

MINUTES

NE-1020: Multi-State Evaluation of Winegrape Varieties and Clones

2006 Planning meeting
November 15-16, 2006
Brownstone Hotel and North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC

Day 1, Wednesday, November 15, 2006, Brownstone Hotel

Start: 8:30

Participants

Alan Bakalinsky (alan.bakalinsky@oregonstate.edu) - Oregon State University; Lorraine Berkett (lorraine.berkett@uvm.edu) - University of Vermont; Bruce Bordelon (bordelon@purdue.edu) - Purdue University; Terence Bradshaw (Terence.Bradshaw@uvm.edu) University of Vermont; Horst Caspari (Horst.Caspari@ColoState.edu) - Colorado State University; Rob Cressweller (rmc7@psu.edu) - Penn State University; Imed Dami (dami.1@osu.edu) - Ohio State University; Paul Domoto (domoto@iastate.edu) - Iowa State University; Anne Fennell (Anne.Fennell@sdsu.edu) - South Dakota State University; Joe Fiola (jfiola@umd.edu) - University of Maryland; Ed Hellman (e-hellman@tamu.edu) - Texas A&M University; Nancy Irelan (nancy.irelan@redtailridgewinery.com) - Red Tail Ridge Winery (NGWI); Kevin Iungerman (kai3@cornell.edu) - Cornell University; Steve Lerch (sdl5@cornell.edu) - Cornell University, Geneva; David Lockwood (lockwood@utk.edu) - University of Tennessee; Anna Katherine Mansfield (mansf007@umn.edu) - University of Minnesota; Bruce McPheron (bam10@psu.edu) - Penn State University; Bill Nail (William.Nail@po.state.ct.us) - University of Connecticut, New Haven; Ron Perry (perryr@anr.msu.edu) - Michigan State University; Paul Read (pread@unlnotes.unl.edu) - University of Nebraska; Krista Shellie (kshellie@uidaho.edu) - USDA/ARS; Sue Sim (stsim@ucdavis.edu) - University of California, Davis; Sara Spayd (Sara_Spayd@ncsu.edu) - North Carolina State University; Keith Striegler (strieglerk@missouri.edu) - Mid-America Viticulture and Enology Center; Tony Wolf (vitis@vt.edu) - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Welcome/Introduction

Sara Spayd gave an overview of the program for the next two days. There was a round table introduction of participants who gave a brief overview of their state's industry.

Election for Secretary

Bruce Bordelon nominated Imed Dami for secretary, seconded by Tony Wolf. There being no other nominations the vote was unanimous. Imed will take over the secretary position at next year's annual meeting. Current Officers: Sara Spayd - Chair; Ed Hellman - Vice-chair; Horst Caspari - Secretary.

CSREES Representation - Bruce McPheron

Bruce reminded participants that the NE-1020 is a project under the AES system, and that there are many such regional or nation-wide projects currently in place. Although they may deal with different crops or animals they may provide useful models of how such projects can be run.

Western States participation and leadership

There was a discussion on the status-quo of the Western project, including aspects such as a perceived lack of leadership and communication, and the apparent withdrawal of California from the NE-1020 project. Jim Wolpert, who prepared and submitted last year's successful proposal to Viticulture Consortium West (\$8,832 approved), will not participate in the first round of plantings, and neither will Matt Fidelibus and Dan Marcum. Sue Sim indicated that there was continued interest in California in NE-1020, and that Deborah Golino was trying to identify other researchers to participate. Krista Shellie nominated Horst Caspari to take over the leadership role for the Western region. The nomination was seconded by Ed Hellman and was passed unanimously.

Update on Eastern proposal to VC East – Tony Wolf

Tony Wolf and Keith Striegler had prepared a proposal to Viticulture Consortium East for partial funding of costs for planting material. Tony had sent out a memo in mid Nov 2005 asking for input on varieties from Eastern & Mid-West participants, which formed the basis for the proposal. The proposal has been approved for funding (\$30,216). Tony presented information on projected costs for year 2 (increase to ~\$250K) of which VCE will be asked to cover 2/3. Higher costs in year 2 are due to the high costs for vineyard establishment (trellis etc). Establishment costs (excluding vines) are calculated at ~\$7,000/acre. Once the project is up and running and the project is in data collection mode, the total cost is projected to decline to ~144K of which VCE will be asked to cover 2/3.

Discussion on how many sites and how to choose those sites

Ron Perry mentioned how sites were selected in the NC-140 apple rootstock trial. Each site is selected because it addresses a critical question. For example, the evaluation of cold hardiness of apple rootstock included a truly cold site in Iowa, but is also evaluated in Michigan because the cold tolerance is differently affected between the two states (absolute minimum temperature important in Iowa, fall acclimation important in MI).

Imed Dami introduced a concept of better defining the climate. Rather than using four climate zones he suggested a matrix, which was slightly modified by the group:

Growing season	GDD	Dormant season	Average minimum temperature of the coldest month
Cool	<2,500	Mild	32-40 F
Warm	2,501-3500	Cold	14-31 F
Hot	>3,500	Very cold	<14 F

Bruce McPherson commented that it would be important to highlight in the proposals to VC East and West that the coordination in this NE-1020 project will ultimately result in a reduction in the efforts (and thus costs) for variety trials across the nation. With the coordinated approach taken by NE-1020, the control varieties will allow comparison across sites that differ in climate/soil and will reduce duplication that would occur without the coordination.

Review Minutes and Decisions from the 2005 Meeting - Ed Hellman

Rather than reading the whole minutes, Ed highlighted the most important points from the last annual meeting, including Tom Bewick's comment that continuing variety projects (funded through VC) should show that they are progressing towards meeting the NE-1020 protocol. Other points included the need to finalise the enology protocol, the formation of sub-committees, etc.

Sub-committees

Horst Caspari spoke on the nutrition subcommittee recommendation, and his reservations about soil pits. Sara Spayd suggested that the recommendations should be finalised within the sub-committee, and then circulated to the entire group. Tony Wolf suggested that the sub-committee could create two sets of standards: a minimum and a preferred standard.

There was no progress report from the other sub-committees (meteorology and enology).

The quality subcommittee needs a new chair (tbd).

Created a new subcommittee on microvinification – Chair Ann Kathrine Mansfield.

All subcommittees need to include an estimation of the cost of the activity.

Rob Cressweller suggested that we need a few people to be in charge of statistics and check the data annually. Sara Spayd will contact John Barnard.

Sara Spayd opened up the discussion on the choice of rootstock. Tony Wolf mentioned that the majority of Eastern participants were ok with either 3309 or 101-14. There was no decision on which rootstock to use in the East. Rootstocks used in the East may differ from those used in the West.

Participation of Michigan in NE-1020 project

Ron Perry requested that Michigan could join the NE-1020 project and participate in the first round of plantings with up to two sites. Tony Wolf indicated that there appeared to be sufficient funding available for the purchase of vines to accommodate the addition. Following discussion the group voted unanimous in favor of Ron's request.

Summary of proposed sites

Part of the afternoon was spent classifying the proposed trial sites using the new 3 x 3 climate matrix.

Growing season	mild	cold	very cold
Cool	CT, MA	OH, NY, PA, MI* (@TC)	NY, SD, VT
Warm	CT, KY, OR, NY-LI	PA, OH, CT, ID, IN, CO, NE, (MD) (NJ), MI** (@SW)	2 IA, NE
Hot	VA, OK, KY, MD, NC	MO, CO, TX, IN, NE, (MD)	

* primary site; ** secondary site

Due to the large temperature range (average minimum temperature of the coldest month from 14 to 31 °F) for sites with cold dormant seasons and either warm or hot growing seasons, there was a discussion on the need to expand the list of core varieties. For sites at the lower end of that range the suggested core varieties are Chambourcin and Vidal blanc, while warmer sites may opt to use Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

Growing season	mild	cold	very cold
Cool	Pinot noir, Cab Franc	Pinot noir, Cab Franc	Frontenac, St Croix
Warm	Cab Sauv, Merlot	Cab Sauv, Merlot, Chambourcin, Vidal	Frontenac, St Croix
Hot	Cab Sauv, Merlot	Cab Sauv, Merlot, Chambourcin, Vidal	

Day 2, Thursday, November 16, 2006, Horticultural Science Department, NC State University

Date and location for next annual meeting

The next annual meeting will be held Nov 7-8, 2007 in Austin, TX.

Review of viticultural practices

Prior to the departure for a vineyard/winery tour there was a brief summary of the agreed-upon viticultural practices.

- Rootstock 101-14 in the East, the West yet to be decided
- Row spacing 8-10', vine spacing 4-8'
- Training VSP (at least for vinifera), hybrids may have high cordon
- Cordon and spur pruning
- Shoot density 4-5 shoots/ft of canopy
- Drip irrigation – optional
- Guard rows/vines required – no exterior rows/vines
- Standard practices for pest and disease control, floor & canopy management, soil preparation
- Yield upper limit 1.5-2 lb/ft of canopy

- Grow tubes optional
- Six reps of 4 vines or 6 reps of 3 vines for widely spaced vines

Plant orders

Tony Wolf asked the participants from the Eastern States to provide him with a list of varieties for the first planting by 1 Dec, 2006.

Renewal proposals

Tony Wolf will again write the proposal to VC East for the Eastern section. The total costs for vineyard establishments in the East are estimated at \$216K of which 2/3 will be asked for from VC East. That estimate is based on a \$7,000/acre cost, and Tony asked everyone to do their own calculations to see if that was sufficient, and report back to him by Dec 15.

Horst Caspari will write the proposal to VC West for the Western section, assuming the same costs per acre.

Handling of awards

Tony Wolf expressed his concern about how to handle the money in case that the proposals are successful. Due to the large number of collaborators from various states neither Tony nor Horst Caspari want to act as the bank. The standard practice of setting up sub-contracts isn't feasible. The preferred option would be to have VC send the money directly to the PIs. The proposals would include an overall budget, and in an appendix there would be a breakdown of the budget for each state. The VCs could then distribute the money directly to the various states. Tony and Bruce McPheron are to contact VC East to see if VC East agrees with that approach, Horst will do the same for VC West.