MIchigan Beekeeper’s Association

Minutes

January 22, 2011

Members in attendance: D. Schram, D. Klein, J. Dodder, John Hugo, Terry Klein, Bob Hollis, Terry Toland, Ken Hoekstra, Don Lam, Edwin Wright, Rich Wieske, Roger Hoopingarner, Stephan Tilmann, Mark O’Neill, Brad Perez, Bill Sirr, Keith Lazar

Guest: Jay R. Harman

Meeting called to order at 10:11am.

Review of the Agenda

B. Hollis added advertising on the website. T. Klein noted that the Star Thistle response should be under old business, instead of new. Motion to approve the agenda was made by S. Tilmann and seconded by D. Schram. Motion approved.

Review of Minutes

A number of board members did not receive the minutes due to the last minute nature of emailing them out. D. Schram will make a concerted effort to get them out on a timelier basis. Motion to approve by S. Tilmann, and seconded by T. Toland. Motion approved.
Treasurer’s Report, S. Tilmann

Current financial report shows $22,300 (estimate) in checking account. 73 membership renewals and 55 pre-registrations were made for the upcoming ANR Week. He adds that local clubs should stress membership and renewals, and that you must be a 2011 member to receive the discounted ANR Week entrance fee.

On the subject of ANR Week, local clubs will receive tables, but those tables will be located in another room as the vendors, per D. Klein. A motion was made to have a table captain representing each club, each day pro bono, which could be different people, per T. Toland, and seconded by S. Tilmann. Clarification followed. Motion passed.

Volunteers are requested for ANR Week. A discussion of vests made last year by D. Lam and their function of being a “traffic cop” was had. B. Hollis asks that vendor name tags be different to identify vendors. Speakers and two vendors each day get in free, which was clarified by B. Hollis. On-line registration is available to vendors also, but D. Lam has made notification that vendors can pay at the door. 20 tables out of 36, with 13 vendors have been sold, as reported by D. Lam, so there is still room. Website visitors are interested in a vendors list, which will need to be gathered and placed on the website.

Fiscal year 2010 (ending September 30), final balance is $27,214.58. The CD is $5000 plus interest. With the Profit and Loss statement, in fiscal year 2010, we had a net income of -$2909.23. This was anticipated.

Rich Wieske made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, and seconded by D. Lam. Motion passed.
Correspondence

Letter from Debbie Matzen, regarding her honey being pulled off shelves, was discussed, with the possibility of Byron Beerbower being a speaker. A colleague of his is slated for two sessions on Saturday at ANR Week. S. Tilmann suggests that we also have him on Friday also, with a 20 minute session. **Motion was made to make this a sub topic on the general session along with it being on Friday and Saturday, by S. Tilmann. Seconded by R. Hoopingarner. Motion carried.**

Letter received from the Farm Bureau Promotion Committee. They are looking for teacher help and a brochure providing information about bees. We currently don’t have information like that for distribution. T. Klein suggests that we contact a teacher in St. Charles who uses bees in her curriculum, for information. NHB has information also, but it’s targeted at a higher level than elementary school students, which was brought up by D. Lam. B. Hollis brought up Welcome to the Honey Farm, which was used with Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Day) These are 3rd and 4th graders, mostly from the inner city. R. Hoopingarner commented about honey sticks, which Nature’s Kick will GIVE us if we document how we have given them out. A discussion with T. Toland about how Seven Ponds has distributed them for educational purposes followed. T. Klein bands them with honey recipes and gives them out. S. Tilmann feels that we should incorporate the website with this information. **R. Hoopingarner makes the motion that if it’s for an educational purpose, we send them honey sticks and any information that we have, with proper documentation, seconded by S. Tilmann. T. Klein adds the club purchases and receives the booklet Welcome to**
the Honey Farm and keeps them on hand for educational purposes. Quantity was discussed. 5000 seems to be the quantity, and B. Hollis will call the publisher to get pricing. Motion seconded by D. Klein. Motion passed.

Committee Report
None.

Master Beekeeper Program, T. Toland
He is waiting for correspondence and information from Cornell University and North Carolina. Both are tiered programs. Cornell is a three-tiered system. EAS (Eastern Apicultural Society) is the original program. North Carolina is a joint venture with their bee club, their extension service and their department of agriculture. S. Tilmann would like to put out a preliminary “press statement” on the website. T. Toland asks if we would like to involve EAS, or if we should have a tiered system? North Carolina, through their extension service, is a free program. A discussion of the different levels, along with their time requirements, followed. D. Lam asks if beekeepers can “test out” of apprentice level. M. Risk, T. Toland, R. Mendel, B. Perez and D. Schram have volunteered to be on a steering committee, along with J. Withers.
Old Business

ANR Week

D. Klein will contact J. Bromenshenk regarding accommodations and transportation. Break out sessions are in hand and will be placed on the website. (A copy of them was given to S. Tilmann, along with D. Lam providing a copy of the vendors list to him as well.) S. Tilmann feels that the MBA should have a table in addition to the local clubs. S. Tilmann will seek out the volunteers and information to be distributed. The general feeling is that this is a good idea. There are 10 clubs we recognize, along with one for the MBA and one other for the historian. This makes 12 tables we need, which would force us into another room.

The Queen Breeders Initiative will not be speaking at the ANR Week. A heated discussion between S. Tilmann and D. Klein took place, regarding information exchanged between M. Risk and S. Tilmann. D. Klein felt that M. Risk thought that a presentation was premature. S. Tilmann heard the M. Risk was approaching SEMBA to see if there might be an interest in the session. www.michiganqueens.com is the website launched. S. Tilmann says that Larry Connor is not involved with this project. The situation was resolved by proposing to call M. Risk and asking him again if he would like a session, and if so, placing him as a speaker at ANR Week.

MBA Logo Contest, S. Tilmann

Ann Leonard will be chairing the selection committee. Some submissions have been coming in and posted on the website. $100 gift certificate to Dadant and membership to MBA is first prize, and second
place is membership in MBA and entrance to the spring and fall meetings, third prize is MBA membership only. 39 submissions have been made so far. Do we need approval of the prizes? The committee, if they have a selection, we can approve it at the March board meeting. **D. Lam made the motion to approve the prize list, which was seconded by T. Klein. Motion carried.**

*(Secretary’s note: Prizes were published on the MBA Website before receiving board approval.)*

**$5 Discount Policy to Clubs**

Current method is labor intensive and fraught with problems with checking if the person is actually a member of a local club and therefore entitled to the discount. S. Tilmann detailed the current policy. **Motion was made to have dues to remain at $30 and $35 dollars, if the person indicates that they are a member of a local club, then that $5 dollars will be rebated back to the club at the end of the calendar year, made by T. Toland and seconded by D. Klein.** A lengthy discussion of policy, local club policies, club memberships and renewal dates followed. A box will be checked on the MBA website, indicating local club membership. Local clubs will still collect their own dues, if they so choose. **Motion carried.** Clarification will be on the website, per S. Tilmann.
**June 25th Summer Meeting**

No location as of yet. T. Klein will check with Bay City State Park. R. Hoopingarner suggests a local Camp Kiwanis Boy Scout camp near Mason. S. Tilmann asked if we have vendors at the Summer Picnic, which we traditionally don’t. The picnic is simply a social event, it is felt.

**Fall Meeting October 21 – 22,**

Kellogg Biological Station facility will hold about 80 people for housing. About 40 are dormitory situation. $78 dollars is the fee for lodging and snacks, etc., in general. This location is at Gull Lake. Closest hotel lodging will be at Battle Creek. MSU’s Kellogg Center was brought up by J. Dodder, which is a possibility, but we would have to pay for rooms; quite the different situation that we have for ANR Week. The RAM Center at Higgins Lake is still on the table also. The RAM is a nice facility in regards to amenities. A discussion of fees at hotel conference centers followed. Renting schools was also offered as an option. R. Hoopingarner asked, “What is considered to be South East Michigan?” It was agreed, Ann Arbor up to Flint.

**T. Klein makes the motion to leave the conference as two days, which was seconded by S. Tilmann. Motion carried.**

Freeway access should be considered in a location. At the March meeting this topic will be discussed further.
New Business

Richard Mendel’s Meeting Planning Worksheet

Value was found in his document. Unfortunately, we are already behind in planning for the Fall Meeting, according to his schedule. And feedback to him, R. Hoopingarner feels, would be appreciated.

Office Live, S. Tilmann

New executive board email addresses. B. Perez asked S. Tilmann to set up an mba-bees.org email address for the Historian. Along with the email capabilities, we have online document repository. This should be thought of as an online filing cabinet. The example of the layout of the Lincoln Room at the Kellogg Center was given. R. Mendel’s Meeting Planning Worksheet is another good example. T. Toland asked about email addresses for district reps. All these are possibilities.

MBA Spotted Knapweed Eradication Response

T. Klein would like to take a vote to see if Michigan Beekeepers Association agrees or disagrees with the opinion of the president, regarding the eradication of Star Thistle. R. Hoopingarner clarifies that he doesn’t agree with the eradication either. T. Klein feels that R. Hoopingarner’s letter speaks for the association, which Hoopingarner disagrees with.

At this time, T. Klein introduced Jay R. Harman, a hobbyist beekeeper and plant specialist.
(Secretary’s Note: J.R. Harman is also co-author of “Bee Forage of North America and the Potential for Planting for Bees”, in the 1992 edition of “The Hive and the Honey Bee” with George Ayers. His prominence in the industry was greatly downplayed at the meeting.)

Mr. Harman’s reaction is that the proposed replacement plants are not suitable plants for replacing Star Thistle, as most that are listed on Dr. Landis’ suggested plantings handout are “moist site” plants and some are not nectar producing at the right times. On the list, there are about 6 candidate species as possible replacement plants. His thoughts are that the intentions are meant well, however, the suggested replacement plants are “way off the mark”.

If we oppose the eradication of Star Thistle, a letter needs to be sent to congress, per R. Hoopingarner. T. Klein says that this is in the works already, and he adds the names of others who are politically active and in our favor.

B. Sirr voiced his opinion giving us a historical perspective and over-grazing in western states.

R. Hoopingarner points out that we need to find a replacement, one that needs to fill that blooming gap. Congress mandated, 20 years ago, that non-native species need to be removed. As an organization, we should have acted 20 years ago, is his feeling. He points out that clovers and Black Locust are on their list for eradication also.

S. Tilmann feels that we may be against the eradication, but we aren’t against the replanting part of the plan. The general feeling is that there isn’t an adequate replacement and that their replanting plans are
useless measures. R. Hoopingartner details that Star Thistle is a plant that grows where other plants won’t.

Jay Harman had a discussion with Doug Landis, and disagrees with him. Landis feels that the two weevils are going to spread and it’s inevitable. He also says that it could be 20-25 years before we see a decline in Star Thistle. Harman also points out that the bees need stands of a single plant to become a target of foraging, and not an occasional plant here and there in the woods, which is a goal of Landis.

S. Tilmann asked if anyone has contacted the NHB to see their stance. T. Klein has not received word back, but pointed out that the Farm Bureau has contacted him and set up a meeting, along with Gary Randall.

Harman feels that the beekeepers need to give their opinion and, secondly, find a replacement species.

D. Schram feels that Landis was premature in releasing the insects without a proper replanting plan in place. Harman points out that Landis’ list of (poor) replacement plants IS his plan.

J. Hugo feels that we should get some positive out of this problem. We stand in the position of being responsible for replacing with replacement plant seed. T. Klein brought up the aspect of Landis’ Win-Win situation regarding “packets” of seed to be given to farmers. D. Schram illustrated the folly in this statement. J. Hugo would like to see a plot demonstration of a replacement plant. T. Klein would like a list of replacement plants, a third party economic impact statement, and a third party environmental impact study.
R. Hoopingarner feels that we can and should slow any further releases, in addition to being notified of all attempts to control flowering plants. And we need to find suitable replacement plants, in both location where it grows and time of bloom.

B. Sirr points out the efforts of George Ayers and the plants he brought in and developed in the past. The beekeepers wouldn’t buy the plants. We are asking someone else to do our job. We need to find a replacement plant to head off the inevitable.

We need to find an end of July replacement plant.

Harman adds that Landis’ replacement plants are unknown quality of honey.

It’s felt that George Ayers needs to come out of retirement. Harman, who talked to him yesterday, said that Ayers said that he doesn’t have a replacement. A discussion of anise hyssop (mountain mint) followed.

T. Klein asks to submit a bill for $2000 for a beekeeper’s lawyers for having a lawyer at the meeting in November. As the board didn’t ask to have a lawyer there, nor was the board consulted first, the general feeling is that there should be no obligation to pay. T. Klein will submit the bill regardless.

**Letter of Appreciation**

**Motion to send a letter of appreciation to Ken Rauscher for his years of service to the Michigan beekeepers, was made by T. Klein and seconded by D. Klein. Motion passed.** D. Schram will draft letter.
Advertising

B. Hollis asked to speak about advertising in the newsletter. He would like to advertise on the website. A heated discussion about website advertisement followed, between B. Hollis and S. Tilmann. A number of technical issues were brought up by S. Tilmann. Namely, who is responsible for doing it. However, he also feels that there is a missed opportunity for income by not having advertising on our website. Display ads, classified ads, member and non-member ads, are all an issue, along with their content and pricing structure adding to the problems. Mechanics aren’t the problem; it’s the administration issues that prevent it.

S. Tilmann was asked if he could take the vendor list and make a hypertext link to the vendor’s website. S. Tilmann did not acknowledge the topic. He requests additional assistance with the website, in addition to someone to chair the advertising.

Motion to adjourn at 1:15pm.