



Research Committee/Wine Research Advisory Committee

Annual Meeting

The Loft – 14 Hands Winery, Prosser
June 13, 2024

Chair Linn Scott called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Present: Linn Scott, Dick Boushey, Brian Carter, Kade Casciato, Kevin Corliss, Sara Del Moro, Katie Nelson, Patrick Rawn, Kay Simon, Scott Williams, Wade Wolfe

Staff: Melissa Hansen, WSWC

Guest: Julie Pond, Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research

A quorum was in effect.

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the June 14, 2023 Annual Meeting of the Wine Research Advisory Committee were mailed prior to this meeting for committee review.

MOVED by Kevin Corliss, SECONDED by Brian Carter, and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED that the Minutes of July 14, 2023 be approved.

Intent to Serve – All WRAC members indicated their intent to serve for FY 25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). (Scanned document attached.)

Election of Officers – Linn Scott and Scott Williams shared their willingness to continue serving as chair and vice chair, respectively.

MOVED by Kay Simon, SECONDED by Wade Wolfe and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to nominate Linn Scott and Scott Williams as WRAC officers for FY 25.

Research Funding Cycle Review and Timeline– Committee members gave positive feedback on the grant management software and research portal. Melissa added that WRAC members will have access to all reports and documents uploaded to the portal by researchers, and thus, will go to the portal review progress reports and final reports. It was agreed that having the Research Review at WSU-IAREC was convenient for researchers, centrally located, and comes with staff to help set up the virtual component. It was agreed that the initial funding decision be made immediately following the presentations, while things are fresh. A virtual meeting a week later will be scheduled in case follow-up is needed for some proposals. The Committee agreed upon dates for FY 25, which are contained in the Research Timeline that will be shared with the committee.

Research Priorities

The Committee reviewed results of the 2024 Research Survey. Industry participation in the survey has lagged in the last few years despite widespread outreach efforts. Of the 63 respondents, 25% were from the research category. Melissa Hansen was encouraged to explore gift cards or some incentive to complete the survey. Vineyard Sustainability ranked the highest priority of the viticulture topics, Wine Aroma and Compounds ranked highest for the enology topics. The committee discussed how to best

identify research project topics of value to producers participating in the Sustainable WA certification. Patrick Rawn volunteered to work with the Sustainable WA Governance Committee to identify areas where growers need improvement. Linn Scott volunteered to work more closely with the WA Wine Technical Group to better identify research areas of need for enology. The open-ended comments of the survey were reviewed. The committee had no changes to make to the current Research Priorities list. *MOVED by Wade Wolfe, SECONDED by Katie Nelson, and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED that the Research Priorities of FY 24 remain in place for FY25.*

Northwest Center for Small Fruits – Julie Pond, Northwest Berry Foundation, was invited to provide an update on the NW Center, its research grant program and connection with the ARS Corvallis unit. Julie provided background on the Center that was created in 1992 to enhance the sustainability and profitability of small fruit producers in Idaho, Washington and Oregon through partnerships of universities and USDA-ARS scientists. The NW Berry Foundation was contracted to facilitate and organize the annual research conference, manage the research grant program, and communicate research results of the funded projects. Approximately \$1.5 M is annually appropriated from Congress to fund research grants between berries and grapes, and wine. The NW Berry Foundation publishes a quarterly Small Fruits newsletter with research fact sheets of past research. Melissa Hansen includes the quarterly newsletter in the WAVE Research Report newsletters. A key part of the annual conference, scheduled for November 18-20, 2024 in Boise, Idaho, is setting research priorities for the grant program. Julie explained the process and encouraged WRAC members to attend. She welcomes feedback at any time.

In other ARS news, Melissa Hansen shared that a virology post doc will be hired to continue ongoing virology work. This action was in response to letters from the Washington Wine Commission, Blueberry Commission and others concerned about the virology position void. ARS will conduct an outside search to fill the Research Leader for the pest and disease unit at Corvallis. Three applicants were interviewed for the precision viticulture position, which should be filled soon. Also, a smoke research workshop is in the planning stages for November, 2024, to be held at Corvallis in advance of the National Grape Research Alliance board meeting.

NGRA Mealybug Research Project – Melissa Hansen updated the Committee on the National Grape Research Alliance research seed project titled *Mealybug Mating Disruption 2.0*. Led by Jacob Corcoran, ARS molecular biologist in Missouri, the project seeks to develop more efficient and effective mealybug-specific disruption products and automated, real-time detection of mealybug in vineyards. Dr. Corcoran recently identified the vine mealybug sex pheromone receptor and will propose a proof of concept pilot project to the Agriculture, Food and Research Institute for funding. Dr. Corcoran submitted a pre-proposal to the WA Wine Commission to identify the protein receptor for grape mealybug but was discouraged from submitting a full proposal when the 2023 WA wine grape crop came in very short. The Mealybug Mating Disruption 2.0 project is under the NGRA research theme committee (Integrated Production Systems) that is chaired by Melissa. The WA Wine Commission is positioned to work collaboratively through NGRA and directly with Dr. Corcoran in the future.

Leading transformational research on leafroll virus is a goal under the Wine Commission's research strategic pillar. Hansen will work with WSU's Michelle Moyer and Gwen Hohiesel summer of 2024 to develop a research gap and extension plan for areawide mating disruption with Red Mountain as the pilot for 2025 when the grape mealybug sex pheromone is expected to receive EPA registration.

There being no other business, it was *MOVED by Brian Carter, SECONDED by Wade Wolfe and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m.*

Advancing Condensed Tannin Understanding

Enology members of WRAC stayed for a presentation by Dr. Andy Waterhouse, Apramita Devi, UCD

post doc, and Dr. Jim Harbertson, WSU, to discuss progress of the Condensed Tannin project.

Dr. Waterhouse shared that the project is conducting novel research to advance the understanding of tannins in wine. Tannins are fundamentally important in the taste and mouthfeel of wine. But little is known about how they modify and evolve as wine ages. Aged Washington wines (20, 10, 5 and 1-yr old wines) of the same variety, similar style and vineyard from several producers were analyzed for their modified tannins. Sulfonated tannins increased as the wine aged, while molecular size decreased. The wines have also been analyzed for tannin modification by anthocyanins and will be for glutathione. Wines made by Dr. Harbertson have been delivered to UCD for further analysis. Sensory panels on wines made by WSU will be conducted at the Wine Science Center this summer.

It is anticipated that the UCD portion of the project will be concluded by December 2024. Future research will seek joint grants through Washington and AVF.

