



**LODI WINE**  
WINEGRAPE  
COMMISSION

**Lodi Winegrape Commission  
Meeting Minutes – FINAL  
December 1, 2025**

The Lodi Winegrape Commission met on Monday, December 1, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jacylyn Stokes Iniguez at 2:12PM.
2. Roll was called

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Alternate Commissioner</u>	<u>Present</u>
Scott Armolea	X		
Pieter A den Hartog	X	Mitch Spaletta	
Jason Eells	X		
Dirk Heuvel	X		
Farrah Felten Jolley	X	Gerardo Espinosa	X
Joan Kautz	X	Brett Pieretti	X
Diego Olagaray	X	Galen Schmiedt	EX
Hadyn Schatz	X	Joe Laranaga	
Jacylyn Stokes Iniguez	X	Colton Machado	EX

Also, in attendance was Mirek Wilczek (CDFA Marketing Branch). Others present Aaron Lange, Brandon Sywassink, Kyle Collins, Amy Blagg, and Dawson Lewis. Staff present Stuart Spencer and Stephanie Bolton. A quorum was established.

3. On a motion by Olagaray/den Hartog the minutes of August 5, 2025, were approved. (Exhibit A).
4. Public Comment on Items Appearing on the Agenda – None
5. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Armolea reported that the committee would be meeting on December 18 to review year-to-date financials. At that meeting Croce, Sanguinetti and Vander Veen will be presenting the drafting audit reports. Any board member is welcome to attend.
6. **Chairman’s Report** – Chair Stokes Iniguez updated the board on recent activities including attendance at the Old Vine Conference in Lodi. She also invited all board members to stick around after the meeting for a social in the Visitor Center. She noted that California Ag Leadership will be hosting a reception in the Visitor Center on January 21 for prospective

members. And that Visit Lodi had created the first restaurant week for Lodi (January 23 – February 1, 2006).

7. **Executive Director's Report** - ED Spencer updated the board on recent Commission activities including the successful establishment of the Lodi Winery BID, the annual audit, staff changes, the Commission referendum, and budget. (Exhibit B)

8. **Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee – The committee has not met.

Grower Marketing Committee – Committee Chair, Joan Kautz stated that the committee met on November 20, 2025. The committee discussed the Old Vine Conference, the Global Buyers marketplace, the winery BID, rejected loads, No Reservations campaign, the American Appellation, Vietnamese Somms, and the Sustainable Ag Expo. Kautz also asked the board to approve the appointment of two new committee members, Mohrgan Fry and Asylyn Eells. Motion to approve – Kautz/Schatz – Carried.

Winery Marketing Committee – The committee met is scheduled to meet on December 3, 2025. The committee has been working on Wine & Chocolate, the No Reservations campaign, and implementing the BID. The committee sponsored Lodi participation at the San Diego Wine & Food Festival, and is scheduled to participate in the Festival of Forgotten Grapes in January (San Jose) and LA (March).

Lodi Rules – The committee is scheduled to meet on December 9 and the annual LODI RULES leadership meeting will be on December 11 with Protected Harvest and the auditors. In 2025 the program saw an 11% drop in overall acreage, but Lodi (District 11) was up in acreage enrolled. The Commission received a check for \$62,183.92 for out-of-district licensing fees. The committee is in the process of setting the date for the annual LODI RULES meeting in January.

Research, Education, Communication – The Committee met on November 18. Dr. Stephanie Bolton updated the board on recent REC committee activities. Committee members agreed to participate in a new concept of “Member Projects” where each REC Committee member leads a project that they care about on behalf of the Commission to help the broader Lodi Winegrowing Community. Each project will be in the area of viticulture research, education and/or communications. She also updated the board on a “Whole Farm Profitability” presentation she gave at the Sustainable Ag Expo and a bonfire Lodi hosted at Grover Beach for industry professionals. Tomorrow, December 2, Dr. Akif Eskalen will be discussing and dissecting trunk disease infected vines. This will be a very instructive meeting to understand how this disease spreads in vines.

9. **Other Organization Reports:**

CWEF – the board will be meeting on November 8 to discuss the Visitor Center operations and the Lodi Monument project.

LDGGA – Amy Blagg, Brandon Sywassink and Kyle Collins update the board on Lodi District Grape Growers Association news and events including local legislature outreach, labor law meeting in January, Annual Dinner and Business meeting, water and economic forums in the spring.

SJCFB – no report

Lodi Grape Festival – no report

CAWG – Aaron Lange updated the board on CAWG activities. He welcomed both Dirk Heuvel and Stuart Spencer to the CAWG board. Stuart will serve in one of the regional director positions taking the place of Amy Blagg. He also updated the board on the American Appellation and GWSS/PD referendum held this past year. It was also noted that Bobby Koch was retiring as President of Wine Institute at the end of the year.

10. **Public Comment** – No comment

11. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings** – None

12. The next meeting was set for January 20, 2026 at 3:00PM.

13. The meeting adjourned at 4:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Spencer  
On behalf of Pieter den Hartog  
Secretary