

Board Members Present:

Jeff Bloem Scott Harris Tim Nichols
Vicki Haneberg Tom Murray Kelly Gordon
Joshua Chandler
Joseph Guthrie, VDACS Commissioner

Board Members Absent:

Andrew Yancey
Dale Farino, Virginia ABC
Matthew Harris

Guests/Staff:

Jennifer Atkins, VDACS
Melissa Ball, VDACS
Robert Davenport, VDACS
Jack Gorman, Spirits Board Marketing Office (VSBMO)
Adrienne Band, VSBMO
David Cuttino
Erin Mitchell, VA ABC
Cory Jensen
Erik Kozlik
Justin Bell, Office of Attorney General

I. Call to Order – 9:00AM

II. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2024, and December 9, 2024

The minutes from the October 7, 2024, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Nichols.

The minutes from the December 9, 2024, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Haneberg.

III. Virginia Spirits Board Marketing Office – Updates

Mr. Gorman gave updates regarding the First Landing Cup competition, the Virginia 250 bottle project, continuing Cocktail Games press, tray tastings, and VA ABC store displays.

- First Landing Cup - partnered with the American Craft Spirits Association; inaugural event will take place in Richmond with judging on April 30, 2025, distilleries can submit products March through mid-April
- VA 250 bottle project – three-bottle set of whiskey, rum, and gin
- Cocktail Games – Henry Hill, the inaugural winner, will travel doing bartender interviews at several restaurants for the social media spot, “Make it Virginia Made.”
- Tray tastings – moving forward, planning in progress
- ABC store displays - moving forward, planning in progress

IV. Other Business

- Research and Education Grant Program – proposals due March 3, 2025.
- *Allocate \$497.24 for the Board Secretary’s attendance and travel to the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Grain Conference. The motion was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Gordon; the vote was unanimously in favor.*
- Spirits Pilot Laboratory Grant Update – The principal investigator, Mr. Jensen, has requested a fiscal agent change from Virginia Commonwealth University to Garden Grove Brewing & Urban Winery and an extension of the grant period to June 30, 2025.
 - *A motion was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Nichols to approve the Spirits Pilot Laboratory project’s fiscal agent change to Garden Grove Brewery & Urban Winery and extend the grant period to June 30, 2025; the vote was unanimously in favor.*

IX. Public Comment

The Chairman opened the floor for any public comments. There were no public comments.

X. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for April 7, 2025, in Richmond at the Hodges Partnership at 12PM.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:35AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Atkins
Secretary