MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Saturday, January 5, 2013


Meeting called to order at 10:03am.

Call for changes and additions to the agenda. Additions called for are: ABF EAS Delegates, Apivar, Coloring books, DNR Forest planting.

Approval of the agenda, motion passed.

Approval of the minutes, motion passed. Change made per Mike Hansen's request via email.

Treasurer’s Report (S. Tilmann): $15,000 CD at PNC Bank was rolled over to a 16 month CD, which was a better rate than the 18 month. There was a minimum of transactions, but the period from November to January is a typically slow period for the association. Paypal was transferred over to our checking account, and details were given. Dan Guthrie's memorial contribution to the Fremont Foundation was made.

Website Report (S. Tilmann): Details of membership numbers and website hits were covered, with minimal changes from last month. 2012 most popular web pages, in order of most to less, were; Home Page; For Sale – Show ads; For Sale – Browse categories; In the Beekeepers Workshop; 2012 Spring Conference; About Clubs; Ask; Calendar; Honey Locator Map; and Swarm Removal Map.

Tilmann commented that if you know of a beekeeping club meeting or events of interest to beekeepers, please notify Don Schram via email to have it placed on to the Calendar.

Top Ten classified ads were also detailed, with the number of hits listed. Tilmann highlighted this to show that classified ads do work.

Angie Foster suggested that Tilmann send these numbers (slides 9 and 10), or perhaps the entire Power Point presentation itself, to the local club presidents, to aid in promoting the MBA to local clubs.

Foster followed up with suggesting pages or links to a page with Teacher Resources and Beekeeping Student Book Lists. It was recommended that she create a list to be used for web content and submit it to Tilmann for posting. Foster agreed, and Fauvel volunteered to help.

Motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report, made by Bob Holis and seconded by David Anthony, was passed.

Media Committees (D. Anthony): Toland will contact Cindy Dudock to get an update on the MDOT
brochure. Don Schram will also contact Dudock with further conference information to let her contact the journals with.

**Old Business**

**Spring Conference (T. Toland):** March 8-9, 2013 are the conference dates. Toland and D. Anthony met with Meghan Hronke, and Rhonda in hospitality at the Kellogg Center. Changes were made. We are keeping the auditorium, adding the Big 10 Room (vendor room), Big 10 B and C, Centennial Rooms (one of which will be registration), Riverside, and Rooms 61 and 62, and the Michigame Room. Toland feels that it will be very difficult to fill these rooms. We will also have an off-site Microscope Class at the Entomology department. Garden hives will be displayed at the far end, near the parking garage entrance, along with people stationed there to direct people toward the conference. D. Anthony suggested stationing someone from COMB there, as it would be an excellent way to promote their local beekeeping club to people coming in to the Kellogg Center who aren't currently beekeepers.

Toland will forward the vendor room layout to Don Lam as soon as contracts are signed. Vendor concerns and logistical problems, such as loading and unloading, were aired.

Evening hospitality rooms were discussed along with morning coffee and Continental breakfast for the attendees. Anne Marie Fauvel volunteered to plan with Kellogg's hospitality department to work on snacks and food with a notable use of honey.

**Motion made to move from one end of the Kellogg Center to the other, and a contract to be signed,** by D. Anthony and seconded by S. Tilmann. **Motion passed.**

(A. Leonard) Guest speaker is tentatively Dennis VanEngeldorp. He has a possibility to go to India, but is in constant contact with Deb Schimmel. He may send someone in his stead if he can't come himself. *[Secretary's note: In the week after the board meeting, we found out that Dennis is unable to attend, per R. Wieske at ABF. We declined him sending someone from his staff, in lieu of finding another speaker with name recognition.]*

Mike Risk asked if Dale Woods is still on tap for a beginners' track. Ann Leonard confirmed that he is.

We have 6 rooms on site. We have 18 classes possible per day. Planning of the classes were discussed. Leonard will play around with time slots with 1:20 long classes, instead of an hour, with a 30 minute span between classes. Toland moved the meeting along to preserve time at this board meeting.

Toland suggested using one of our rooms to invite commercial meaderies in to show how they operate. This may be a Friday evening event where tickets are sold to participate in a mead tasting. Sand Hill Crane is a half hour away. Different meaderies were discussed, as well as Ken Schramm opening his new meadery soon. Toland will contact them and make this happen.

Keynote Speakers (T. Toland): A. Foster and D. Schimmel have been helping out to contact keynote speakers. Accommodating the speaker when they get here is a job in itself. A. Leonard agreed. Don Schram has agreed to chair that committee, along with Rich Wieske and Ann Leonard sitting on that committee. Dates for 2014 and 2015 will be tackled now to gain premium speakers for these conferences. Roger Hoopingarner suggested coming up with possible speakers to feel out while he attends the ABF conference.

Classes and presenter suggestions were given. A professional teacher's class by Dyanne Tracy was
suggested. Top Bar Hive classes were discussed, with Richard Mendel mentioned as a contact person for a speaker. (Steller's had presented this in the past, and the board felt that a fresh point of view may be in order.) A one or two sentence course description is needed by Tilmann as soon as possible. All speakers need to have some sort of handouts. We suggest at least 50 handouts printed for each class. These handouts need to be turned into the board 2 weeks prior to the conference to allow us to print them. We would like to avoid speakers needing to turn in receipts for copies made.

Don Lam had questions regarding door prizes, vendor registration and table set up, as well as local business solicitation. As he didn't want to duplicate Deb Schimmel's efforts, Don Lam wanted to go on record as not being responsible for door prizes. (Barb Starr is reported to also be assisting D. Schimmel.) D. Schram will contact Jane Burgess at Walter T. Kelley about the assembled, dipped hive that they volunteered to us at the Fall Conference. [Secretary's note: This was done. The rep from Kelley will probably hand deliver the hive to the conference since they have plans to be a vendor]

M.Jaskiewicz suggested setting breakout session speakers up at tables in the vendor area, if we have a surplus of tables, to allow further questions from attendees. Details were worked out on this subject.

Box lunches will be provided for vendors again this year. This will only be for paying vendors and not for clubs, and there will be a maximum of two free, per vendor, per day.

Custom Hive Contest (M. Jaskiewicz): The Michigan Honey Festival will be holding a contest for garden style hives, with a package of bees as a prize. People will vote for their favorite hive with a quarter. The quarters will be counted, and the money donated to Roland Warren School (in Lapeer) to help build a honey house. Hives need to be functional, but without bees. Any style hive is acceptable. Other rules were discussed.

Silent and Live Auctions were discussed. “Buy it Now” possibilities for items was presented by B. Hollis. This was elaborated on. Live auction of large ticket items was brought up.

Transportation for attendees from the Kellogg Center to the Entomology department was discussed. Buses may not be running as school will not be in session. Class size will be limited to 20 people and will have a fee of $50 per person. Zach will conduct the class. We will collect the monies, and distribute it to cover expenses (transportation, bees, etc.) and make a donation to Zach's department, possibly keeping some of it for MBA use. [Secretary's note: Larry Connor will assist with these classes, and he suggested holding a bee biology class in the afternoon, as well as a bee disease session in the morning, both days. Details will need to be coordinated with Ann, Zach, and Larry.]

Toland would like to present the Kellogg Center with a gift basket. Donations from the board and membership are called for. If you would like to donate honey, lip balm, etc., please bring it to the conference.

**Summer Meeting (T. Toland):** Slated for July 20, 2013 at Oren Best's farm in Sunfield. Local lodging will need to be listed on the website.

**Fall Conference (T. Toland):** Midland's Valley Plaza Resort, the site of prior MBA conferences, was not very receptive to D. Anthony. Toland met with the Holiday Inn Gateway in Flint, which was the site of last year's conference. They couldn't really give us any real price breaks, but we can lock in
prices now for a three year contract. Mike Risk volunteered to check around a bit for other options, including the Comstock Inn. Football schedule conflicts were noted again as to the reason for not having it at the Kellogg Center in October.

Motion was made to sign a contract with Flint Gateway for Fall 2013, with discussion of a 3 year contract or other venue for Fall 2014, was made by Don Schram and seconded by R. Leonard. Discussion of possibly extending this contract for 2 years was had. Call for vote. Motion carried.

Motion made to sign a contract with Flint Gateway for the Fall 2014 Conference, was made by D. Schram and seconded by D. Anthony. A discussion was had. Secondary motion to the first, to table the pending motion to the February 9, 2013, meeting to allow time for Mike Risk and Roger Hoopingarner to find and present a proposed alternate location, made by D. Lam and seconded by M. Risk. Motion passes. Original motion tabled until February 9, 2013 board meeting.

Letter Regarding 501(c)5 status (S. Tilmann): Tilmann received a letter of solicitation from an attorney claiming that our association's 501(c)5 status was revoked as of 9/2011. Roger Hoopingarner and S. Tilmann cannot recall filing for this status, and they believe that we are a “corporation non-profit.” The law firm cautioned us and suggested to pay them a fee in order to assist us in restoring this status. Motion made to ignore this letter, made by D. Anthony seconded by D. Lam. Motion passes, with Schram and Foster casting dissenting votes. [Secretary's note: After the meeting, Angie Foster performed extraordinary work and research. She found that our organization has accidentally let our 501(c)5 status lapse, and that our status actually is “Non-profit, agricultural”. She has been in communication with the board with instructions on how to restore our status with minimal cost. However, this needs to be done with haste, as our time to file restoration of status expires on February 15, 2013. Thank you for your efforts, Angie.]

ABF and EAS (T. Toland): Toland has received correspondence from ABF asking us why we don't send state delegates to the delegates' breakfast. When HAS formed, we joined them and let EAS attendance go to the wayside, said Hoopingarner. He suggests that we continue to make no effort to attend.

With HAS mentioned, Zach asked for MBA support for his HAS meeting planned for 2014, as he is the chair sponsor. Toland said that after ANR Week, we will be brainstorming with Zach as to whether we'll help as an organization.

Back to the issue at hand, Toland asked if we should maybe send delegates to ABF. Motion to appoint Rich Wieske and Roger Hoopingarner to the state delegation to attend the ABF and report back their findings, by D. Anthony, and seconded by A. Leonard. Motion passes.

Coloring Books (T. Toland): The coloring books have been ordered after being out of print. Tilmann reports that we will need to have them shipped, as alternate plans to have someone driving through Ft. Wayne have fallen through. Toland will be able to house them. Hollis will receive them at a location in Almont (Novak's), to save a $75 residential location shipping fee. Later, Ann Leonard said that she will receive them at her work location.
**DNR Forest Planting (T. Toland):** We have been notified that the DNR has a drafted document out for planning the elimination of beneficial bee forage, such as Black Locust, Purple Loosrtife, as well as White and Yellow Sweet Clovers. They are looking for public comment and were open to responses made no later than January 2. Because of outcry, this date for comment has been extended to run through March 8. We need an email campaign to go out to the club presidents, letting them know to contact their membership to contact the DNR about their plans. Hoopingarner commented that they’ve introduced legislation to eradicate different plants on a federal level. Because federal tax dollars are at stake, the states have no other course but to eliminate these species.

Send your comments to forestplancomments@michigan.gov

www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_625

is the page from the DNR that gives information on the eradication plan. (Google “Michigan DNR Forest Planting”)

**Apivar (T. Toland):** Apivar has been approved in our state. He distributed copies of the label that has been approved under Section 18.

**Michigan Honey Festival (M. Jaskiewicz):** Melissa spoke about the Michigan Honey Festival, which will be held on July 26 and 27, with the fairground festival date only Saturday, July 27. Friday will be mead competition, which will be a feeder to the Mazer Cup. Friday evening will be an award ceremony at the Hunt Club (near Dryden). On Saturday, the festival will be at the fairgrounds. There will be a culinary student competition. Culinary schools have been contacted to compete using honey at the festival for a scholarship prize of $1000. The festival is growing.

**Motion to contribute $2000 this year to the Michigan Honey Festival (from $1000 last year) as sponsorship, with the condition that the festival have black t-shirts this year,** by R. Wieske and seconded by A. Leonard. **(The t-shirt aspect was rescinded from the original motion.) Motion passes.**

Next board meeting is February 9th, 10am on Saturday.

Adjourned 1:28pm.