

2010 MBA Fall Meeting – Hilton Airport Grand Rapids

October 23, 2010

(Approximately 54 members in attendance.)

Meeting called to order by President R. Hoopingarner at 2:35pm.

Motion made to accept the agenda, made by Scott Austin, seconded by R. Sutherland. **Motion passed.**

Secretary's Report (D. Schram)

Motion made by Secretary D. Schram **to place the minutes of the meeting on the MBA website.** Seconded by S. Austin. **Motion passed.**

Treasurers Report (Judy Schmaltz)

Balances read. Current balance of checking account is \$23,126.08, with an additional \$5000 in a Certificate of Deposit. **Motion made to accept the treasurers report**, made by S. Austin, and seconded by M. Risk. **Motion accepted.**

Constitutional Committee Report (Richard Mendel)

R. Mendel named members of the Constitutional Committee. An explanation of the changes made to the old constitution was given. Questions and concerns from the membership were taken and addressed. Member W. Dodder expressed concerns about the current balloting process. B. Perez asked about future alterations and amendments to the constitution. (VN125) S. Tillman asked about Article 7, Section 4, Item C and began to ask for an amendment. R. Sutherland

pointed out that if changes or amendments were made to the proposed constitution now, with the old constitution still in effect, and revisions could not be implemented without notifying the membership 30 days in advance. R. Mendel explained to the group that changes could be made after adoption, which could be voted on by the membership at the next general membership meeting, but not prior to the vote without advance notice. S. Austin further clarified, within the new constitution, when a general membership meeting could be called and explained what a quorum to have that vote would be. R. Hoopingarner further made the point with the subject of expenditures and approval of the board, in regards to the Treasurer's duties. S. Tillman voiced his concerns to the group regarding Article 7, Section 4, Item C (Treasurer's duties). Dale Woods clarified that we need to move forward with the new constitution, or deal with the old constitution for 12 more months. **Motion to adopt the new constitution** made by member T. Falkenberg. Seconded by B. Sirr. R. Mendel asked for further discussion.

All in favor of adopting the constitution, vote was called for. This vote was unanimous in favor of the adoption by all attending members at this meeting.

Motion carried.

Report from the Tellers on the Election Results

The election results are as follows:

Vice President – Dennis Klein

Treasurer – Stephen Tilmann

District 2 Representative – Mark O'Neill

District 4 Representative – Richard Jorgensen

District 6 Representative – Robert Hollis

Member At Large Representative – James Dodder

Motion made for the election ballots to be destroyed, called for by R. Hoopingarner, and seconded B. Perez. **Motion passed.**

Report from the Auditors

Mike French served on the committee. There were no discrepancies. A short discussion about the accounting program, Quick Books, followed.

ANR Week (D. Klein)

ANR Week, which is held annually in E. Lansing, will be held on March 11-12, 2011. Speakers are currently being lined up.

Summer and Fall Meetings

R. Hoopingarner asked the group if we liked the facilities and for suggestions regarding the summer meeting. Owosso was suggested for a location for the next fall meeting. It is the board's intention to move the meetings around the state to encourage wide spread attendance.

Newsletter

Currently, it costs the MBA \$6000 per year (\$1500 per issue) to print and mail hard copies of the newsletter. Postage prices are expected to go up. It was mentioned that producing the newsletter on the web, while not free, is close. It is well understood that the MBA has some members without internet or computer access. **Motion made to print the newsletter on the web**, was made by S. Austin, and seconded by J. Schmaltz. A lengthy discussion followed. B. Surr expressed concerns about members who do not have email or computer access. People who have computer access and would like hard copies of the newsletter are asked

to hit the Print button and print their own, but those members who do not have internet access can have a hard copy mailed to them. S. Tillman clarified the economics of the newsletter and explained that if some members needed a copy mailed to them, it may need to be printed in black and white rather than a full color issue. He also explained the economics of advertising and the number of people who view our MBA website on the internet. Concerns about non-members being able to access and read our newsletter were brought up. D. Cross summed up the discussion. A vote was called for, with 3 members voting in opposition. **Motion carried.**

2012 Dues

2012 dues can be reduced, in light of the motion that was just passed (online version of the newsletter). S. Austin commented that the dues could remain the same and the additional funds used to further causes pertaining to beekeepers. J. Schmaltz mentions that we have about \$30,000 in our account, which is a lot for a non-profit to have. We could also raise funds later, if need be. Currently, we could reduce dues by \$5, which is about what the newsletter costs. Dues were raised in the past by \$5 to fund the calendar. The calendar is also online now. Member M. Risk expressed that we could use the additional funds for several items, including fighting Spotted Knapweed eradication. Member D. Lam made the **motion to leave the dues at the current level**. The motion was seconded by B. Sirr. **A secondary motion** was made by S. Austin, **to have the governing board form a committee to examine ways to use the earmarked calendar and newsletter money toward honey and beekeeping in the state of Michigan**. **Secondary motion repealed. Original motion called to vote and motion carried. Former secondary motion remade as a primary motion, by S. Austin, S. Risk seconded. Motion passed with some dissention.**

(Secretary's Note: As our group is governed by Robert's Rules of Order, secondary motions made to the main motion ARE allowed prior to voting. To simplify voting, however, the secondary motion was repealed and reintroduced as it's own primary motion.)

Constant Contact

President R. Hoopingarner explained how we came about using Constant Contact. S. Tillmann further explained how it has increased communication and opened the floor to questions. B. Perez questioned, with the increased web based nature of the MBA, what are the benefits of joining the MBA as a paying member? S. Tilmann says that the decision to join the MBA is a no-brainer and suggests areas, such as swarm collector listings, to be for members only, or non-members to be listed for a fee. He points out that our website, with free information, will become a marketplace for e-commerce. S. Risk points out that people join a membership when they see that the organization is useful in nature. It was asked if the website has brought in new members? It was pointed out that it will take until spring 2012 (12 months implementation) to determine if it has. Moving on, R. Hoopingarner pointed out that members can edit their personal information online at Constant Contact directly. Payments and dues can also be made through Paypal now. More questions followed. A discussion of the further updating of honey plants on the website will continue with R. Sutherland.

Motion made to adjourn the Fall MBA meeting, made by B. SIRR at 4:06pm.

Motion passed.

Additional session:

R. Hoopingarner, S. Tilmann, D. Lam, M. Risk, B. Hollis, D. Klein, D. Jorgensen, D. Schram in attendance.

Motion made for individuals on the board, with signature authority, to be authorized to make expenditures as needed, to be approved at the next meeting, made by M. Risk, seconded D. Lam. **Motion passed.**