



**Lodi Winegrape Commission
Meeting Minutes – FINAL
April 28, 2026**

The Lodi Winegrape Commission met on Tuesday, April 28, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jacylyn Stokes Iniguez at 12:15PM.
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	EX		
Dirk Heuvel	EX		
Farrah Felten Jolley	EX	Gerardo Espinosa	
Joan Kautz	EX	Brett Pieretti	X
Diego Olagaray		Galen Schmiedt	X
Hadyn Schatz	X	Joe Laranaga	EX
Jacylyn Stokes Iniguez	X	Colton Machado	

Also, in attendance was Mirek Wilczek (CDFA Marketing Branch). Others present Amy Blagg and Andrew Genasci. Staff present Stuart Spencer and Stephanie Bolton. A quorum was established.

3. On a motion by Schmiedt/Schatz the minutes of March 17, 2025 (Exhibit A) were approved.
4. Public Comment on Items Appearing on the Agenda – None
5. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Scott Armolea reviewed the year-to-date budget through February 2026.
6. **Chairman's Report** – Chair Stokes Iniguez updated the board on recent activities. She also discussed the California Association of Winegrape Growers and Family Winemakers sponsored state legislation (AB 1585) to close the loophole in the American appellation for wines bottled and sold in California. Stokes Iniguez also explained that she was going to lead the Executive Director review process this year instead of having Commission legal counsel coordinate. This would save several thousand dollars.

7. **Executive Director's Report** - ED Spencer updated the board on recent Commission activities including progress on the formation of the Lodi Winery Improvement district, the Commission referendum, bulk wine imports, Section 301 investigation, the budget and other activities. (Exhibit B) Commission referendum ballots are due back today, and CDFA will have results in several weeks.

8. **Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee – The committee met prior to the board meeting today.

Grower Marketing Committee – The committee met on April 8, 2026. The Grower Marketing Committee reviewed ongoing marketing, public relations, grower outreach, and related committee activities, including continued support for the “No Reservations” hospitality campaign, Visit California’s new Lodi destination page, the postponed Mexico market tour now scheduled for November 2026, and a proposed grower vineyard signage initiative to increase Lodi wine country visibility. The committee also discussed upcoming PR efforts, including the June Field Blends “Collab Year” Lodi tour, grower outreach around the Commission referendum and election, support for AB 1585 truth in labeling legislation, and a related LodiGrowers.com rebuttal to Wine Institute’s opposition.

Winery Marketing Committee – The Winery Marketing Committee is no longer meeting. It’s responsibilities have been transferred to the new Lodi Winery Business Improvement District.

Lodi Rules – The Committee met on April 13, 2026. The LODI RULES Committee members and staff have been meeting with Protected Harvest to discuss audit alignment. The committee is working on building in committee member responsibilities for program sustainability.

Research, Education, Communication – The Research, Education & Communication Committee discussed an early growing season running roughly 3 to 4 weeks ahead of schedule, advanced member-led projects on Tree of Heaven removal, rootstock evaluation, pruning education, autonomous equipment regulations, water, and mating disruption, and identified future grower education topics including profitability, alternative crops, vine health, drought-tolerant rootstocks, grower-winemaker relationships, robotics, and ground cover. The committee also highlighted ongoing grower communications through e-newsletters, LodiGrowers.com, weekly viticulture blogs, vineyard removal support, and a direct mail packet sent to nearly 700 assessment-paying growers, while research activity focused on scientist partnerships, on-farm rootstock trials, Tree of Heaven mapping through ArcGIS and iNaturalist, grapevine virus outreach, and PD/GWSS grant projects.

9. **Other Organization Reports:**

CWEF – no report.

LDGGA – Amy Blagg updated the board on recent legislative issues and the LDGGA scholarships. They will host an Economic Forum on May 6 from 9am – 1pm including lunch. Also, Amy noted that the Tokay High FFA would be hosting a 50 year celebration.

SJCFB – Andrew Genasci, Executive Director of the SJ County Farm Bureau updated the Commission on their recent activities including a fertilizer bill that could be very costly for agriculture.

Lodi Grape Festival – no report

CAWG – no report

10. **Public Comment** – No comment

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

12. The next meeting was set for June 23, 2026 at Noon.

13. The meeting adjourned at 1:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Spencer
On behalf of Pieter den Hartog
Secretary