Members present: Don Schram, Zachary Huang, Roger Hoopingarner, Rich Wieske, Steven Tilmann, Mike Hansen, Bob Hollis, David Anthony, Mark O’Neill, Mike Risk, Dennis Klein, Bill Sirr, Terry Toland and Richard Mendel.

Meeting brought to order 10:06am

Changes and additions to agenda. D. Klein has information from the Kellogg Center. D. Schram needs clarification on MBA website calendar dates.

Approval of prior minutes. Motion to approve minutes made by S. Tilmann and seconded by M Risk. Motion passes.

Financial Report, S. Tilmann. Spring Meeting financials show a balance of $33,760 plus CD of $5000. Member dues and revenues from the Spring Conference account for the increase from last meeting. Expenses were detailed and discussed. (For board members who would like to see a detailed breakdown, S. Tilmann refers us to the Board Only section of the website.)

We have 103 new members since January of this year.

Our CD (Certificate of Deposit) is coming due. Choices of instruments that we can put it into were revealed. S. Tilmann suggests increasing our CD amount to $10,000 to allow for more options and higher interest. D. Anthony inquired about early withdrawal penalties and whether we would benefit from two $5000 CDs instead. M. Risk commented that early withdrawal, at his institution, only forfeits the last quarter of interest. D. Anthony asked if we put it into the Freemont Foundation, whether we could withdraw it later. Both R. Hoopingarner and Z. Huang replied that any money deposited to the Freemont Foundation is considered “gone” and a donation. S. Tilmann forecast that we will be experiencing higher bank fees in the very near future. Bank fees and the possibility of changing banks were discussed. Motion to take $10000 out of our checking, in addition to the $5000, to put it into a CD, was made by D. Anthony and seconded by D. Klein. Discussion followed. This bank account is currently at Bank of America. “Buying power” by keeping our money together was discussed. Motion carried.
Correspondence. Lakeshore Beekeeper’s Association’s Dave Laney expressed disappointment in the MBA dropping the Newsletter. (This has been tabled and will be covered under New Business.)

Letter from Dennis Klein resigning his position for program chair for ANR Week. R. Hoopingarner reported that he had received a letter from D. Klein regarding his program chair position. D. Klein asked to see the letter, which R. Hoopingarner did not bring. A discussion regarding D. Klein’s role as the Vice-President and job description of program chair followed, led by R. Hoopingarner. D. Klein was openly reprimanded by the President and it was acknowledged that the job duties would be fulfilled.

Correspondence with the Kellogg Center, in regards to upcoming conferences, has been spotty.

Cyndi Alexander has requested 150 of the “Welcome to the Honey Farm” coloring book for a 4H event. This will be a countywide beekeeping workshop.

Old Business.

Summer Meeting at Camp Kiwanis. Meeting building and picnic pavilion have been booked. Food amounts were questioned. T. Toland and the Seven Ponds Beekeeper’s Club were asked last year to pick up chicken for 100 people, and we had 32 attendees. S. Tilmann commented that the check to reimburse Seven Ponds for last year was cancelled. T. Toland and S. Tilmann will meet after the meeting to exchange addresses and to get the reimbursement problem resolved. R. Mendel has tentatively arranged for a guest speaker, Keith Stellar, of Stellar Apiaries, who expressed an interest in speaking about Top Bar Hives. Confusion of the meeting date was clarified (June 18) and will be communicated to Keith Stellar. An additional live hive demonstration (by Rich Wieske) was discussed and a live hive will be put on site for him to show how to do splits and a sugar roll mite testing.

Mike Hansen’s Report.

Retirements abounded last fall. Gina Alessandri is Ken Raucher’s replacement and is M. Hansen’s supervisor. We don’t see her coming to any Saturday meetings, but she is real supportive. Katherine Fetter retired and was replaced by Kevin Besey, who will oversee honey house law and cottage food law. He came from community health about 8-10 years ago and is a good guy to work with. Animal Industry division has appointed James Averill to replace Jim Boes.

Operation Clean Sweep brochure and program was discussed. It is a way to get rid of old pesticides, at no charge. Sulfa drugs and other pharmaceuticals will also be accepted. Brochures will be mailed to the extension agencies. They are trying to get the word out like crazy. MBA will be putting this on the website.

What our new name means: We are the MDARD (with Rural Development added). The MDARD will help with development and refer you to Mike DeBarnardo who will help.
The National Bee Survey should take place again this year. Farm Bill dollars were held up last year. Some of the survey work should have been done in January and February. Unfortunately, that window has passed.

Observations. With local clubs and the Holland Area Beekeepers, they have organized a group of swarm catchers. Swarms are posted on a website and catchers check the website daily. Kalamazoo group has been working around the rain and working with new hobbyists.

D. Anthony made the motion to notify M. Hansen’s boss thanking her for allowing him to go around and take samples for the national survey and his efforts to further beekeeping, which was seconded by D. Klein. M. Hansen humbly accepted the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (A letter will be sent to Gina Alessandri by Secretary D. Schram.)

A discussion regarding FSA offices and the inconsistencies amongst different counties regarding honey bee assistance followed. R. Hoopingarner suggested that the MBA sponsor a class on what beekeeping is, and provide that class for the FSA at a state level. D. Anthony will assist R. Hoopingarner with this project.

D. Schram asked if last year’s national study participants will be contacted again for the survey this year. The answer is yes, but M. Hansen would like to see new participants’ first, and prior survey participants making up any survey shortages.

MAAREC has a new booklet detailing Pests and Diseases still forthcoming. The AIA will have a 6 panel brochure, which also has not been received yet. 2011 Ontario Pest Management Guide has a link on their website, which is helpful with detailing medications.

New Business

Elections. D. Anthony would like to see it on the website that elections are approaching.

Speaker compensation. R. Mendel asked if Keith Stellar will be compensated for speaking at the Summer Picnic. It was decided that he will.

Summer Picnic agenda. T. Toland asked what the agenda would be for the Summer Picnic. Gather at 10, talk at 11, picnic at 12 and demonstration at 1:30pm. The program will be run by R. Hoopingarner.

Nature Center requests, R. Hoopingarner. R. Hoopingarner is getting questions and being contacted by nature centers. Should we set policy on how we handle MBA requests for assistance? A discussion followed. R. Hoopingarner mentioned that some nature centers aren’t well heeled and can’t afford a $300 observation hive. T. Toland stated that a way to do this should be to have the MBA refer the nature center to the local clubs. If the local club determines they need help or funding, they then come to the MBA. R. Mendel asked for clarification. Further discussion followed regarding handling this on a case by case basis. A lengthy discussion about different styles and management techniques of
observation hives followed. T. Toland got the discussion back on track. B. Hollis stated that nature center’s need to have some financial responsibility in this endeavor. S. Tilmann will post information regarding the MBA seeking bee clubs and volunteers to help nature centers, and the possibility of an available grant, on the MBA website.

**ANR Week Meeting Evaluation,** S. Tilmann. (Detailed information can be found on the MBA website.) Information was broke down between first time attendees and returning attendees. Returning attendees were harsher with their comments. First timers wanted more Q and A time. All classes were well received. First timers were more liberal with their appreciation. Larger classroom sizes were highly suggested. Other criticism was not providing a “track” for beginning beekeepers. It should be noted that we shouldn’t overlap two beginner level classes in the future. D. Klein suggested, if we do the tracks, keeping the beginner classes in the same room. B. Hollis brought up that we need to have more handouts from the speakers. R. Hoopingarner suggests that, in the future, we cover costs for speaker’s handouts. Suggestions regarding providing information of locations of places to eat were also made.

**Information Handout for MBA,** R. Hoopingarner. Roger provided a 6 panel brochure that he mocked up. This brochure will explain the merits of joining the MBA and provide very basic information regarding beekeeping. Discussion regarding different items that should be included in the brochure followed at length.

**Newsletter re-evaluation,** R. Hoopingarner. In correspondence received by R. Hoopingarner, Dave Laney strongly urges the board to re-evaluate dropping the newsletter. It’s a reason for members to join, although the website has a mountain of information. We could do an email newsletter, as an option. T. Toland noted that at the Fall Meeting, people expressed that they didn’t want an electronic form of anything; they want a mailed hard copy newsletter. Various aspects of the newsletter followed. Printing costs and labor constraints were discussed at length. D. Schram pointed out that the board voted (with dissenting members) to drop the newsletter and evaluate the effects in January, after one year’s time, and we should wait until that time to determine if any action should be taken. Life Members who may not have computers or access to one were also discussed.

**Kellogg Center,** D. Klein. He is turning in the bill from the Kellogg Center for the Spring Conference, along with a survey from the location.

**Calendar Clarification,** D. Schram. Additions and changes to the MBA calendar were discussed. (Changes made to MBA online calendar.)

**Motion made to adjourn.** 12:53pm.