

# *IOWA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES COMMISSION*

## **MINUTES**

Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division  
1918 SE Hulsizer Rd.  
Ankeny, IA 50021  
Boardroom  
June 17, 2014 9:30 AM

### **Commission Members Present:**

Claire Celsi: Chairperson  
Rick Hunsaker: Vice-Chair (via phone)  
Tami Doll: Secretary  
Jay Wilson: Member  
Gary Nystrom: Member

### **ABD Staff Present:**

Stephen Larson: Administrator  
John Lundquist: Assistant Attorney General  
Tim Iversen: Chief Operating Officer  
Meghan O'Brien: Deputy Director of Distribution & Spirits  
Tammy Plowman: Deputy Director of Financial & Asset Management  
Heather Schaffer: Compliance Officer  
Tonya Dusold: Communications  
Erin Bothwell: Administrative Assistant

### **Guests Present:**

Jessica Dunker: Iowa Restaurant Association  
Linda & Ron Mark: Summerset Winery  
Emily Saveraid: Iowa Wine Growers Association  
Garrett Burchett: Mississippi River Distilling Company  
Michelle Hurd: Iowa Grocery Industry Association  
Diane Larson: Snus Hill Winery  
John DAttoma: Glazer's  
Lyle Stutzman: Johnson Brothers  
Kathy Mabie: Department of Management

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Claire Celsi called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and a quorum was present.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson and a second by Commissioner Doll to approve the agenda for the June 17, 2014 Commission meeting.**

**Commission Discussion: None**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Doll and a second by Commissioner Wilson to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2014 Commission meeting.**

**Commission Discussion:** Commissioner Celsi read a prepared statement and the summary is as follows:

The statement made reference to her concerns on a timeline of events related to Alcohol EDU, an educational program for high school students. Commissioner Celsi was under the impression, based on previous meetings, that the Division was in or was about to enter into a contractual relationship with the program's vendor. Despite her request to have the topic of Alcohol EDU as an action item for the Commission meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, it did not appear on the agenda. Additionally, she indicated her confusion with the Division's decision to shift the focus of the education program to educate licensees only. The decision to shift the focus of education towards licensees was made by the Administrator without consulting the Commission.

In addition, concerns were expressed on a timeline of events regarding legislation and a meeting between the Division and representatives from the Mississippi River Distilling Company. Commissioner Celsi stated that the Commission was not informed of this meeting, and that this lack of involvement should not have happened, and at the very least it would have been appropriate for one of the Commissioners with institutional knowledge to have been present.

No other discussion occurred to approve the minutes.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

Chairperson Claire Celsi then recognized Administrator Larson for the Administrator report.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Four years ago last month I started my 1<sup>st</sup> term, and today will mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of my second term. The lessons learned over the last four years, will assist the Division to become better at what we do. As the Division moves forward we will continue to put forth the effort to provide value. The discussion today is about the future and what the Division needs to do better.

Administrator Larson described for the Commission that the Division is responsible for: maintaining a level playing field; to regulate by explaining the “why” and “why not”; to be clear, concise and credible in how we regulate; and that our regulatory program is sustainable.

Administrator Larson provided a historical overview of: key historical dates; a Commission Report on Trade Practices issued in 1990; and a thirteen year Commission meeting timeline. In closing the Division will be recreating and maintaining a historical record on policy decisions, law interpretations and Commission items. This will allow future boards and Division staff the ability to look back in time as the Division moves towards the future.

The Administrator report concludes with Assistant Attorney General John Lundquist giving an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Administrator, the Commission, and how they complement each other.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Garrett Burchett from Mississippi River Distilling Company spoke about continuing efforts to make changes to the laws in 2015. Mr. Burchett would be happy to sit down and talk with the Commission about the past. Commissioner Celsi expressed to Mr. Burchett that the Commission would be happy to meet with them at any time.

Emily Saveraid from Iowa Wine Growers Association spoke about working with the Division to clarify solutions and relaxing some of the rules. Jessica Dunker from the Iowa Restaurant Association asked questions about forecasting, products out of stock and how that might be addressed in the future. Meghan O’Brien responded and spoke about new tools coming on line in the future, which may assist the Division in dealing with the issues raised by Ms. Dunker.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Celsi put forth the following slate of officers for consideration.

Rick Hunsaker – Chairperson

Tami Doll – Vice Chair

Jay Wilson – Secretary

**MOTION: A motion was made by Commission Nystrom and a second by Commissioner Wilson to approve the election of Commissioner Hunsaker as Chairperson, Commissioner Doll as Vice Chairperson and Commissioner Wilson as Secretary, effective July 1, 2014.**

**Discussion:** None

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Next Meeting Date: September 23, 2014 @ 1:00 PM**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Commission Hunsaker and a second by Commissioner Wilson that the commission meeting be adjourned.**

**Discussion:** None

**Motion approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.