Members in attendance: Terry Toland, Don Schram, Stephen Tilmann, Zachary Huang, Mike Risk, Don Lam, Anne Marie Fauvel, and Cindy Dudock.

(No quorum)

Don's “What You NEED To Know”

- Honey prices and package bee prices are going up. Pollination prices should go up also.
- The 2013 Fall Conference is in the black! Expenses were down, and attendance was up.
- Conference volunteer sign-up sheet, with duties, is coming. Maybe with perks!
- Honey Festival moving to Frankenmuth, to be held on Saturday, July 12, 2014.
- MBA to (possibly) host HAS in 2015. To be decided at January 4, 2014 meeting.
- Board only (executive board, district and club reps) Microscope Class to be held April 5, 2014.
- Constitutional change request, involving local clubs and collection of dues.

Future Meetings:

- January 4, 2014 – Board meeting, 10am
- February 1, 2014 - Board meeting, 10am
- March 7 and 8, 2014 – ANR Week, Spring Conference
- April 5, 2014 – Board meeting, 10am, Microscope Class following the meeting.
- June 7, 2014 – Board meeting, 10am
- July 12, 2014 – Michigan Honey Festival, Frankenmuth
- July 26, 2014 – MBA Summer Picnic, hosted by Saginaw Valley Beekeepers
- October 24 and 25, 2014 – MBA Fall Conference, at Holiday Inn Gateway, Flint
- (Additional board meetings will be scheduled once the MSU football schedule is announced.)

Meeting called to order at 10:11am.

Changes and additions to the agenda called for. Agenda approved.

Secretary's Report (D. Schram): Thank you to Cindy Dudock for acting as secretary at the last board meeting.

Reports are coming in from the Thumb and mid-Michigan areas of poor honey production this year. Bees are reported to be strong, however, leading many to believe that winter starve-outs will be the rule this spring, rather than the exception. This situation is leading to higher than typical honey prices here in the state. Because of the potential for starvation losses, higher package bee prices will also probably be a result, coupling colony loss replacement with continued high demand from beginners. Don Lam
reported that early pricing for package bees have already increased by $7 to 10 dollars per. Zachary Huang commented that pollination prices need to also rise. He has long felt that pollination prices should be higher industry-wide and pricing should follow the conventions set by package bee prices.

Schram read a prepared calendar submission for the journals, and requested verification of the admission fees. Tilmann noted that the fees should be omitted from the notice, and should be revisited when there is a quorum. It was generally felt that there would be no increase in admission fees to the conferences. Another reason for omission of pre-registration fees is that our online registration system is only active 60 days prior to the event. Instead, Schram was suggested to include wording to point people toward the MBA website for further information.

Motion made to approve minutes and Secretary's Report. **One addition to past minutes called for, by Cindy Dudock. In the minutes she took from the October 5, 2013, board meeting, under the topic: New Business/TV Program – The producers name is Joan Tummer.** Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report (S. Tilmann):** Currently, the MBA has $30,764 in checking, Paypal balance is $30, and a $15,000 CD at Bank of America. In income, since last October, include member dues totaling $2,555, advertising income of $52, product sales $200 (honey sticks), and Fall Conference entrance fees at the door of $3690. Expenses for the same period are $114 bank and PayPal expenses, Fall Conference expenses (name tags, etc.) of $375, and board expenses $20 for our annual filing fee.

Total registration for the Fall Conference was 182 attendees for both days. 119 attendees were pre-registered, with an additional 37 on Friday at the door, and 26 on Saturday.

Pre-registration for the Fall Conference totaled $1720, with another $1130 taken at the door. Vendor fees accounted for another $900. There is a $40 exception, which could not be accounted for, but is noted in our books. Another $50 showed up for a vendor table this morning. Expenses for the conference was $66 for food (fruit), $309 for supplies (such as photocopies and nametags, etc.), for a total of $375, so far. There was no speaker fee in this amount. Jane Burgess, our keynote speaker, declined any speaker fee, and asked to consider it a donation to our association. It's expected that about $3000 in additional bills should be coming in in expenses. If this holds true, this may be the first time in recent history that we are in the black with the Fall Conference. Toland added that, next year, our conference rooms will be given to us for $1000 (versus $1600 this year), increasing our chance of keeping us in the black. Tilmann summarized that reducing our costs, by eliminating the banquet, and increasing attendance over last year, are some of the reasons for our success.

Don Lam mentioned that we may want to make a motion, when we have a quorum, to purchase our own projectors, as this is a recurring problem for us at the conferences. *(Secretary's Note: Another savings we had from last year's conference is not renting projectors or any other AV equipment from the hotel.)*

**Membership Report (S. Tilmann):** Membership continues to climb, with 734 members currently, with 2011 and 2012 expired members included. (253 lapsed members.)

Tilmann reported that Constant Contact has been a disaster since their newest update in the spring. Tilmann has been maintaining a pretty good database of our membership, and Constant Contact has screwed it up by changing database fields. Sutherland (our web assistant) has been issued tasks to help
correct the data corruption. Mail Chimp is another database vendor, and may be a possible option. Tilmann wanted to give the board a heads up, in case the problems continue with Constant Contact. Tilmann will keep the board updated and may bring options to the board in the future.

The MBA website continues to have a lot of traffic. A fair amount of the traffic is coming from outside the United States.

A call for assistance at the Fall Conference for the Facebook page was raised. Both Don Schram and Melville Kennedy volunteered. A question was asked about administrative access and passwords. This followed into a discussion about ground rules as far as postings and our official MBA stance on topics. We should work to delete off topic posts, as Tilmann currently uses editorial discretion. Opinions should not be posted, in regards to MBA position. Some periodic reporting would be appreciated, says Tilmann, who was notified that Facebook does provide analytics. Facebook postings that direct traffic to the MBA website are good. “As a board,” said Tilmann, “we should have definite goals as to what Facebook should be used to accomplish.” This led into a lengthy discussion regarding the potential dangers in forming MBA policy, MBA opinion, editorial discretion, and our mission statement. Tilmann will get in touch with Kennedy and let him know some basic guidelines. The executive board will be kept in the loop.

Motion made to approve the Treasurer's Report, and was passed.

**Old Business:**

**Fall Conference (T. Toland):** Toland noted that as Tilmann already gave a summary of the Fall Conference in his report, there were only a few remaining topics to touch on.

The honey judging was excellent. Our honey judge, Norm Adams, would like to revamp the rules. He is also willing to give talks to local clubs on how to prepare and present honey entries.

Tilmann is currently in possession of the class evaluation sheets and will circulate them down through the board and to the instructors. Schram added that, in the past, some instructors purposefully withheld evaluation sheets from attendees to prevent bad reviews being given to the board, and to continue to be speakers. *(Secretary's Note: It was reported that a couple speakers would use their class time to provide an “infomercial” to attendees. No evaluation sheets were received by the board. The board has taken action as to not asking those speakers back as instructors.)*

Tilmann suggested that a sheet detailing speaker expectations and providing a speaker support person would be big improvements. Toland said, “We just need volunteers, period. Not a specific person for things, but volunteers in general. Someone to introduce speakers before they presented would be a simple help. An additional 2 or 3 people for registration, and a few guides in the hallway would be a great help. An idea for a motion would be to have a “room host” to introduce, pass out and collect evaluations, and help out between classes, maybe for free attendance to the conference.” A list of volunteer positions and job duties will be created by Toland. Schram volunteered to assist.

Toland wished to put on record that much of the mead consumed in the hospitality room at the conference on Friday night was donated by the Michigan Honey Festival. The Honey Festival's date is changed to Saturday, July 12, 2014, and will be held in Frankenmuth this upcoming year.
Spring Conference – March 7 and 8 (T. Toland): John Miller is our keynote. Breakout sessions are being organized. There is a planned Beginners Track, and the possible addition of a “women's track” (and a lively discussion was had as to what this meant) this year. These would be classes highlighting women in beekeeping. A better description of classes was asked for by the board before we pursue this, along with a request for a better name.

A group code is provided for beekeepers to give to get a discounted rate on guest rooms at the Kellogg Center. The code is MBA030614.

Motion to table to accommodate Zachary, who has to leave. (Secretary's Note: As there is no quorum present, we decided to just go ahead and quit talking about the Spring Conference and talk about it again later.)

HAS Hosting (Z. Huang and T. Toland): Held annually in July, we are asked to host the Heartland Apicultural Society conference for 2015, which is our 150th year as an association. Huang informed us that the MBA would be taking the event on entirely, from finding the venue to providing the speakers. Anne Marie Fauvel will be asking GVSU to be a potential host.

The board asked Huang for some general numbers and needs, as many of us have not attended HAS. He informed us that there is typically 300-500 attendees, with about 400 attendees being average. The event lasts 3 days, with breakout sessions and guest speakers. There is typically dormitory housing for attendees, however this was shown to be optional, as Cookeville, TN, did not have housing available in 2013 and attendance was not hampered at all. Huang also informed us that he is the current President of HAS.

As we do not have a quorum, we cannot give Huang an answer for hosting HAS. However, armed with this information, and a better idea of what needs to be done to host, we will have an answer for him at our next January 4 board meeting. This item is placed on our upcoming agenda.

Microscope Classes (Z. Huang and T. Toland): At a prior board meeting, Zach's Microscope Classes came up, and the board lamented that during the conferences, the board is active with other duties and can't participate. Huang and Toland arranged a proposal to have a board only (executive board, district and club reps) microscope class after one of our board meetings. It was decided that our April 5th board meeting, after the Spring Conference, should work.

Future board meeting dates were also given. (See page 1 of these minutes.)

(Secretary's Note: At this point, Zachary had to leave to make a flight to represent Michigan at an entomologist convention in Texas.)

Spring Conference (continued): Tilmann noted that we need to get a vendor application form to Don Lam to distribute to potential vendors and current vendors at our conferences. Toland went around the vendor area and gave the dates for next year's conferences. Tilmann will send Lam a vendor list he
created with Constant Contact. Lam is asked to send out a reminder “save the date” postcard or email to the vendors.

ANR Week provides booklets for attendees, and the various Ag groups are given an allotted amount of booklets to be mailed, at ANR Week's expense. December 1 is the deadline for providing our mailing list. Openly providing a list of membership was discussed again. Schram noted that we haven't done it in the past, but perhaps we should determine the reason why. A number of reasons against, including privacy and additional record keeping (check box on membership application?), were cited, and we again decided not to put out our membership list for those reasons.

**Trade show (D. Schram):** Schram re-introduced the topic of turning our conference vendor area into more of a trade show for all beekeeping products. The general feeling in the room was positive. A question was raised about providing a free table for non-sales vendors. As table fees are low ($50), this was decided to be a non-issue for most vendors. Tilmann noted that as we now provide a single lunch for each vendor table purchased (Averaging $15-20 per lunch, per day, and needing to be purchased from the hotel.), we may need to re-examine vendor table fees, along with the total fee structure for attendees. Toland brought up the possibility of a business membership to the MBA, and Schram asked for the topic of a purchased lifetime membership to be considered at a future meeting.

**Constitutional Change (T. Toland and S. Tilmann):** A change to the constitution needs to be made, in regards to removing the guidelines for local clubs to collect dues for MBA membership. This should be written and proposed, and then voted on by the membership at the Fall Conference 2014. This was placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

**Summer Picnic 2014 (T. Toland and C. Dudock):** July 26 is the MBA Summer Picnic, hosted by the Saginaw Valley Beekeepers. Cindy Dudock is the newly elected VP, and Norm Adams is the new President. The Hartley Nature Education Center, in St. Charles, is being looked at as a possible host site for the picnic.

**Fall Conference 2014 (T. Toland):** The Fall Conference is slated for Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25, 2014. Our guest speaker will be David Hackenberg, who is a commercial pollinator and reported to put more miles on his bees than any other beekeeper in America.

There should be new honey judging rules in place, per honey judge Norm Adams.

Changes at the 2014 conference will be 5 banquet rooms, up from the 4 rooms we had this year. The vendors area will be shifted down one room space. The main speaker room will be expanded. Currently seating 150, it was filled this year. Dividers can then be pulled for breakout session use.

We had brought doughnuts and fruit on Friday this year, but Mary at the hotel chewed out Terry for doing so. Tilmann commented that we need to think about utilizing the hotel for food next year, as we are in the black this year. The possibility of placing fruit and doughnuts in the hospitality room is a change that we'll do for Fall 2014, keeping the coffee located in the vendor hall.
ANR Week 2015 (T. Toland): The 2015 dates have not been provided to us yet.

Additional Domain Names (S. Tilmann): The Kalamazoo Beekeepers are giving up their michiganbeekeepers.com and .org domain names. It has been determined that they need to initiate the transfer. Tilmann has not heard anything back from them, regarding an email sent a couple days prior. He assumes this transfer will happen by the end of the year.

Future Meetings (T. Toland): The first Saturday of the month for MBA board meetings is what Toland is trying for. He noted that we are typically busier before the conferences. Future board meeting dates were again given. (See first page of these minutes.) The MSU fall football schedule is the problem with scheduling beyond August. GoToMeeting.com may be our solution, and the bugs are continuing to be worked out. The motivation to do so is high, as we would like to see more board participation from the UP and Western Michigan clubs, and especially since additional committees are forming, such as the HAS steering committee and conference planning.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Schram
Secretary, Michigan Beekeepers' Association