Secretary's Minutes from the
2012 MBA Fall Meeting – Holiday Inn Gateway Center, Flint, MI

Saturday, October 06, 2012

45 members in the gallery, including board members. Executive board members present: Terry Toland, Ann Leonard, Don Schram, Stephen Tilmann. Board members present include: Cindy Dudock, Jim Dodder, Barb Applebee, Angie Foster, Rich Wieske, Ken Hoekstra, Mike Risk, Roger Hoopingarner. Our guest speaker at the conference was Dann Purvis.

Attendance for the two day event was 124, down 55 attendees from 179 attendees in 2011.

Meeting called to order at 3:33pm, by President Terry Toland.

Changes and additions to the agenda were called for. A change was made to the order of agenda items; the Awards portion of the meeting was moved to the first item of business. Motion made to approve the agenda, made by Ted Falkenberg and seconded by Rich Leonard. Motion passed.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Cindy Dudock, Dean Hutchinson, and Terry Klein were called up to speak on the merits of John Bacon, who received a Lifetime Achievement award. Cindy, Dean and Terry all spoke very highly of John and told of his accomplishments, and included a brief synopsis of the history of his life. His contributions to Michigan beekeeping are tremendous and several.

Honey Show: There were 8 total entries in the honey contest; with 2 in the White Honey category, 5 in the Amber category, and 1 in the Dark Amber category. In the White Honey category, Dale Kuehn won first prize, with Toby Sewell taking second place. In the amber category, Chris Beck claimed first place, with Leroy Studer taking second. Ann and Rich Leonard tied for third place, and Joel Lantz claimed fourth. In the dark amber category, Larry Studer took first prize. The Best in Show winner was Chris Beck's entry in the Amber class.

Secretary Report (D. Schram): Secretary Schram read the minutes from the December 3, 2011 Fall Conference. Motion was made to accept the minutes as read, made by Mike Risk, with Dale Woods seconding the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (S. Tilmann): Treasurer Tilmann provided a Powerpoint presentation which showed a total club balance of $35,503 in the treasury, which is a positive change of $2809, up from last year. Revenue increased and expenses were reduced by an amount of $2672, to $2809 in 2012. (2011 showed an increase of $5481 in revenue.) Last year, the 2012 budget was estimated to be $25,000, based on an actual amount of $26,987 for the 2011 fiscal year. The 2013 budget, therefore, is estimated to be $27,200 and actual from 2012 was $24,178. Over the past year, the MBA made grants totaling $6255; which consisted of $3000 to Michigan State University as an unrestricted grant; $1000 to the Michigan Honey Festival; $1500 towards Rich Wieske and his MBA Oral History project; and $755 given to local clubs.

Tilmann also explained that while the MBA fiscal year is from October 1 to September 30 the following year, memberships follow the calendar year and expire December 31. Members can renew their membership online at www.michiganbees.org.
Website Report (S. Tilmann): The website was redesigned 3 years ago and this upcoming year, we will be doing a process called “re-skinning”, which freshens up the look of the website. Laura Sutherland (grand-daughter of SEMBA's Roger and Mary Sutherland) was announced as our new website assistant and was integral to the re-skinning of the website. Tilmann made a call out to all authors to help write content for the website. Tilmann also detailed the online website marketing items, which were introduced over the last year, including classified ads, and swarm removal maps (two varieties; swarms and cutouts). He also described display ads and their location on the home page, along with whom our current advertisers are. Advertising rates, for both the classified ads and the display ads, were detailed. Also pointed out was the honey locator map, which he felt that all MBA members should take advantage of.

Website traffic was detailed with 1765 first time visitors and 284 people classified as returning visitors who have logged 1-5 visits to our website. He was quick to point out that these numbers are only over a 6 to 8 week time span.

Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report and Website Report, made by Mike Risk and Dale Woods. Motion passed.

Auditore's Report (Mike Risk): Mark O'Neill and Mike Risk met on the Monday previous to the conference to review the Treasurer's Report month by month. They report that everything was in order and detailed. Motion was made to accept the Auditor's Report, made by Dale Woods and seconded by Cindy Dudock. Motion passed.

Media Committee (T. Toland): The MBA has formed a Media Committee this past year. The committee is comprised of David Anthony, Cindy Dudock, Angie Foster, and Mark O'Neill. The purpose of this committee is to regularly submit articles about the MBA and other bee related stories of interest to the journals and news outlets, such as local television and newspapers.

New Business:
New Committees Forming (T. Toland): Ann Leonard is our Vice-President, and is responsible for scheduling and arranging the conferences. She is requesting assistance with this task. Angie Foster and Deb Schimmel have volunteered to assisting, with Leonard continuing to chair the events. A gallery comment was made, and Ann Leonard was thanked for the doughnuts, which she brought in on Saturday morning.

The MBA has been asked to assist in making a City and Township Beekeeping Ordinance model, which would be implemented across the state. The goal would be the arrive at an easily adoptable ordinance that would take Beekeeping Best Practices (along with GAAMPS and Right to Farm) and develop a working ordinance that would be beekeeping and bee friendly. Current members of the committee are Terry Toland, David Anthony and Terry Klein. S. Tilmann commented that there may be budgetary changes due to the development of these committees. Member Larry Studer pointed out that the organization may not have to reinvent the wheel. We can review other cities who have adopted such an ordinance and what they've done. R. Hoopingarner suggested contacting Roger Sutherland, who has assisted with similar tasks in the past. Toland also mentioned Clay Ottoni (SEMBA President), who is an attorney familiar with beekeeping ordinance law and may be able to assist.

Spring Conference: March 8 and 9, 2013 is ANR Week. The MBA has an opportunity to switch rooms with the Barn Preservation Society, who has their conference at the same venue at the same time as us. In the end, we would gain larger rooms, plus still retain use of the auditorium. The only
drawback apparent is that attendees would have to walk a slight bit farther, past the hotel front desk, to attend the classes. The executive board has had discussion regarding this, and has decided to move forward with the switch.

**Summer Picnic:** The MBA Summer Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2013, at the farm of Oren Best, in Sunfield, MI. Sunfield is located just west of Lansing. The Best’s have scheduled hayrides for the picnic, and have planned a pig roast. Camping will be available, and the events will continue into the evening.

**Election Results** (Member Bryan Allen): The election results for the 2012 MBA Fall Conference are as follows:
- Vice-President – Ann Leonard
- Treasurer - Stephen Tilmann
- Member at Large – David Anthony
- District 2 Representative – Richard Mendel
- District 4 Representative – Anne Marie Fauvel
- District 6 Representative – Bob Hollis

Motion was made to destroy the ballots, made by Ann Leonard, and seconded by Steve Tilmann. Motion carried.

**Board Meeting Dates:** The next dates for the MBA Governing Board meetings will be Saturday, November 10, 2012 and January 5, 2013. Meetings are at 10am at the Natural Science building on the campus of MSU. (More information and address details are listed on the MBA calendar.)

Motion to adjourn. 4:23pm.