

NE-1020 meeting, 5-7 Nov 2008
Wine Country Inn – Palisade, Colorado

Chair; Horst Caspari (CO)
Vice Chair Elected; Imed Dami (OH)
Secretary; Paolo Sabbatini (MI)

Minutes of 6th November meeting taken by Sabbatini

List of participants:

Fatima Osman (CA), Jim Wolpert (CA), Sue Sim (CA), Horst Caspari (CO), Steve Menke (CO), Amy Montano (CO), Bill Nail (CT), Paul Domoto (IA), Krista Shellie (ID), Bruce Bordelon (IN), Dan Cooley (MA), Paolo Sabbatini (MI), James Luby (MN), Keith Striegler (MO), Sara Spayd (NC), Harlene Hatterman-Valenti (ND), Paul Read (NE), Bernd Maier (NM), Bruce Reisch (NY), Steve Lerch (NY), Tim Martinson (NY), Imed Dami (OH), Patty Skinkis (OR), Bruce McPheron (PA), Rob Crassweller (PA), Anne Fennell (SD), Ed Hellman (TX), Tony Wolf (VA), Terence Bradshaw (VT), Markus Keller (WA).

Thursday, Nov. 6, 8.30 AM

Welcome and introduction

Horst Caspari (CO) welcomed the NE-1020 group, thanking all the sponsors in particular Colorado wineries and the Wine Country Inn hotel. Registration fees (\$100.00) were collected. Horst overviewed the program for the next 2 days and introduced the current officers on the NE1020 Executive Committee: Horst Caspari – Chair, Imed Dami - Chair Elect and Paolo Sabbatini – Secretary. There was a round table introduction of the participants and individual state project update handouts were distributed.

Minutes from last year were reviewed and approved. Anne Fennell suggested that acclimation and abiotic stress in the data collection table (minutes 2007) should be combined. There was no other objection to the agenda. A motion to approve the minutes by Horst Caspari was seconded by Terence Bradshaw. Motion was approved.

Administrative Advisor Report

Bruce McPheron was impressed by the large turnout that came to the meeting, suggesting an important national interest to the NE1020 project. The farm bill was approved; the USDA agency is going through changes such as the reorganization of the CSREES and the creation of the NIFA (National Institute for Food and Agriculture). NIFA is a new agency with 60% of the resources dedicated to food and 40% to agriculture. Future funding opportunities were discussed stressing the importance of increasing the scientific component for future research in agriculture. Sustainable viticulture will be important in the future for funding opportunities in the new agency, and request for proposal (RFP) will probably be out in January 2009. The federal budget for 2009 is still in the air and the Vit. Cons. funding is still in the senate for discussion. Implications for next years funding of the NE1020 project were discussed. The Hatch formula money for the Experimental Stations probably will be not available, and this is important for the planted vineyards and the future activities in the enology component of the project. Tony Wolf commented that the money for the Vit. Cons. East was

transferred to the State level. The funding of the Vit. Cons. East can have a 1-year carry over, but this option has to be directly requested to Geneva Experimental Station.

6a – State of the Union, brief report from each State

- Tony Wolf (VI); no trial in the ground, responsible for the annual report. He requested a short report from each state about the project that he will combine in a 5 pages annual report.
- Bruce Bordelon (IN), 2 sites were planted with climatic differences and 2 different sets of core varieties.
- Keith Striegler (MO): A vinifera planting was done in 2007 and the plot will be ready for data collection in 2009. There is a problem with a different rootstock (3309) from the suggested 101-14. In 2008 a hybrid block was planted, unfortunately the vines mortality was pretty high (10-15%).
- Paul Domoto (IA); 2 sites were planted; some problems with the vigor of the vines that had a reduced growth during the summer.
- Rob Crassweller (PA); 2 sites were planted (vinifera and hybrids) with good growth during the season and very low vine loss (1-2%).
- Markus Keller (WA); no NE1020 site in Washington, but collaborations with Krista Shellie (ID).
- Bill Nail (CT); vines from the nursery very healthy and only 2 vines were lost. Some varieties during the summer showed yellow leaves (viruses?) but was difficult to relate to mineral deficiencies. Nancy Sweet (CA) suggested sending some samples to the FPS lab.
- Bernd Maier (NM); no planting in 2008, but some of the vines are in the nursery ready to be planted the next season.
- Jim Luby (MN); new varieties were released from the MN breeding program, eventually some will be available for testing as guard rows in the NE1020 project.
- Krista Shellie (ID); 1 acre plot was planted in a warm-cold site classification. Guard rows and irrigation system was set-up.
- Dan Cooley (MA); Plots were planted, mainly hybrids with the only exception of Riesling. The vine growth was excellent during the summer and only a few were lost.
- Anne Fennel (SD); planting is in a cold-cool classification site. Only varieties from the Minnesota and Swenson breeding program were planted with 90% vine survival.
- Fatima Osman (CA); Ph.D. in plant pathology, working for the FPS/Davis on virus detection in grapevines using a new generation of PCR.
- Jim Wolpert (CA); California industry thinks that the project has a great value, but unfortunately funding from private industry was not available. FPS funded some testing of new varieties, but California industry, with only 4 varieties (Chardonnay, Zinfandel, Cab. Sauvignon and Merlot) covering 70% of the state plantings, thus there is little interest in new varieties, unless some small wineries are looking for high quality niche production (e.g. Nero d'Avola). California is not asking for funding from the NE1020 project, because it cannot follow the protocol imposed by the project, especially for the training system (VSP not appropriate in CA test site), but is interested in being a part of the group. The approach that CA will follow in testing varieties is more like a breeding approach, with an observation period first of the different varieties and a second screening in a replicated trial for the most promising varieties.

- Bruce Reisch (NY); is interested in being in touch with the program. A new red selection was released (95.301.01) with excellent disease resistance; more resistant than Noiret for diseases, but the same level of cold resistance.
- Steve Lerch (NY); planting of 11 varieties was done in 2008, with little vine loss.
- Tim Martinson (NY); Co-PI of the NE1020 project, helped during the grant writing and budget's annual review.
- Paul Read (NE); 3 new plantings in 3 different locations in Nebraska (warm-cold classification), Vidal and several Minnesota varieties are the core varieties of the plantings. 2008 growing season was excellent, no spring frost and a very good fruit set. It was a relatively cool season with a below average GDD accumulation (- 300 GDD in comparison to the last year, the average is 3300). Paul described a new industry program, a passport that winery visitors can carry around the state and after several stamps they receive discounts on wine buy.
- Ed Hellman (TX); the vineyard establishment was good and the vines from the nursery excellent. The only problem was the availability of different varieties originally chosen for the trial for which some substitutions were found, but some gaps in the plot still have to be filled in 2009.
- Patty Skinkis (OR); Industry was not interested in the program, still hoping that this position will change in the future. 3 sites are being considered for future planting and they are climatologically different.
- Terence Bradshaw (VE); the trial was planted in 2007, and is important for developing a new spray guidelines for growers. Vines are own-rooted, only Traminette is on 101-14. The plot had 16% of failure; in particular 4 vines of Corot Noir were lost. But missing vines were replanted in 2008. The trial will have a full crop in 2009; therefore protocols for data collection have to be ready for this coming winter.
- Horst Caspari (CO); 2 trials in 2 different locations in a hot-cold and warm-cold classification with 150-180 frost-free days. Vines are very healthy, with only one loss. Unfortunately a fall frost in early October could have damaged some vines, especially in the sensitive varieties such as Touriga National. The rootstock choice was 110R for the high ph soils in Colorado.
- Paolo Sabbatini (MI); 2 trials were planted one in the northwest and the other in southwest Michigan, the major areas of grape production, characterized by different climatic conditions. Trellis and irrigation systems were installed by the end of spring. Vines from the nurseries came in excellent condition and only a few vines were lost and they will be replanted in 2009. Vine growth during the season was excellent. The project was presented several times to the local industry during viticultural field days.
- Imed Dami (OH); 3 trials were planted in the state, north (70% of the wine industry), central and south. The plot in the south is not a part on the NE1020 project, but the same protocol will be followed. Vines planted are vinifera and hybrids and they came in "just OK" condition from the nurseries, but the loss was less than 1%. Vine growth during the season was excellent and there was no need to use the irrigation. The problem of the availability of specific varieties from the nurseries was noted again.

6B – Standard form for the report

Rob Crassweller (PE); should we use the standard form of the NC140 project as a model?

Bruce McPheron (PE) will contact his secretary and she will work on a web page report system. A data base will be organized by climate classification and by comparison of standard variety in different locations. Jim Wolpert (CA) suggested that people with experience in the NC140 project should prepare a model for the report. Paul Domoto agreed to prepare a model template based on the previous project. Horst Caspari suggested that the first document should be a description of the environment and a list of the varieties grown in each state. The second document should be the annual report. A subcommittee was instituted composed Dan Ward (Chair), Anne Fennel, Rob Craswell, Horst Caspari and Bill Neal.

Tony Wolf discussed the VCE proposals and so far we don't have any news from Geneva. Tony will be responsible for the annual report. Deadline for the report is January 23, but he asked each state to send a brief note by December 8. Some money is left from the previous year and available (picking lugs?). All the vines were paid for and there is no funding available for vines in 2009. Tony would like to know from each state which vines were ordered in 2008, but shipping in 2009. Horst Caspari noticed that Colorado did not receive the warm-cold core varieties of the project. Tony shared with the group some of the comments from project reviewers; several raised concerns about the redundancy of the project (too many plots in similar environmental conditions), too much work to do to achieve results. Another important comment was the lack of stress on climatic similarity between cooperators. Keith Striegler agreed on the redundancy of the project, but Jim Wolpert stressed the importance of state projects because political state boundaries are very important to the possibility of matching money from the local industry. 2009 VCE proposals should look for funding related to plot maintenance and data collection. FPS with the Clean Plant Network directed by Deborah Golino is looking forward to some suggestion for varieties that should be imported in US, a list of 10-20. Tony Wolf suggested a rotation for the responsibility of writing leader for the 2009 East proposal. The states with the major economic investment in the project are Michigan, Connecticut and Nebraska. Bill Nail will be responsible for 2009, and Paolo Sabbatini for 2010. Tim Martinson will still be the Co-Pi, because a PI must be from Cornell, the contracting university. For the West, Ed Hellman will be responsible for 2009 and Krista Shellie for 2010. The yearly budget should be done by December 1.

8C – Alternative funding sources

Bruce McPheron described the specialty crop initiative with \$28 million awarded out of \$150 million requested. The specialty crop funds are a very competitive arena, the projects funded this year contained key strategic issues for the industry, linked with a well organized transfer plan. Extension activities built into the proposals with sociological and entrepreneur components; in fact, the integration of all these components was behind the success of the proposals funded. The NE1020 can possibly have success if the science behind the project and the hypotheses driving the research are clearly described. New proposals will be accepted in March 2009, with \$20 million available. It will be very important to frame the proposal in the right way and Tom Bewick is the person that can give to the NE1020 group a lot of suggestions. Paul Read, a reviewer of some specialty crop proposals, agreed with Bruce McPheron about the importance of integration of research-extension and sociological-entrepreneur components in funded research projects.

9 - Committee reports

- **Statistic Committee:** Data collection protocols will be developed before the end of February 2009, and approved by the group statistician Dan Ward. Each collaborator will submit raw data in an ad-hoc spreadsheet.

- **Protocol Committee:** Steve Lerch suggested the collection of bud mortality data, collecting 10 canes per rep after the lowest dormant-season temperatures have occurred. Basic yield components and basic fruit chemistry will be collected together with phenological data (bloom and veraison time). Jim Wolpert observed that with the multiple locations of the plots in each state and the multiple numbers of varieties in each plot, the annual number of trips for each investigator to each plot will be unsustainable and that core data to be collected should be discussed.

- **Meteorological Committee:** Tony Wolf discussed his interest in the NE1020, he would like to develop a predictive model for variety acclimation at different temperature regime. So, real time reliable data logger for T and precipitation are very important. Also irrigation data should be recorded and reported.

- **Enology Committee:** Sara Spayd discussed the enology protocol, and she will send to all the members a standard protocol (e.g. yeast strains and methodology to adjust acidity). 200 pounds of fruit are the minimum for 3-replicated batches of wine. Anne Fennel noticed that the amount of fruit can be a limitation for several varieties and she proposed a sensory evaluation of the fruit. Bruce Bordelon and Jim Wolpert commented that the project does not have a financial support for the enology component and they suggested a pre-screening of the varieties (are the fruit ripe enough for wine making?) before starting any vinification.

Horst recommended that statistic, protocol, and enology committees provide protocol drafts by Feb 1.

10B – New planting in 2009, replacement vines for 2008 plantings.

Vines (some varieties) are available from Novavine and Horst Caspari will collect request from each state and contact the nursery. Bill Nail will graft his vines to fill the gaps of his plot. It is important to plant and/or fill in the gaps in 2009, to keep the plots in the NE1020 project. Bruce Bordelon noticed that the age is not really an issue, being that vinifera grown on multiple trunks in cold locations, with every trunk being of different age.

Horst nominated Krista Shellie as new secretary for the next year, seconded unanimously and Krista accepted.

Next year meeting will be organized by Imed Dami in Wooster Ohio, early November (4-5 or 11-12).

Meeting closed at 17:30.