

Virginia Wine Board Meeting

Final Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Board Members Present

Megan Seibel, Chair

Aubrey Rose, Treasurer

Stephen Barnard

Kerem Baki, Virtual (personal)

Anne Shelton

Nate Walsh

Luca Paschina

Board Members Absent

James King

George Hodson, Vice Chair

Charles Green, VDACS Commissioner

Guests Present

Annette Boyd, Wine Marketing Office

Elizabeth Akers, Wine Marketing Office

Anna Anderson, Wine Marketing Office

Desiree Harrison-Brown, Wine Marketing Office

Susan Kramer, Wine Marketing Office

Joy Ting, Winemakers Research Exchange

Emily Hodson, Winemakers Research Exchange

Megan Hereford, Virginia Cider Association

AJ Greely, Virginia Vineyards Association

Christina Sandridge, Virginia Wineries Association

Chrisa Giorgi, Wine Cellar Stories

Lindsey Anderson, VDACS

Jennifer Reichert, StonyWater

1. Call to Order – 10:05 AM

2. Documentary Viewing

- a. The Board viewed the Virginia wine docu-series funded in the 25-26 grant cycle to review before determining a path for distribution.

3. March Minutes

- a. *A motion was made by A. Shelton and seconded by S. Barnard to accept the March minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. Industry Reports – full reports available upon request.

- a. Virginia Cider Association
 - i. M. Hereford gave an overview of the April VCA meeting, held at Blue Bee Cider. The next meeting will be held in July.
- b. Virginia Vineyards Association
 - i. VVA is currently planning their summer technical meeting, which will focus on under vine management.
 - ii. The late April frost caused widespread damage to vineyards. A survey has already been sent out, but a second one is being distributed to assess the damage on secondary growth. After this survey is complete, there will be a webinar held for information. This may need to be a topic included in the future Commercial Grape Report.
- c. Virginia Wineries Association

- i. Planning for the next Governor's Cup Competition has begun.
- d. Wine Marketing Office
 - i. A. Boyd gave a recap of the Governor's Cup Gala as final invoices are being paid. This year was a big success.
 - ii. Wine Vision
 - 1. A. Anderson would like to send out a survey to hear priorities from the industry, find out what areas need support, what is missing, etc. This information would be presented in the August meeting as the Board works on messaging to send out for the 2027-2028 grant cycle.
 - iii. The matching marketing grants were provided and asked to be approved.
 - 1. *A motion was made by S. Barnard and seconded by A. Shelton to award the matching marketing grants. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - iv. A request was made for a no-cost, reallocation of funds to the Trade and Advertising budgets.
 - 1. *A motion was made by S. Barnard and seconded by A. Shelton to approve the reallocation request. The motion passed unanimously.*
- e. ViRV
 - i. Strides are being made in the development of resistance in new rounds of crosses. Over 15,000 plants have been evaluated for downy mildew in the project to breed for resistance.
 - ii. Work is being done to develop a permanent USDA position at the ARS station.
 - iii. There is a no-cost reallocation request. There is \$38,000 left in the budget. ViRV is asking for this money to have the PoP extended into the 2027 fiscal year and move this money from Materials and Supplies to Contractual.
 - 1. *A motion was made to approve the request by N. Walsh and seconded by S. Barnard.*
- f. National Grape Research Alliance

- i. The next meeting will take place in June. J. Ting will be attending the meeting due to E. Hodson being unable to attend.

5. Financial Report

- a. A. Rose gave an overview of the current budget and next year's outlook. With decreasing appropriations, the Board will need to get creative with how money is being spent.

6. Grants and Budget Management

- a. J. Reichert gave an overview of the work being done to have the Sustainable Virginia Vineyards grant aligned with the Board and State's intellectual property expectations. The Board agreed that the language being proposed to the grant was acceptable.
- b. To address the widespread frost damage that is impacting vineyards, J. Reichert will reach out to the 2026-2027 grant awardees to determine if extensions will be necessary to carry out the projects.
- c. J. Reichert gave an overview of the current grant awards. The Board gave feedback that they may need to do a better job managing expectations of the grant application process and should be more selective at the preproposal stage.
- d. Amendments
 - i. The ViRV Grape Breeding Project requested an extension
 - ii. The 26-26 Wine Cellar Stories grant requested the Board amend the intellectual property agreement to give C. Giorgi the ownership of the film to allow for distribution.
 - 1. *A motion was made by A. Rose to give up the Board's ownership of the film for distribution and was seconded by S. Barnard. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - iii. The VVA requested a no-cost reallocation to allow funds for the 26-26 Winter Technical Meeting grant to cover travel and contractual services due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - 1. *A motion was made by A. Shelton to approve the request and was seconded by S. Barnard.*

7. Contract Renewals and New FY27 Grants

- a. StonyWater
 - i. Requesting a total of \$65,000 at the hourly rate of \$86.40, and using the CPI 1.9% rate growth.
- b. New FY27 Grants
 - i. The 27-26 DMVino grant lowered their budget and edited their project plan to request \$11,920.
 - 1. *A motion was made by N. Walsh and seconded by A. Shelton to approve the new project plan, budget, and award the grant. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - ii. The 27-07 Virginia Wine Micro-films grant proposal was tabled until the Board could review the deliverable of the previous project.
 - 1. *A motion was made by N. Walsh to award the \$30,000 grant proposal and was seconded by K. Baki. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - iii. NGRA requested a \$10,000 travel grant for travel to meetings.
 - 1. *A motion was made by S. Barnard and seconded by L. Paschina to approve the \$10,000 travel request. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - iv. The 27-35 Assessing Red Wine Phenolics grant has requested a 1-year extension and a budget increase of \$652 due to frost damage in the vineyard.
 - 1. *A motion was made to accept the request by S. Barnard and seconded by A. Rose. The motion passed unanimously.*
- c. Wine Marketing Office
 - i. Requesting \$1,255,000.00 to cover staffing and expenses.
- d. Winemakers Research Exchange
 - i. Requesting \$327,220.00 to cover staffing and expenses.
- e. Governor's Cup Competition
 - i. Requesting \$100,000 to cover the cost of the event.

8. Closed Session

- a. Before entering into closed session, the Board identified three non-board members to allow into the session, being L. Anderson, J. Reichert, and J. Bell (OAG) as needed.
- b. *A motion was made by A. Shelton and seconded by K. Baki to enter into a closed session to discuss the award of public contracts to Ringwood Boyd, Winemakers Research Exchange, and Governor's Cup Competition. The motion passed unanimously.*
- c. All meeting attendees, except the three aforementioned staff members, left the room for the closed session to take place.
- d. The Board entered into closed session to discuss three of its contracts, Ringwood Boyd, Winemakers Research Exchange, and Governor's Cup Competition as they relate to § 2.2-3711 (A)(29) of the *Code of Virginia*: Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

9. Certification of Closed Session

- a. *A motion was made by N. Walsh to certify that during closed session, the discussion included only matters pertaining to the Ringwood Boyd, Winemakers Research Exchange, and Governor's Cup Competition contracts, and was seconded by A. Rose. Each Board member voted "yes" to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

10. Voting on Contracts

- a. StonyWater
 - i. *A motion was made by A. Shelton and seconded by K. Baki to approve the budget request for StonyWater. The motion passed unanimously.*
- b. Wine Marketing Office
 - i. The Board chose to table the decision on this contract until a later date in May, sending a request for more information before being able to vote.
- c. Winemakers Research Exchange

- i. The Board chose to table the decision on this contract until a later date in May, sending a request for more information before being able to vote.
- d. Governor's Cup Competition
 - i. The Board chose to table the decision on this contract until a later date in May, sending a request for more information before being able to vote.

11. Public Comment

- a. None

12. Future Meeting Dates

- a. The Board will be determining a date for a virtual meeting before the end of May 2026 to make a decision on the three undecided contracts.
- b. The first meeting of the 2027 fiscal year will be held on August 12. Location to be decided at the May virtual meeting.

13. Adjournment

- a. *A motion was made by A. Rose to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by S. Barnard.*