



LODI WINE
WINEGRAPE
COMMISSION

**Lodi Winegrape Commission
Meeting Minutes - Final
June 25, 2020**

The Lodi Winegrape Commission met on Thursday, June 25, 2020 virtually via Go to Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kendra Altnow at 1:05 pm.

Roll was called

Commissioner	Present	Alternate Commissioner	Present
Kendra Altnow	X	Brandon Sywassink	
Bruce Fry	X	Mitch Spaletta	
Curt Gillespie	X	Art Prudhel	
Ben Kolber	X	Tom Murphy	
Matt Lauchland	X	Todd Maley	
Diego Olagaray	X	Garret Schaefer	X
Galen Schmiedt	X	CJ Castelanelli	
Aaron Shinn	X	Jason Eells	X
Ed Van Diemen		Phil Abba	X

Also, in attendance was Mirek Wilczek (CDFA Marketing Branch) and Larry Whitted. Staff present Stuart Spencer and Stephanie Bolton. A quorum was established.

On a motion by Kolber/Shinn the minutes of the May 7, 2020 meeting were approved (Exhibit A).

Public Comment on Items Appearing on the Agenda – None

Financial Report – Galen Schmiedt updated the board on the Finance Committee activities. The committee met last week to review the April and May financials. Assessment income is mostly in for the 2019-20 season, and expenses are trending below budget. Schmiedt discussed the appointment on an auditing firm for the FY 2019-20. The auditor conducts an annual fiscal and compliance audit. Motion to appoint Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen to conduct the LWC audits for FY 2019-20 Olagarary/Gillespie - Carried. Motion to accept the financial report. Shinn/Olagarary - Carried

Chariman’s Report – Chairperson Altnow announced the 2020-21 board election results. The following were elected as Commissioners and Alternates –

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Alternate Commissioner</u>
Phil Abba	Dirk Heuvel
Bruce Fry	Joan Kautz
Curt Gillespie	Jacylyn Stokes
Tom Murphy	Colton Machado
Brandon Sywassink	Scott Armolea

Altnow thanked outgoing Commissioners Kolber, Schmiedt and Van Diemen for eight years of service to the Lodi winegrowing community. Their leadership and commitment will be missed. She also appointed Schmiedt and Kolber to serve as the nominating committee for the 2020-21 LWC officer positions. They will report back and make their recommendations at the July meeting.

Consideration of FY 2020-21 Budget – ED Spencer presented the proposed FY 2020-21 Budget (Exhibit B). The Executive Committee and committee chairs met on June 4th to assemble the budget. Each committee submitted a budget request and the group developed an income projection (Exhibit C). ED Spencer led the board through each committee’s budget and discussed what was being proposed for the coming year. Motion to accept the recommended budget with projected income of \$2,279,046.70 and projected expenses of \$2,307,635.86 for a fiscal year budget deficit of \$28,635.86. Olagarary/Kolber-Carried. The LWC board discussed the assessment rate. Motion to set the assessment rate at .45% for FY 2020-21. Schmiedt/Olagarary – Carried.

Executive Director’s Report - ED Spencer presented the FY 2020-21 Statement of Contemplated Activities (Exhibit D) that accompanies the budget when it is submitted to CDFA. The statement is the Commission approved strategic plan. Motion to accept the Statement of Contemplated Activities for 2020-21. Gillespie/Olagarary – Carried.

ED Spencer presented and discussed his Executive Director Report (Exhibit E).

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee – The committee met on June 4 to develop the budget.

Grower Marketing Committee – Committee Chair Altnow reported that the committee has met twice since the previous board meeting. The committee has developed a comprehensive 2020-21 marketing plan. A synopsis of the plan is attached (Exhibit F). One of the activities they are working on is a relationship send to Lodi grape buyers. Included in the send are backpacks, water bottles, back up chargers, etc. all branded with the Lodi growers landmark. As part of the marketing plan the committee has developed a comprehensive digital, print, and social campaign that targets industry, trade and engaged consumers.

Lodi Rules – Committee Chair Aaron Shinn reported that the Lodi Rules committee met on June 15. They are working on updating some standards and beta testing the new PRT (pesticide risk tool). They will also soon be releasing a Spanish version of the Lodi Rules and continue to explore ways to enhance educational awareness around sustainable winegrowing.

Research, Education, Communication – Committee Chair Larry Whitted reported that the committee met on June 23, 2020. Members of the Virus Research Focus group helped staff pass out the new 138-page virus workbook. Over 250 books have so far been distributed. Staff is working on a new series of workshops titled the “Modern Farmer Series”. The series will kick off with an article on the power of the vineyard tech sheet, and the Commission will have resources available for Lodi growers to develop their own Lodi vineyard tech sheet.

Winery Marketing Committee – The committee met at the beginning of June. A great deal of time has been spent navigating the latest rules and regulations regarding tasting during COVID. The committee is continuing to explore different avenues to reach customers while visitation and travel are limited.

Other Organization Reports:

CWEF – no report

SJCFB – no report

LDGGA – Amy Blagg was unable to attend, but sent the following information. Cal OSHA Outdoor Agricultural Operations in Hours of Darkness standard is effective July 1st. Includes minimum illumination requirements, high visibility garments, and training at the beginning of each shift. LDGGA Blood Drive in honor of Kris Gutierrez will be held on July 23.

Appointments are required and can be made at www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code LDGGA. Working on a webinar/video options in place of traditional Harvest Safety Seminar. Statewide ag organizations and ag employers have received letters from the State Attorney General regarding COVID 19 stating that “pursuant to the Attorney General’s role as the State’s chief law officer, we are conducting an examination of agricultural workplaces to ensure that adequate measures are being undertaken to protect the health and safety of agricultural workers.” Farmers are advised to seek labor legal advice before responding.

Lodi Grape Festival – no report

CAWG – no report

Public Comment – None

Agenda Items for Future Meetings – Election of Officers

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 23, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Spencer
On behalf of Aaron Shinn
Secretary