



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATES

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The board has met several times over the last months to discuss organizational strategies that fit the future of Demeter. First and foremost, Demeter is a certification entity and all other activities support that mission. The board has determined that there will not be an Executive Director position at this time. The BOD will act in the executive function with the current co-directors Erin Sojourner and Tarry Bolger. Felicity Baxter will fill the role of General Manager supporting the directors and reporting to the board. The GM will serve as a conduit to maintain impartiality between business development activities and certification processes. This allows Demeter to move forward with greater transparency and fair representation. Bringing us to the next point -board governance. The board is discussing effective options for broadening the representation and diversity of the board composition. The path forward will be within the legal structure of the current business registry. Strategic objectives are being measured and updated to fit the future of Demeter. There have been visioning sessions with members of the BDA, Demeter & JPI to shape the future of the Biodynamic movement. Programs such as Farmer to Farmer education are emerging. There are many exciting things developing with these relationships. Stay tuned for future updates as plans unfold.

### *SAVE THE DATE!*

Demeter Members Assembly

Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

Please join us at the

2019 Biodynamic Conference

in Lake George, NY!

Topics to be covered include:

- 2020 DI Standards input
- BOD governance updates
- Open forum for discussion regarding certification

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### *Certification*

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Tarry Bolger was brought into Demeter US with a strong background in certification practices & Demeter Standards. This year he has conducted an internal audit based on ISO 17065 standards, and subsequently brought the certification quality manual up to date and into compliance. A total of 70 corrective actions were identified, addressed, and implemented. The Standards Advisory Committee has been developed to provide a governance structure to the certification program.

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### *Business Development*

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Erin Sojourner in conjunction with the BOD has had several meetings with the BDA and JPI discussing opportunities to coalesce these Biodynamic organizations with increased collaboration. Discussions are related to planning projects that bridge the gap & forge new paths that forward the Biodynamic movement, fostering harmony within the BD community.

Additionally, Erin has been busy organizing trade committees representative of the commodities certified with Demeter: Farmers, Commercial Packaged Goods (CPG), and Wines & Vines. These groups are actively planning media outreach campaigns, industry education, and increasing certification in order to increase the operators' value of their licensed trademark for their brand.

Contact Erin to join into these exciting development conversations and projects!

## BIODYNAMIC FARM ON THE BIG SCREEN!

*The Biggest Little Farm* is out in theaters now! Award winning filmmaker and farmer, John Chester, visually shares his cinematic perspective of his family's 7+ year adventure to create a [certified Biodynamic] "traditional farm." *The Biggest Little Farm* is a triumph in storytelling where we are welcomed to witness the highs and lows of their journey. From the touching mentorship of the late Alan York, to the awakening in John and Molly's thoughtful observations... we walk the good road with them... a road leading them to the wonders of working with ALL OF NATURE and ultimately what it means to live in that harmonious balance. Be prepared! Laughter, tears and gumption! Some "impossible" dreams are worth working for! Congratulations to the whole Apricot Lane Farm family! (four-leggeds, creepy crawlies & microbes included)



## BIG NEWS IN THE WINE INDUSTRY

The owner of Château d'Yquem, Bernard Arnault, announced this week that the benchmark Sauternes property is to undergo conversion to biodynamic viticulture and St Emilion property Cheval Blanc may follow suit. These are two of the most prestigious wineries in the world and produce some of the best and most sought-after wines in France. Read more here: <https://www.thedrinksbusiness.com/2019/05/yquem-to-convert-to-biodynamics/>

Sincerely,

Demeter U.S. Board of Directors

Rudy Marchesi, Errol Schweizer, Greg Fleishman, Paul Reidl, Zach Wolf, Victoria Byrnes and Dr. Thimmaiah