

**COLORADO ASSOCIATION FOR  
VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY (CAVE)  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
9:00am-11:00am**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04am. Board members present were, Ulla Merz, Laura Black, Charles Talbott, Phil Patton, Dave Aschwanden, Scott Smith and Kevin Webber. Staff present was Cassidee Shull. Guests present were, Stephanie Hicks and Doug Caskey.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

*Kevin motioned to approve the agenda. Dave seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by the board.*

**III. Approval of Minutes**

*Kevin motioned to approve the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as amended. Phil seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the board.*

**Viticulture Extension Specialist Update**

Doug presented the Viticulture Extension Update. There is no current Viticulture Extension Specialist in the state as Rob resigned earlier this fall. The CWIDB has earmarked \$50,000 to assist with funding this position moving forward. The CAVE board discussed the Viticulture Funding, including earmarking \$20,000 for this position in 2022, up from \$15,000 from prior years.

*Ulla motioned to have Cassidee, and Doug receive a decision from CSU on their financial commitment for the Viticulture Extension position as soon as possible.*

*Phil seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion carried.*

**IV. CWIDB Update**

Doug presented the CWIDB update. They are waiting on the final approval for the second installment of the Cultivar Camps for cold tolerant varieties. There is the possibility of doing these remotely. The new cycle of the Specialty Crops Block Grant is open this week, and the deadline is February 2<sup>nd</sup>. An idea that rose to the top was expanding climatology studies.

Final touches are being placed on a Soil Health study, taking place March 4<sup>th</sup> online. This will also include a retail side. More information regarding this seminar will be forthcoming.

Colorado Uncorked is finalized, \$20,000 was brought in, with several thousand dollars donated to History CO. The CWIDB also discussed donating event proceeds towards the Viticulture Extension Position in the future.

**V. Executive Director's Report**

The Colorado Tourism Office is hosting a Meet and Greet with their Director, Tim Wolfe this afternoon in Palisade from 2-4pm, all are welcome to attend!

Cassidee thanked the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board for their continued support and sponsorship of VinCO!

Cassidee reviewed the Membership Meeting agenda for the January VinCO meeting.

She will also be present at the upcoming Conditional Use Permit hearing on for Restoration Vineyards this Thursday in Grand Junction.

The deadline for the Colorado Winefest Art Contest is January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The deadline for the Awards of Excellence is January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and will be awarded at the Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> Wine Industry Banquet during VinCO.

A reminder that the deadline to vote in the CAVE Board election is this Friday at 5:00pm!

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **a. Legislative**

Stephanie provided a Legislative Update. The 2022 session begins on January 12<sup>th</sup>. CAVE will not run any proactive legislation this upcoming session.

The board discussed a bill that will be presented next session regarding vintner's restaurant licenses. Currently these licenses cannot ship direct to consumer within the state. A few of these licenses have gotten together to move forward with a bill to change this. This includes Carboy Winery and Two Rivers Winery.

Carboy has requested to retain Stephanie as their lobbyist moving forward on this bill. The bill sponsor is Rhonda Fields, and this will be one of her first five bills heard in session. There is no language to review at this point.

Ulla believes there is a conflict of interest between Carboy and CAVE. Both Stephanie and Kevin confirmed that they do not see a conflict as Stephanie is a non-voting member, and Kevin will recuse himself on any motions involving CAVE and this legislation.

Stephanie also discussed a piece of legislation that may be introduced by the Department of Revenue. The DOR would like to take a holistic look at the Liquor Code essentially creating a new taskforce. Language has not been circulated as of yet.

Ulla presented her legislative update regarding SB-087. She has attended a few hearings regarding rulemaking.

### **b. Education**

Online registration ends January 10<sup>th</sup> for VinCO – Please sign up if you have not already! A call for wine has been sent out to CAVE members for the conference. If you can donate wine to the conference, it would be greatly appreciated!

Ulla recommended having the education committee look into hosting additional educational seminars offering grant opportunities to the membership.

### **c. Finance**

The board reviewed the 2022 Budget.

*Dave motioned to approve the 2022 budget.*

*Phil seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **d. Winefest**

Cassidee announced that Fisher's Liquor Barn is the new title sponsor for Mountain Winefest! All Winefest tickets were placed on sale on November 29<sup>th</sup> for Cyber Monday, VIP Tickets sold out in one week and to date we have sold 1,619 GA tickets!

A Colorado winery inquired about bringing their vodka onto the Winefest license next year made from Colorado grapes. The board discussed this and would like the Winefest Committee to send a recommendation to the Board regarding this.

### **e. Marketing**

The Barrel into Spring applications are ready to be sent to all Mesa County wineries.

- f. Personnel**  
There was no Personnel Committee update.
- VII. New Business**  
There was no New Business.
- VIII. Old Business**  
The board thanked Ulla for her service on the CAVE Board of Directors!
- IX. Public Comment**  
There was no public comment.
- X. Next Board Meeting**  
The next CAVE Board of Directors Meeting will take place on Jan 17th at 9:00am at the DoubleTree. Cassidee will confirm this time once the new board members are elected.
- XI. Adjourn**  
The meeting was adjourned at 10:54am

Cassidee Shull, CAVE Executive Director  
Approved at \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 Board meeting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Scott Smith, President