

Virginia Wine Board Meeting Minutes

Virginia Wine Board Meeting: Day 1

March 31, 2026

Board Members Present

Charles Green, Commissioner
Megan Seibel, Chair
George Hodson, Vice Chair
Aubrey Rose, Treasurer
Luca Paschina
James King
Nate Walsh
Kerem Baki
Anne Shelton

Board Members Absent

Stephen Barnard

Guests Present

Lindsey Anderson, VDACS
Jennifer Atkins, VDACS
Justin Bell
Jennifer Reichert, StonyWater
Matt Brown
Joy Ting
Annette Boyd
Anna Anderson
Emily Hodson
Matthieu Finot
Chrisa Giorgi
Elizabeth Akers
Desiree Harrison Brown
Megan Hereford
AJ Greely

- I. Call to Order – 9:09 AM
- II. Technical Committee – Matthieu Finot
 - a. The Chair of the Technical Committee gave an overview of their process in reviewing the 20 research and education proposals. The Committee chose to recommend the Board fund 12 of these projects. Overall, the Technical Committee was impressed by the viticulture aspect of the proposals but would like to see stronger work on the enology side in the future.

III. Financial Overview – Aubrey Rose

- a. The Treasurer gave a brief review of the current budget and advised the Board to work within a cap of \$500,000 that can be spent on grant awards this year, including continuing projects.

IV. Grant Proposal Presentations

27-22	Virginia’s Internationalization: Achieving Growth in Exports of Wine (VINTAGE Wine)
27-36	VWA Regulation and Rules Round Ups and Winery Resource Guide
27-27	Tasting the Commonwealth: Exploring the People, Places, and Passion of Virginia Wine
27-06	Monticello AVA Trade Tasting: Building Visibility and Access for Virginia Wineries
27-38	Testing the efficacy of Old-World style, high trellis systems in Virginia
27-03	Protecting Virginia’s Grapes from the Hidden Enemy Below: Assessing Nematode Impacts on Vineyard Productivity
27-15	Outdoor Fresh: Virginia Wine & Umoja Experience – Virginia Beach Wine & Farm Tour
27-26	Project DMVino - Building the Brand of Virginia Wine in D.C. through The Drink Tank
27-35	Assessing red wine phenolics in three Virginia wine varieties over three vintages
27-33	Modeling Potassium Release During Fermentation: A Case Study of Potassium Measurement
27-30	Using GC-MS to Assess Crop Load Effects on Pyrazine Levels in Petit Verdot
27-21	Characterization of Virginia-Grown Apples for Cider Production
27-12	Maintain fungicide resistance testing capabilities for grape diseases-2026-2027
27-04	Virginia Wine Industry Compliance & DtC Sales Benchmark
27-39	Sustainable Virginia Vineyards Certification Pilot: Year One Execution and Market Readiness
27-37	Understanding the Benefits and Impacts of Adopting Sustainable & Regenerative Practices in Virginia Vineyards
27-32	Improve the efficacy of grape downy mildew management in Virginia
27-34	Investigating digital droplet PCR for early detection of grape downy mildew and ripe rot
27-20	Establishing Native Plant Mixes in Vineyard Interrows: Feasibility and Mix Selection
27-23	Impacts of Exposure to Adult Spotted Lanternfly on Cabernet Franc Yield and Grape Composition
27-24	Comparing annual and perennial legumes as under-vine cover crops in Virginia vineyards
27-31	Evaluating equipment for undervine cover crop planting

27-07	Virginia Wine Micro-films
27-01	It's WineauxClock in Virginia!

V. Board Discussion

- a. The Board was reminded to keep the \$500,000 maximum award amount in mind as they think over the presentations received and consider funding.

VI. Adjourn

- a. *A motion was made by G. Hodson to recess the meeting until 9:00AM 4/1 and seconded by A. Rose.*

Virginia Wine Board Meeting: Day 2

April 1, 2026

I. Call to Order – 9:15 AM

II. Minutes

- a. A motion was made by G. Hodson and seconded by N. Walsh to approve the draft minutes from the December meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Grant Proposal Presentations, Continued.

27-10 and 27- 11	Virginia Commercial Grape Report 2026 and Virginia Vineyards Association 2027 Winter Technical Meeting Facility Support
27-08	Virginia Cider Educational Meetings FY 2026-2027
27-25	Elevate Virginia Wine Success - Unlock Growth Through Regional Consumer Sales Insights & Best Practices

IV. Industry Reports

- a. Virginia Wineries Association
- b. Virginia Cider Association
- c. Virginia Vineyards Association
- d. Winemakers Research Exchange
- e. National Grape Research Alliance
- f. ViRV Grape Breeding

- g. Wine Marketing Office
 - i. Virginia Wine Tasting Pass
 - ii. Wine Vision

V. Wine Cellar Stories

- a. Grantee C. Giorgi asked the Board to consider assigning copyright to the documentary to Wine Cellar Stories, with the Virginia Wine Board receiving a credit and a perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive license. This will allow for distribution of the film under the rules, which changed last year.
- b. Pending a viewing of the film during the next Board meeting, the Board agreed. Staff will negotiate the specific terms for the Board to approve.

VI. Financial Overview

- a. Treasurer Aubrey Rose reviewed the current budget and projections for the next several years, to inform grant decision making.

VII. Grants & Budget Management

- a. Wine Cellar stories has requested a no-cost extension to the current grant project. *A motion was made to approve the extension request by A. Shelton and seconded by K. Baki. The motion passed unanimously.*
- b. Nelson County requested a no-cost extension to the current project. *A motion to approve the request was made by G. Hodson and seconded by A. Rose. The motion was unanimously approved.*
- c. WRE requested a one-month extension to the travel grant to support NGRA participation, and authorization for Dr. Joy Ting to travel to the June meeting in place of Emily Hodson. *A motion was made by J. King to approve the request and was seconded by A. Rose.*

VIII. Award Selections

- a. *A motion was made to award the following grant proposals by N. Walsh and seconded by A. Rose.*

G. Hodson recused himself from discussion and voting on grants from the VWA and the Monticello Wine Trail. A. Shelton recused herself from discussion and voting from proposals from the VCA.

Organization	Project Lead	Title of Project	Awarded	Type
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Dr. Andrew Harner	Impacts of Exposure to Adult Spotted Lanternfly on Cabernet Franc Yield and Grape Composition	\$59,373.00	Research
Sustainable Virginia Vineyards	Karl Hamsch	Sustainable Virginia Vineyards Certification Pilot: Year One Execution and Market Readiness	\$25,000.00	Research
Virginia Vineyards Association	AJ Greely	Virginia Vineyards Association 2027 Winter Technical Meeting Facility Support	\$15,000.00	Education
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Mizuho Nita, Ph.D.	Improve the efficacy of grape downy mildew management in Virginia	\$57,162.00	Research
Virginia Tech, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences	Anton Baudoin	Maintain fungicide resistance testing capabilities for grape diseases-2026-2027	\$6,000.00	Research
Virginia Wineries Association	Christina Sandridge	VWA Regulation and Rules Round Ups and Winery Resource Guide	\$38,000.00	Education
Virginia Vineyards Association	AJ Greely	Virginia Commercial Grape Report 2026	\$21,000.00	Education
Virginia Cider Association	Megan Hereford	Virginia Cider Educational Meetings FY 2026-2027	\$8,000.00	Education
Department of Food Science & Technology, Virginia Tech	Dr. Amanda Stewart	Characterization of Virginia-grown Apples for Cider Production	\$63,406.00	Research
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Dr. Andrew Harner	Comparing Annual and Perennial Legumes as Under-Vine Cover Crops in Virginia Vineyards	\$43,000.00	Research
Virginia Tech, Dept of Food Science and Technology	Dennis Cladis	Assessing red wine phenolics in three Virginia wine varieties over three vintages	\$42,758.00	Research
The Drink Tank	Phil Sellery	Project DMVino - Building the Brand of Virginia Wine in D.C. through The Drink Tank	\$12,000.00	Marketing

IX. Public Comment - none

X. Adjournment – 3:30 PM

- a. *A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by G. Hodson and seconded by N. Walsh.*