Members in attendance: Terry Toland, Don Schram, Stephen Tilmann, Bob Hollis, David Anthony, Bill Sirr, Zachary Huang, Cindy Dudock, Rich Wieske.

Meeting called to order at 10:08am.

Call for changes and additions to the agenda.

Subject of Dan Guthrie's passing and Judy Schmaltz's accident were proposed as new business, proposed by Bill Sirr.

Approval of the agenda, motion passed.

President Terry Toland paused the meeting to thank the new Member At Large, David Anthony.

Approval of the minutes, motion passed, with corrections from Roger Sutherland, via email. His grand-daughter's name is Laurel, and he clarified the calendar software name.

Treasurer's Report (S. Tilmann): The MBA has a $15000 CD maturing on November 20 with Bank of America. When it matures, they have instructions to cash it out, and we'll move the CD to PNC Bank in an effort to consolidate our banking interests. Toland asked if there was any financial penalties to change banks, which there isn't. It's Tilmann's opinion that we should just reinvest it and roll it over into an 18 month CD. It will be around $15238, approximately, with accumulated interest. Discussion regarding CD's and of our association's history of rolling over the CD, followed. This was a 15 month CD, and we don't anticipate our cash needs changing in the next few years. B. Hollis commented that we should just go ahead and invest in a 5 year CD. D. Schram asked if we will need cash liquidity in 2014 when Z. Huang will be chairing the HAS conference. The short answer is no; HAS funds the event, and we may be asked to contribute manpower and conference speakers.

B. Sirr made the motion, with C. Dudock seconding, to roll the $15000 CD into a 5 year CD at PNC. S. Tilmann had hesitation with tying the money up for that long. With the spring conference, it was determined that we will be cash flush. R. Wieske wondered what the penalty for early withdrawal was, which was a question that we didn't have answers for. S. Tilmann felt that we should be rather conservative and roll it into an 18 month CD.

Question on the motion was called for and a hand vote was taken, with the results being 3 for and 5 against. (Dissenting votes were cast by Toland, Tilmann, Schram, Hollis and Dudock.)

Motion to roll our current CD into an 18 month CD at PNC Bank, by S. Tilmann, seconded by C. Dudock. Further discussion. Hand vote taken again, 5 to 3, motion carried. (Dissenting votes cast by Anthony, Sirr and Wieske.)
Tilmann continued by stating that in the last two months, $4661 came in. This was broken down as $1435 in dues, from the Fall Conference $3418, and $8 in advertising.

Currently, we have $15568 in checking, a Paypal balance of $367, and the above mentioned $15K CD.

Expenses from September to October were $8248. This was broken down as $70 in bank expenses, $300 for web site fees, $6170 for Fall Conference expenses, office expenses of $8, a grant toward the oral history effort of $1500, and organizational expenses of $200.

**Fall Conference** (S. Tilmann): Providing us with an attendance summary, Tilmann reported that we were down 55 people (or 28%) in paid registrations from last year. We had 124 total attendees in 2012, and 179 in 2011. Expenses were $1150 for speaker, $1497 banquet, facilities $3322, supplies and materials $252, for a total of $6221.

Revenue from the conference were detailed as, registration $2027, banquet $650, vendors $461 for a total of $3138. This is a net loss of $3082, which is pretty typical for our Fall Conference. Membership renewal is not included in this amount. Last year was a smaller loss, due to MSU's Kellogg Center being the host, and higher attendance numbers.

It was discussed that next year, we may want to consider using our own AV equipment, and save the fee for using the hotel AV equipment. Toland would like to see a checklist given to the speakers to see what equipment they need for their talks, along with a synopsis of the talk topics themselves. C. Dudock volunteered to work on that.

**Membership** (S. Tilmann): Tilmann illustrated that we have 69 new members since 1/1/12. Toland asked if it was possible to set up a stored credit card type account that renews membership dues for members automatically. Tilmann explained that we don't want that sort of thing due to security risks and liabilities. We have a total 2010/2011/2012 membership of 751 members. Of this, the number of 2010 lapsed members are about 130, with about the same number lapsing in 2011, giving us a total current active membership of about 500. D. Anthony points out that a ball park budget of 500 members, at $35 each, gives us our annual budget to work with. Tilmann says that a more conservative number would be to figure about $25 per each person, which allows for family memberships and Life Members. There are membership “bumps” (increases) that occur yearly; a small one at the end of the year, one at the fall, and a big one in the spring.

**Website Report** (S. Tilmann): Website visits are about 264 visits average per day. 133 are unique, and 112 first time and 21 returning. Hollis pointed out that a lot of them in the spring are probably due to swarm calls. Interesting tidbits regarding overseas hits on our website were given by Tilmann.

Most popular pages from Sep 18 to November 9 were the Fall Conference, Beekeepers Workshop, For Sale, Honey Locator, Q&A Regarding MAQS, and About MBA Clubs page. The Calendar is just under that. Tilmann brought up how he'd like to see more stats, at a cost of a couple hundred bucks.

**Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Website Report**, made by Hollis and Sirr, **passed**.
Communications Committee (D. Anthony and C. Dudock): ANR Week contact person Meghan is needing a blurb for the ANR Week booklet soon. This is a small paragraph telling about the classes and registration fees.

The deadline for calendar notices is November 20th for the January issue of ABJ.

A discussion of evaluations from the Fall Conference was discussed. Evaluation forms will be given out for every class. C. Dudock will help Tilmann in getting these forms out during the next conference. Anthony would like to see a suggestion of class topics space at the bottom of these forms.

Media (Dudock): December may be the deadline for the MBA brochure for MDOT. Toland points out that the Kleins usually receive a notice from MDOT at the end of January. If Dudock will get examples of the brochure to the board, the board can issue executive decisions to her.

Anthony said that he would like to see the local club websites listed on the brochure, which the rest of the board dissented to. (This goes against the purpose of driving people to our website, and then local clubs from there.) Anthony then said that he would like to see dates of the local club meetings listed, which was again dissented to. (Constantly changing calendar dates was an additional reason against this.)

Hollis wanted to see more bee factoids and recipes.

Dudock will get the changes made and get it to the board for approval.

Tilmann would like to see the maps (honey locator and swarm maps) listed. He proposed a media campaign of, “Here is where you go to find it”. Toland suggested contacting Pure Michigan and becoming part of their campaign. Tilmann then suggested a paid promotional campaign through the Dept of Ag to help promote honey, as this is what they do, in addition to possibly blurbs sent to print media. Tilmann said that our website is a natural place to point these people, and he'd like to see a Promote Michigan Honey Campaign.

Old Business:
Fall Conference: Tilmann recommended that at the morning gathering in the auditorium, introducing the people on the election slate. This would allow people to tie a face to the name. We would also allow a small amount of time for the candidates to introduce themselves. He also feels that we should have our pictures and a small bio on the website for the current board members.

The Spring Conference is being put in shape by Ann Leonard. Barb Starr, Deb Schimmel, Angie Foster and Cindy Dudock, along with Don Lam, all working together. Hollis feels that the communications to the vendors was a little lacking last spring. There were no forms or applications for vendors. Set up schedules were different than what was actual. Different aspects of the vendor area were discussed, with the short story being that Don Lam is just one guy; we need to step up and help him. B. Hollis volunteered to help him with vendors and offered to be a contact point for vendors requesting tables.

Toland had one item to discuss; the banquet. Every year, we lose money on it. We had a lot of people at the hospitality suite. Year after year, even after selling tickets to the dinner, we still lose money. We can easily afford free hors d'oeuvres for what we lost. The banquet seems to have lost it's charm.
Several board members felt that we are being taken advantage of by the hotel, along with it being a waste of food, on top of us losing money. B. Sirr offered his wisdom that, in the past, nobody has ever said that the banquet was worth the cost or expense. He suggested that we cut it down or eliminate it. **Motion that the association dinner meeting be eliminated for the 2013 Fall Conference, and we'll reexamine reinstating it for 2014,** seconded by Sirr, made by Anthony. Discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Hollis commented that the feedback that he got was that the venue (Holiday Inn Gateway Flint) was excellent (probably due to it being local to most attendees), but it was also user friendly and easily accessed. Attendance and venue were clearly better than our association's experience on the west side of the state. The Kellogg Center as a venue was also discussed, but is difficult to book in the fall.

Dann Purvis was very happy, says D. Schram, who hosted him while he was here. Details were given.

**Spring Conference:** We need to hammer out who will be our keynote speaker for spring conference. Michael Simon, grad student for Marla Spivak, who's major research has been on propolis and its painting onto the interior of hives. R. Wieske touched base with him to see if he was available. David Tarpy was proposed as a possibility for the 2013 Fall or 2014 Spring, but we need to book him now. Anthony pointed out that we used to have multiple guest speakers, and we keep whittling it down to one speaker. Wieske also mentioned Ingram who has had his hives confiscated after years of Roundup research. A discussion of Roundup, as well as Ingram's research, findings and scientific process followed. B. Hollis mentioned Dana Stahlman, who spoke at SEMBA 10 years ago. Wieske mentioned a Diane who spoke at EAS. Anthony mentioned possibly having Wieske as a keynote speaker.

Dana Stahlman will be our first choice, with Michael Simon as our second, and Rich Wieske as our third back up. Toland will contact Ann Leonard, and work out who will contact who.

Anthony asked if we're planning a movie after Friday's conference, as we had in the past. It only attracted 20 beekeepers, along with about 80 students. There wasn't a hospitality suite, but we typically don't have one at ANR Week. It was discussed that we could possibly do something like a hospitality suite there.

The Michigan Honey Festival was hoping to have buses to send people on a trip around to local mead making facilities. It was discovered that Jackson and AuGres would be the two closest. [Secretary's note: Two meaderies are also located in Ferndale.] The idea was scrapped when they were determined to be just too far to visit and get people back around 9pm.

Garden hives will be on display and be voted on. Winner will receive a 3 pound package of bees, sponsored by the Michigan Honey Festival.

Classes set for ANR Week include:
Beekeeping for Kids – Nick Enburn (A young 4H member to speak to other younger members)
Beginners Track – Dale Woods, Mike Risk, and Cindy Dudock
Making Splits – Don Schram
Queen Rearing - (Unassigned)
Cooking with Honey – Angie Foster
Serious Sideline – Larry Connor
Microscope – Larry Connor (need access to microscopes through Zach) The logistics of busing 25 people to the Entomology department, instead of taking 12 scopes from the department was discussed. Zach felt that there wouldn't be a fee for their use, if not taken out of the department.

How to Enter a Honey Competition – Norm Adams or Oren Best
What Not to Do in a Beeyard – Dudock
Making Rolled Candles and Soap – Schmaltz (tentative)
Hive Sterilization – Pohl (of IO Tron of Indiana)
Strategic Beekeeping – Judy Maurer
How to Introduce Queens – Anthony
Chemical Free Beekeeping – Schram

Toland would like to see a meeting outside of the board meeting to arrange rooms and finalize sessions. He will get with Ann Leonard on this.

**Summer Meeting – July 20, 2013.** The MBA Summer Picnic will be held at Dennie and Oren Best's in Sunfield, west of Lansing. Grand Ledge may be the closest motel lodging. Camping at the Best's will be available. We should find and suggest lodging possibilities for the membership. Rich Wieske may be a possible for guest speaker.

**Fall Conference 2013** – Location was the big question asked. Should we hold it at the same location? The Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce has solicited us, as well as our past venue in Midland. Grand Traverse was discussed as a possibility. Anthony asked where, geographically, where is the best location for a meeting? SE Michigan. Traveling distance is the big consideration.

D. Schram would like to see it limited to two: Flint or Midland. Toland would like to see a third option of Lansing. Discussion of the MSU football schedule was had. A decision needs to be made by our next board meeting on January 5. We will ask the venues for two prices: One year, and multiple year contracts. **Motion made by D. Anthony that the President and vice-president make the decision on venue, in absence of the rest of the board, once they have the information to decide on,** Bill Sirr seconded. **Motion passed.**

Dates for the Fall 2013 Conference were narrowed down to October 11/12, or October 4/5 as second choice, and 18/19 as a third.

Speakers: We need to start looking for speakers now. In January, once dates are determined, we can find speakers.

2015 is the 150 anniversary of the MBA. Tilmann would like to pull out all the stops. He sees Jerry Hayes is a potential speaker. Randy Oliverez, David Tarpy or Marla Spivak were also discussed.

Toland would like to see another honey competition take place. At the Fall 2012 Conference, he held a breakout session for suggestions, and one of the suggestions was a photo contest. Other ideas are a honey label contest.
New Business:

**Coloring Books** – Terry Toland is OUT of Coloring Books. Toland has a standing order (past board motion), and Saginaw Valley would like to piggyback onto the next book order. Tilmann will get prices and price break points, and Toland will call Kleins, Dudock, Hollis and others with prices. Toland will take receipt of the books when they come in.

If we're giving them away, we need to have some sort of accountability, says Hollis. Toland has asked for a letter to the MBA board to say thank you for the books, coming from the receiving organization or group of children. Sirr also asks for a thank you note to be written when he has given out books.

**Guthrie passing and Schmaltz accident** - Dan Guthrie passed away. The funeral will be on Tuesday, and the visitation on Monday at Pixley Funeral Home on University, in Rochester, from 1-6p. Dan and Joyce are Life Members. Sirr would like to see the organization donate a sizable amount to the Freemont Foundation in their name. The Foundation matches up to $500, and a discussion of using the interest once a $100,000 goal has been met, was had. Tilmann said that he believes we are very close to the $100,000 goal. **Motion made** by Sirr **to donate $500 to the Freemont Foundation, into the Michigan Beekeepers Account, in the name of Dan Guthrie**, and seconded by Anthony. **Motion carried unanimously**. Anthony would like to send a simple card of condolences, and Anthony will get the address.

Judy Schmaltz was in a car accident and the MBA will send a get well card. Toland will send both of these cards.

**Equal Opportunity Statement** - Bill Sirr notified us that the Extension Service has asked us to have a written statement for Equal Opportunity compliance. He has been instructed to simply sign the letter and send it back.

Adjourned at 12:53pm.