

Wine Grape Market Development Program Council Meeting

Grape Inspirations Winery – Carmel, Indiana

April 26, 2005

Present:

Jim Butler, Mark Easley, Bill Oliver, Larry Satek, Kim Doty, Ted Huber, Dave Schrodt, Bruce Bordelon, Ellie Butz, Jeanette Merritt, Jill Blume, Ed Ashworth, Suzanne Nielsen, & Jerry Fankhauser; Host – Ron & Joyce Shoff; Industry – Brent Canady

The spring meeting of the Wine Grape Market Development Program was called to order at 10:00 am by President Jim Butler. Minutes of the Fall 2004 Council meeting and updated financial information were handed out and reviewed. Both were approved as presented. The Vintage Fund balance was noted (balance as of March 31, 2005 is \$12,245.00) and there was discussion of the usage of this unrestricted gift fund established for the benefit of the three programs.

Program Updates:

Bruce Bordelon discussed the estimated acreage of grapes in Indiana – It is around 320 acres at present. Updates were also given on the grant-funded Asian Lady Beetle study. Bruce also talked about ongoing research and other grant opportunities.

Enology issues were discussed by Ellie Butz and others. Dr. Christian Butzke is set to interview for the enology faculty position on May 11th. The winery quality assurance program and analytical testing was discussed at length. Jill Blume talked about her trip to California to view wine laboratories and her attendance at an enology workshop. Ellie gave an update on the Wine Appreciation course (FS 470). Regarding the Indy Wine competition, it was noted that needs and/or concerns need to be voiced to the State Fair Board.

Jeanette Merritt began by noting that since coming on board in December, she has been able to get out seven press releases and is currently working on a “press kit” for the benefit of those seeking information on the Wine Grape Program and industry. A new brochure is also in the works. An update on the Vintage Indiana Festival was also given.

Fiscal Year 2005-06 Budget

There was general discussion about the budget process and available funds for the next year's fiscal budget. The Council agreed with program specialists that there is a lack of “supplies & expense” and “travel” funds which may hamper the ability of the specialists to reach out to the industry across the state. There was a special request by Ellie Butz for a purchase of a new laboratory computer which is needed to record sample data. The Council made a motion with a second to recommend funding such a purchase. Motion carried. The Fiscal Year 2005-05 draft budget was approved as presented (base budget @ \$348,000.00) with the addition of the laboratory computer and a request to look at additional funding for S&E and travel funds for all three specialists. This draft budget does not include merit increases for faculty and staff as such university policy was not in place at the time of the spring meeting.

The issue of program reporting was brought to the Council's attention. There is a desire by all three specialists to present an annual “formal” report of their program activities at the spring Council meeting. The timing of such reporting will be better for all and a less structured update will still be given at the fall meeting. The Council and others were in agreement with this request.

There was a motion to adjourn at 1:25 pm. A tour of *Grape Inspirations Winery* was then given by Ron Shoff.