Members in attendance: Terry Toland, Ann Leonard, Roger Hoopingarner, Don Schram, Cindy Dudock, Bob Hollis

Meeting called to order at 2:12pm.

Call for changes and additions to the agenda.

Approval of the agenda, motion passed.

Approval of the minutes, motion passed.

No Treasurer's report or website report. (Steve Tilmann, absent) Comment was made that GoDaddy servers went down due to a hacker, and the MBA website is currently down. R. Hoopingarner questioned if we are still with the MSU servers, or if we are with Go Daddy. It is the board's understanding that our website is currently hosted by GoDaddy. Zachary Huang, our website coordinator, is out of town and this is just bad timing. Board members are receiving calls about it, and people are having trouble registering for the Fall Conference. The board recognizes that we are going to have issues with people requesting the preregistration price at the door and we will have to honor them.

State Apiary Inspector Report: Mike Hansen is absent, due to a prior commitment.

Fall Conference – October 5-6 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint. A. Leonard is looking for someone who can do a session on Creams and Lotions, as Wilda Dodder has been gracious enough to do it several times in the past for us. Angie Foster, from the Seven Ponds club, was suggested for this, as a change. Leonard is also looking for someone to do a Rolled Candles session, and Judy Schmaltz was suggested. For a Soap Making session, Melissa Jaskiewicz was suggested.

A number of classes are slated and will be emailed out by A. Leonard as they become confirmed and scheduled. Sessions include: Marketing, Over Wintering (Don Lam), the IOTron hive equipment sterilizer (Jeff Pohl), Hive Insulation (Bob Williams) and others, including sessions by Steve Tilmann and Zachary Huang. Don Schram may also be available to teach, although he has guest speaker host duties.

Honey judging will return, and Cindy Dudock will contact Saginaw Valley member Norm Adams about getting the honey judging rules for the MBA website. She will also get information regarding the various categories that will be judged, such as; wax; separate adult and children categories; sizes and number of honey containers; etc. The past 2009 honey judging rules were discussed.

A. Leonard will contact Dean and Lois Cross to see if they will run the silent auction again.
Vendors are directed to Don Lam, who was not able to make the meeting today.

There will be a Beekeeper's Banquet on Friday evening. The banquet will be buffet style. Details need to be finalized by A. Leonard and T. Toland and posted on the website.

Freebies for the members were discussed. This would be a welcome package or tote bag and would ideally contain information from the vendors, such as a catalog or flyer, and any other items, like pens, keychains, etc. A list of restaurants in the area would also be included. Chamber of Commerce may be a source of information of local attractions. The downside to the Chamber is that they only promote other Chamber members, and not other attractions, such as Frankenmuth or Birch Run, which are only 20 minutes away. If a welcome bag is not able to be put together for this conference, perhaps the next. This would help encourage other non-beekeeping family members to come.

Our keynote speaker, Dann Purvis, will speak from 9:30a to 10:45a on both days, and also lead a breakout session on both days. His proposed topics are “How to Breed a Better Mite (A balanced host/parasite relationship)” on Friday keynote, and “Out of the Box Beekeeping” on Saturday keynote. Breakout sessions are “Chemical Free Beekeeping” on Friday, and “Evaluation and Requeening a Hive” on Saturday. Dann's presentation will be performed on a Macbook, and he will need a projector for his rooms, along with adapters for connecting the Mac to the projector.

After the 9:30a to 10:45a keynote slot, 11a-12p is the time for the first session. Lunch will be from 12n to 1:30p. 1:30p – 2:30p is the second session. 3p-4p is the third breakout session. On Friday, the Banquet will be at 6pm. At 3pm, on Saturday is the membership meeting, taking place of the third session. Early vendor set up will be Thursday night, after around 7pm.

T. Toland asked what the protocol is for the President to attend to the guest speaker, and who should fill the role of host. R. Hoopingarner fielded these questions with his experience guest speaking at other conferences. In short, as long as the President arranges a host to oversee transportation, venue arrangements, lodging, all meals, and possibly some entertainment or sight-seeing after the conference hours, it's up to the speaker whether or not they'll accept any or all the invitations. Regardless, all needs should be well attended to. Also, Hoopingarner added, the beekeeping speaker's world is a small one, and word about guest mistreatment by an organization gets around quick.

D. Schram will act as host for Dann Purvis' visit. It was agreed by the rest of the board that expenses would be picked up, and B. Hollis attempted to make a motion regarding a budget for the visit. As there wasn't a quorum present, no motion could be made or voted on. What was decided was D. Schram will retain all expense receipts and submit them to the board for compensation. Expenses during Dann's stay will be kept “reasonable”, and any expenses deemed extravagant would not be reimbursed. This was proposed by Schram, and agreeable to the board present.

Dann Purvis, in addition to his media requirements, will be emailing handouts that the MBA will need to print for him and have on hand for attendees. The number of handouts, per session, will need to be around 125-150, based on past attendance records and Hoopingarner's suggestion.

MDOT Flyers – Because of time constraints, we are now looking toward ANR Week to have these ready by. This will be a brochure with recipes and information about the MBA, that will be given out at rest stops and Welcome Centers in Michigan. Cindy Dudock and Bob Hollis are on the committee for these brochures. Dudock had questions about listing the local clubs and contact information for the
presidents, which changes from year to year. She was advised that the brochure should direct people to the MBA website, which will give more specific information about the local clubs, their location and the club's contact people. This will be in lieu of listing the individual local clubs, which will free up more space for recipes and content, in addition to providing a brochure that will be more easily “refreshed” each year with only new recipes. Various suggestions for additional content were given.

150 Year Anniversary of the MBA - Our upcoming 150 year anniversary was discussed. According to Hoopingarner, we may be the oldest agricultural organization in Michigan, and possibly the United States. T. Toland will contact Rich Wieske and Angie Foster about researching this. Other volunteers for research are also being looked for. Wieske, according to Hoopingarner, has been in contact with the university museum for articles of interest. D. Schram mentioned that Wieske has had trouble finding historical honey production records for the state, to which Hoopingarner suggested contacting NAAS, which may have some records.

Newsletter – Toland will contact Roxi Davidek about this topic, which Hoopingarner asked details for. Approved at a previous board meeting, it will consist primarily of MBA Board contact information, an MBA membership application, a list of upcoming events and dates, and a message on how to OPT-IN for future mailed issues. All members will receive the ONE issue, and will need to contact Roxi to receive subsequent issues via postal mail. It will be a simple, two page newsletter, with no advertising.

B. Hollis asked about the possibilities of a printed calendar being given to members again. Toland says that a calendar project would have to start from square one, if we decided to offer it. [Secretary's Note: The calendar was cut from the MBA budget by the membership at a Fall Conference.] The calendar and content were done by Roger Sutherland, with a program called Creative Plus, who declined requests by the MBA to help produce future calendars. Various calendar offerings were talked about. Costs involved with printing the calendars were a major part of the discussion, and may be the breaking point as to whether the association can afford it again. Toland moved the discussion along.

Coloring Books and Honey Straws – Toland is out of coloring books now and needs to order more. Toland recently received a request for 10,000 honey straws, which is a huge amount. [Secretary's Note: The MBA typically goes through 8000 honey straws in an entire year.] The request was whittled down to 300, and then the requester asked for an invoice. Toland requested board assistance for setting limits and guidelines on distributing these two products. In the past, he's had requests for 500 coloring books for a single club, which had to be declined due to not having that many in stock. Both honey sticks and coloring books are available for purchase from the MBA (at a reduced cost for resale or commercial use), however, it is our board policy that we will provide them for free to members when they are used in an educational context, such as a school presentation. In Toland's experience, he's given 300 honey straws away to children at a large two day event, but only about 60 coloring books. Hollis would like to see a guideline limit of a case of 96 coloring books a year allowed to the clubs. Leonard sees education as being an acceptable use of coloring books and straws, but not for giveaways at a farmers market. Toland suggested that a letter be sent to the MBA, by the educational event, or school, telling of their use. Hoopingarner agreed and felt that we need some way to document their use, for our membership, and that we should REQUIRE documentation. Nobody on the board wants to stifle education, but we need to have some sort of accountability. The quantity of straws ordered from our supplier, and their shelf life before crystallization, was also discussed. As this needs to be a policy change, with a motion and vote, this issue will need to be discussed at a later meeting.
**Autumnfest** - Hoopingarner asked Toland whether he's heard about Autumnfest, which is an annual event at MSU every year. This year, the event will be in November, and is typically scheduled on MSU's last home game, which will be on November 17th this year. There are about 1000 people who usually attend. Hoopingarner volunteered to man the booth at Autumnfest, if the board requests. Hoopingarner will contact the honey board to get recipe booklets sent in anticipation of the festival.

**Oral History Report** – Rich Wieske was unable to attend, due to a conflicting SEMBA obligation. However, he has already talked to Roger Hoopingarner and interviewed him, in addition to John Bacon and Alex Bzenko. Wieske is making the rounds and should have a positive report at the next meeting.

**Election Committee, R. Hoopingarner** – Hoopingarner admits that finding candidates is a tough job. Currently on the election slate are:

- VP – Ann Leonard
- Treasurer – Steve Tilmann and Jamie Ostrowski
- Member at Large – David Anthony
- District 2 – Richard Mendel
- District 4 – Vacant (Don Lam, in the Holland area, is working with Hoopingarner, but they are having trouble finding a candidate for this position. The district covers an area from Ottawa county north to Muskegon and Ludington.)
- District 6 - Bob Hollis, and possibly Keith Lazar.

These candidates will be given to S. Tilmann for publishing. Currently, the ballot box is missing, and may have been missing for 3 years now. Toland will contact David Anthony, past president from three years ago, to see if he's got any idea on it's whereabouts.

**Spring Conference** – The conference is beginning to take shape. Judy Maurer will be leading a breakout class on Strategic Beekeeping. Larry Connor has agreed to do another microscope class, but the MBA will need to find microscopes for him to use. Hoopingarner suggested that we contact MSU, since the conference is held on a non-teaching week. The last class needed about a dozen microscopes. There was a $50 fee for the class, and the classes were full. Leonard would like to see a Beekeeping for Kids class done on a Saturday. Terry and Mary Klein teach a 4H group, and may be a possible for leading this class. Don Lam suggested a Serious Sideline Symposium, like ABF holds each year, which Hoopingarner has participated in. Keynote speaker suggestions were discussed and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

**Correspondence:** Toland had been contact by Julie Reyburn, who's grandparents, Gordon and Joyce Reyburn, have had their MBA award stolen. Hoopingarner knew them quite well, and it is his
recollection that this award was presented to them in the late 70's or early 80's. Toland will talk to Brad Perez, former MBA Historian and current custodian of the records, for more information. This award was for Beekeeper of the Year, and was a plaque. Hoopingarner mentioned that plaques aren't terribly expensive, and it would be nice to get the Rayburns' to come and accept it in person. Joyce was honey queen sponsor in 1978, which would be around the time period they received the award.

Regarding the **Beekeeper of the Year award**, the committee to nominate a recipient is the District Reps. Toland would like to bring the award back, however, no suggestions for candidates have been proposed. To him, if it was able to be brought together for the conference in 3 weeks, that would be great. But, he would definitely like to see it come back for Fall 2013.

Julie Reyburn will be contacted by Toland and he'll let her know what he's found out thus far.

In **other correspondence**, John Bacon, an MBA life member, was grandfathered into an Auburn, MI (near Midland) local law, permitting him to keep bees on his property. On Monday, September 17, a number of beekeepers will attend the township board meeting in Auburn. (Key points within the letter notifying members, crafted by C. Dudock, were discussed.)

Options regarding this issue, and how large of a news item this is becoming, including calling the news services, were discussed. Dudock, President of the Saginaw Valley club, has been in contact with John Bacon. She will contact him and tell him that the MBA is backing him and his cause, and that people are coming that will speak on his behalf. Hoopingarner asked, “A bigger question may be, why is Auburn against bees?” SEMBA President and attorney, Clay Ottoni, was mentioned, as this may be a good cause for him to take up, and for the MBA to take a stand.

An update on this event will be given at the next meeting.

**UP Clubs:** C. Dudock asked if there were beekeeping clubs in the Upper Peninsula. Toland mentioned that he is aware of two clubs, one in Marquette, and one in the Trout Lake area. The Marquette club, which is larger, has a website.

**Next MBA Board Meeting** – Our next meeting will be at the Fall Meeting, Saturday, October 6, at 3pm. Our next board meeting will be on **Saturday, November 10 at 10am**. The meeting after that will be in January, with no date yet. Tentatively set for January 5, with the MSU football schedule being a deciding factor.

3:52pm adjourned.