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Idaho Grape Growers & Wine Producers Commission  
Board of Directors Meeting | June 8th, 2026

**Present**

**Board members present:** James Nederend, Koenig Vineyards/SCORIA; Will Wetmore, Veer Wine Project, Jay Hawkins, Lanae Ridge Vineyard

**Board members present via Zoom:** Martin Fujishin, Fujishin Family Cellars; Mark Pasculli, Rolling Hills Vineyards

**Idaho Wine Commission staff present:** Moya Dolsby, Juls Germain, Ashlee Struble

**Others via Zoom:** Julie Pond, Northwest Center for Small Fruits; Kyle Schlachert, Co Wine Commission

**Others present in person:** Roger Batt, Batt Associates, Tara Evans, Koenig Vineyards / SCORIA vineyards; Omar Garcia, Koenig Vineyards

**Call To Order**

Dolsby called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Dolsby welcomed everyone to the June Board meeting and reviewed the Open Meetings Law.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dolsby presented the following meeting minutes:

- March 2026 Board meeting

Wetmore moved to approve the minutes from the March 2026 Board Meeting. Seconded. Motion carries.

**Grant Report:** Germain presented the grant report to the Board

**Financial Report**

Dolsby presented the current financials to the Board.

Hawkins moved to approve the financial report as presented. Seconded. Motion carries.

Hawkins moved to renew money CD's ending in 2772 and 2807 for another six months each. Seconded. Motion carries.

Wetmore moved to remove Martin Fujishin as a bank card signer. Seconded. Motion carries.

## **Legislative Report - IWC**

- Sin Die
- Legislative Tidbits will continue as needed throughout the rest of the year
- Food Producers of Idaho - Juls asked to be on the Executive Committee
- Legislative tour planning will begin for fall:
  - ABC Media and Legislative Tour
  - Roger Batt is planning a tour that IWC will be a part of

## **Events Attended**

- Washington D.C. fly in with Wine America- Moya
- State of the City Address - Juls
- Various Legislative Committee meetings
  - Juls has been voted onto the Executive Committee for Food Producers of Idaho
  - Juls attended a strategic planning meeting and a 2 day meeting in Twin Falls

## **Legislative Report**

### **By Roger Batt, Legislative Advisor**

Thank you for the opportunity to represent and advocate for Idaho's Grape and Wine Industry. I truly value the opportunity to work on your behalf and represent your interests at the Statehouse. As you know, strong and consistent engagement is critical. With fewer individuals directly connected to production agriculture, it is increasingly important that our industry remains visible and involved in the policymaking process.

The 2026 Session lasted 81 days and was defined by a strong focus on the state budget and tax policy. Lawmakers approved approximately \$5.6 billion in tax relief, implemented 3 to 5 percent agency budget reductions, and prioritized maintaining funding for K-12 education and Medicaid. Republicans emphasized that these reductions were necessary to address ongoing revenue uncertainty and align Idaho's tax code with recent federal changes. Democratic leadership, however, raised concerns that prior income tax reductions, totaling roughly \$4 billion over the past five years, have contributed to current budget constraints.

One of the main focal points during the Session was making sure the Grape and Wine Commission was not going to lose its identity by being forced through the DOGE process to be part of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and not remain a stand-alone entity . Last summer the DOGE Taskforce reviewed several state government entities and made recommendations for terminating, combining, or

placing these entities under another jurisdiction. Some discussions by the Taskforce included taking a close look at Agriculture commodity commissions.

For our agriculture industry and water user community this legislative session was a success. Cloudseeding was a major topic this year. **S1269** was signed into law, adding definitions, transparency, and reporting requirements for cloud seeding programs. At the same time, three Bills were also being proposed that would have limited or eliminated cloudseeding in Idaho. One of these, HJM15, would have made any weather modification (including cloudseeding) a felony in Idaho and urged Congress to make it a federal law to do the same. All of these restrictive Legislative proposals would have placed significant limitations on operations and shifted oversight to the Legislature but were introduced but ultimately held in committee.

The Legislature continued investing in water infrastructure, including \$30 million annually for water projects (**S1363**) and ongoing support (\$1 million) for research through Idaho Water Resource Research Institute (IWRRRI).

The Idaho Legislature considered more than a dozen immigration-related bills, ranging from mandatory E-Verify requirements to proposals creating penalties for employing unauthorized workers and expanding law enforcement reporting requirements. While several of these bills advanced, only one **S1260** made it to the governor's desk. The bill primarily updates Idaho's existing illegal entry law to better align with federal law, broadening the definition of illegal entry while adding clarifications rather than significantly expanding enforcement. Several late-session efforts to advance more aggressive immigration policies ultimately did not make it across the finish line.

We spent a significant portion of the session advocating for an Agricultural Protection Area (APA) incentive to help keep working lands in production. The proposal focused on creating a voluntary, market-based financial incentive for landowners, tied to development activities.

While there was interest in the concept, questions around structure and implementation kept it from moving forward this year. We will continue working with stakeholders and legislators in the interim to refine the proposal and bring back a stronger version next session.

The Idaho Grape and Wine Commission provided industry updates to the Senate and House Agricultural Affairs Committees. A special thanks to Jay Hawkins and James Nederend for taking time out of their busy schedules to help make the presentations a huge success.

Post-session we will continue working on industry issues as they surface. The land use Committee will be holding its next meeting in a few weeks to continue discussions surrounding grape production, tasting rooms, wineries, and land use designations.

- Batt discussed his upcoming contract renewal.
- He requested a salary increase from \$12,000 to \$27,000

## **IWC Team Update**

### **Current Projects:**

IWC team members provided an update on current education, marketing, and legislative projects as well as individual workloads.

IWC employees gave an update on their current workloads.

## **Education Report**

### **Idaho Wine and Cider Competition**

- May 19th, 2026
- Registration out
- Haven't heard from Eric so unclear on how things are looking
- Industry reception to follow
- Ashlee will be doing Social Media throughout the day on GOLD MEDAL winners

### **ASEV**

- Two complimentary registrations
  - Jay Hawkins
  - James Nederend
  - PLUS promo code for the whole industry found in the weekly email
- Need donations for the regional wine tasting and reception

### **ASEV Tour**

- Tour for the attendees to register for:
  - Gem 73
  - Scoria Vineyards
  - Skyline Vineyards
  - Telaya West

### **Boot Camp - September 2026**

- Confirming we are moving forward with a CONSUMER Boot Camp
- 1 day only in Sunnyslope

## **Marketing / PR Report**

### **Savor Idaho June 7, 2026**

- Monthly standing meetings with IWC and IBG
- Friday updates from the IBG on ticket sales
- IWC homepage updated with SI

### **Year of Riesling - 2026**

- On going

### **Idaho Wine and Cider Month**

- Lobby Hop officially happening - June 4th, 2026
  - **HOTELS:**
    - Hotel43
    - The Grove Hotel
    - Inn at 500
    - Avery Hotel
    - Hotel Renegade
    - Residence Inn by Marriott Downtown Boise
  - **WINERIES:**
    - Gem 73
    - Ste. Chapelle
    - Cinder
    - SCORA
    - Telaya Wine Co
    - Veer Wine Project
    - Huston Vineyards
- Banners confirmed in Downtown Boise (June 2026)
- Banners confirmed in Lewiston (June 2026)

### **Grocery Store Activation**

- Bottlenecks - Year of Riesling and general
- Printing budget from grant funds

### **Other Collaborations:**

- Partnered with Precept to collab on a post on Instagram
  - Mother's Day ticket giveaway
- Sun Valley Brew Festival
  - Helping the coordinator reach out to wineries
- Albertsons
  - For June they will have a full end cap of Idaho wines on the planner
  - 36 stores and has requested the wine and cider guide for those locations

### **Media Relations/FAMS**

- [ASEV National Conference in Boise - June 16, 2026](#)
- **2025 Media Hosting**
  - FM has ID'd five priority contacts from the Oct. 2024 NYC media mission to reach out to about 2026 FAM visits (late spring - fall)
  - Partnering with Visit Boise on FAM for travel writers, where IWC covers airfare/wine activities and Visit Boise covers lodging and other expenses
- **Veraison Project Immersion Visit**
  - Chasity Cooper head of Central Region ( OH to ID)
  - September/October visit - 4-5 days
- **Grant projects**
  - **Idaho Wine Country FAM**

### **Board Collaboration**

- How can we best attract, retain, and serve our members and help them understand the importance of assessment contributions
  - Contacting the Attorney General's Office for clarification
  - Board members reaching out to those industry members who do not pay assessments

*Next Board Meeting: July 9, 2026 10AM | VEER Wine Project, 4338 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City, ID 83714*

## **Discussion**

- Scholarship Applicants
  - Motion needed to approve a \$450 scholarship for Terra Barranko / SCORIA Vineyards, for WSET 1
  - Motion needed to approve a \$450 scholarship for Anne Eimers / Cinder, for WISE #111 Tasting Room Basics
  - Motion needed to approve a \$450 scholarship for Kiley Aboud / Cinder, for WISE #111 Tasting Room Basics

Hawkins motioned to approve Terra Barranko, Anne Eimers and Kiley Aboud for \$450 each in scholarship awards. Seconded. Motion carries..

Hawkins moved to adjourn the open meeting at 10:30 am. Seconded. Motion carries.

Hawkins moved to reconvene the open meeting at 12:08. Seconded. Motion carries.

Hawkins moved to adopt the 2026 - 2027 budget, with the staff salary adjustments as presented.

Pasculli moved to submit Caitlin Holesinsky and Hailey Minder to the Governor's office as candidates for appointment to the IWC Board of Directors.

Hawkins moved to approve a one year, \$12,000 contract renewal for IWC Legislative Educator Roger Batt.with the deliverables as presented.

Hawkins moved to adjourn the open meeting at 12:10pm. Seconded. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julianne Germain  
Idaho Wine Commission