

## Meeting Minutes

### Arkansas Wine Producers Council

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Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 2:00 pm

Weingarten Event Center Wiederkehr Village, Arkansas

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#### Appointed Members

Mr. Andrew Post

Mr. Daniel O'Shea

Ms. Audrey House, Chair

Mrs. Renee Threlfall, Vice Chair

Mr. Dennis Wiederkehr, Secretary

Mr. Michael Post, Treasurer

#### Ex Officio Members

Mr. Doug Hausler, Arkansas Association of Grape Growers President

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- A. Call to Order 2:03 pm
  
- B. Welcome Council Member Roll Call: Present – Andrew Post, Dr. Threlfall, Daniel O'Shea, Doug Hausler, Audrey House, Michael Post. No guests were present.
  
- C. Consideration to Approve Apr 18, 2023 minutes: Andrew made a motion to accept minutes, Renee 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Motion carried. ""
  
- D. Treasurer Report: Michael reported that after issuing a payment of \$1000 to NTRA there was a balance of \$2276.68 in the checking account. The CD balance is around \$39,000 and Michael will be putting some of it in the checking account and buying a smaller CD. Dennis will be submitting a receipt for the Zoom membership for \$169.
  
- E. Committee Reports
  - a. Council Bylaws – Nothing to report.
  
  - b. Arkansas Wine Agri Marketing Grant FY2021 (19-6-839) – This years payments were all received with no issues.
  
  - c. 2023 Budget – Clarification on the status of the Tourism Facility is needed before a budget can be developed.
  
  - d. Website – There is a new way to upload info on it- via email.
  
  - e. Tourism Signage Protocols & Procedures – Dennis reported that Wiederkehr's sign needs replacing.

- f. Tourism Facility: Tourism Development Trust Fund (3-5-1802) – It was suggested that we invite David Bell (Commerce Dept CFO) and/or the person responsible for completing this step of the process, to either our next meeting or if possible, a separate meeting sooner. Dennis or Michael will contact David Bell.
  
  - g. National Grape Research Alliance – Renee reported that a 3 day conference focusing on muscadinia/vitis vinifera breedings will be held in Fayetteville Oct 2,3, and 4. It will be attended by folks from universities, USDA, and growers from around the country. She and Dr Worthington will be forming a team from them to apply for a multi-million dollar grant. On Wednesday the group will head to Altus to visit Post and if time permits, other wineries there. A dinner with an AQW wine tasting will be held that evening. On Thursdays there will be a meeting that local growers are invited to attend.
- F. Unfinished Business – Gerry Bruno at PBS is in the process of producing a segment for their Good Roots program on the Arkansas wine industry and will be contacting the wineries for interviews and other content. He’s looking for bottling video and Dennis thought he had something he could give to Gerry.
- G. Other Business
- a. AQW Update: Renee thanked everyone for their submissions this year and said that next year the dates would be moved back to late July or early August.
  - b. Upcoming events- Grapefest July 28 and Winefest October 7.
  - c. Audrey discussed the effect that the Escan virus is having on her vineyard. It has wiped out her Vitis Vinifera vines and is also affecting all other vines. She recommended cutting out and burning affected vines while it’s still hot. Renee mentioned that Topsin-M is recommended for treating the cut wounds. She also recommended that a pertinent topic for future conferences would be a presentation on when to renew and when to start over for damaged vines.
  - d. Arkansas Grown Conference- To be held in Hot Springs Jan 25-27 and the AAGG portion will be on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. Doug reported that he is doing ok health-wise but will not do any harvesting or fermenting this year. He does have some grapes available.
  - f. Legislative Update – nothing to report.

g. Next Meeting– 10/17

H. Adjournment: Renee requested a motion to adjourn. Andrew seconded it. Motion carried at 2:41 pm.

**AWPC P.O. Box 101 Altus, AR 72821**

**NOTE: All exhibits for this meeting are available by electronic means and are accessible on**  
[Arkansas Wine Producers Council | Arkansas.gov](http://Arkansas Wine Producers Council | Arkansas.gov)

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