting support. The application and its deadlines, delivery, storage, insurances, retrofitting booth, signage, and other details were discussed. Jonathan will contact Sharpe Hill about delivering wines to the Big E.

Research and Education Working Group: Russell Holmberg reported on the development of the educational and research program, using the RMA grant. The event will be held at Paradise Hills in August, late afternoon/early evening. Several speakers have been contacted. A discussion ensued.

Public Comment on Old Business: None.

New Business
Linda Auger moved to forgo printing the wine council wine brochure this year to save money. It was seconded by George Motel. The motion passed unanimously.

Jane announced the passing of Dr. Bill Nail, former council secretary and employee of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. A discussion about his contributions to the industry ensued.

Public Comment on New Business: None.

Adjournment: George made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jonathan, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. Slupecki
May 18, 2016

DRAFT