

Meeting Minutes

Amador County Wine Heritage District
Board of Directors Meeting
9:00 AM Tuesday, May 5, 2026
9313 Pacific St, Plymouth, CA 95669

Attendees: John Di Stasio, Robert D'Agostini, Jeff Runquist, Milind Pansare, Jess Havill, Anamieke Kegge, Paul Sobon, Jennifer Housler, Jane O'Riodan, George Eckert, and Megan Van Hook

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 9:04AM by Robert D'Agostini.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Jeff Runquist, Paul Sobon, Milind Pansare, Jess Havill, John Di Stasio, Robert D'Agostini, and Anamieke Kegge

- Absent: N/A
- A quorum was established

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

- No conflict of interest stated

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Anamieke Kegge made a motion to adopt the April 7, 2026 Agenda.

- Second by John Di Stasio
- The vote was unanimous
- Motion approved

John Di Stasio made a motion to approve April 7, 2026 meeting minutes.

- Second by Paul Sobon
- The vote was unanimous
- Motion approved

Jess Havill made a motion to approve March 2026 financials.

- Second by Milind Pansare
- The vote was unanimous
- Motion approved

DIRECTOR REPORT

Advocacy Update: Strong Bipartisan Support for AB 1585

We are pleased to share that your Board of Directors has formally moved to support AB 1585 (Connolly & Ransom). This critical piece of legislation took a major step forward on Wednesday, April 22nd, passing its first committee hearing with a bipartisan 18-0 vote.

While some committee members raised technical questions, the lack of a single "no" vote sends a powerful message to Sacramento: California's wine industry is a global leader that deserves a level playing field.

Why This Bill Matters

The fundamental goal of AB 1585 is to protect the integrity of our product and the hard work of our growers. The discussions in the capital centered on two undeniable truths:

- Economic Pressures: California's wine industry—which produces the world's highest-quality grapes—is facing unprecedented challenges and requires meaningful legislative support.
- Closing the "Origin Gap": Currently, the U.S. standard allows wine labeled as "American" to contain up to 25% foreign wine. In contrast, every other major wine-producing nation requires 100% domestic origin for their national labels.

What's Next?

While this unanimous vote is a significant milestone, the legislative journey is far from over. The bill now heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

As your advocates, we will continue to voice the concerns of growers on AB 1585 and other key industry legislation until the legislature adjourns in August. We are committed to ensuring that when a bottle says "American," it truly represents the fruit of our labor.

Four Fires Recap

VIP 245 | DD VIP 10 | GA 352| DD GA 20 | Day of 12| Vendor 39 | Comp 28| Total 706
42% Returning Customers | 58% New Customers
Raffle with RailExplorers and collected over 200 email addresses at the event.

Outside Pourings

Roseville Wine Down Wednesday has been a hit for members that signed up. Each night has had 300-400 attendees, and participating wineries are receiving a \$150 stipend for pouring.

Amador Wine Country is Sponsoring Lathrop Chamber of Commerce Bridge Dinner on May 30th. We are looking for winery sign ups. Nicki will be the event coordinator for the event, however I will not be able to attend and all coordination will go through her.

I will be out of the office for a funeral on May 6th and a vacation day May 26 - June 1st.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tom, the City Manager of Sutter Creek: Discussed the initiative focuses on establishing a Circular Economy for agricultural waste reuse, supported by a grant from the Federal Government. He is looking for ways to connect with Amador Wine Country to identify needs and opportunities, specifically to attract start-up businesses by utilizing winery waste. The overall goal is to create jobs, business, and innovation within Amador County. He noted that the monthly meetings previously held on topics of interest have been converted into one-on-one conversations.
- Jennifer Housler, Copper Vineyards: No comment at this time.
- Jane O'Riodain, Terra Rouge & Easton: Commented on the Four Fires event, stating that day-of ticket sales were a great addition. She felt that four events in general are excessive for the organization, particularly when held back-to-back. She recommended that if the organization continues hosting events, they should reduce the number, focus efforts, and ensure high-quality execution.

- Jess Havill - An invitation was extended for an Events Committee collaboration session on June 2nd at Rombauer, open to all members, to discuss adjustments for 2027. This will include a breakout session with winery representatives.

ACWHD ASSESSMENT UPDATE

- Reviewed ACWHD Projected budget - suggestion to add actual numbers to the spread sheet.

John Di Stasio made a motion to approve Amador Wine County district names for map and signage purposes to be Shenandoah, Fiddletown, West End, and Greater Sutter Creek. Noting that wineries in downtown Plymouth will be allocated to the West End District.

- Second by Paul Sobon
- The vote was unanimous
- Motion approved

Milind Pansare made a motion to approve Amador Wine Country Marketing Plan 2026.

- Second by Paul Sobon
- The vote was unanimous
- Motion approved
- Board requested to have the Marketing Committee to realign Pillars based on current marketing due to changes in the past years.

Jess Havill motion to approve the revised 2026 budget.

- Second by Paul Sobon
- The vote was unanimous
- Motion approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee: Reviewed HipMaps, Education Committee will be hosting Educational events sponsored by California Payroll and Orderport.

Marketing Committee: Reviewed marketing videos created by Kapu.

Events Committee: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at Rombauer we will be hosting an event for all members to join for opinions on upcoming events for 2027. More information and breakdown for Four Fires will be at the next board meeting. We will be moving Big Crush Sunday Dinner to Friday for more attendees to attend.

Finance Committee:

Policy Committee:

NEW BUSINESS

Roundtable Comments from Board members for items that are important to them for the signage police:

- Welcome sign in front of the regions. Less is more for signage.
- Don't make them too crowded and hard to read. More use as a reminder that we are a wine country and a reminder to taste wine.

- Mark gateways of Amador such as Greater Sutter Creek 88, 49, and Sutter Ridge. More than one welcome location signage.
- Welcome sign - 27 wineries ahead instead of listing them
- Looking for a limit and policy on how many signs
- Great google map where the signs will be posted within the county.
- Welcome signs can be more important than wayfaring.

The Executive Director has been directed to send out the Draft Signage Policy to all Board members prior to the next board meeting for input.

CLOSED SESSION

Enter Closed Session at 10:48AM

11:07AM Report out - Potential litigation

ADJURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Jess Havill

- Second by Paul Sobon
- Meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM