MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, October 5, 2013

Members in attendance: Terry Toland, Ann Leonard, Steve Tillman, Rick Wieske, Mike Risk, Roger Hoopingarner, Dave Anthony, Don Lamm, Barb Applebee, Cindy Dudock, Norm Adams, Joan Mandell

Meeting called to order at 10:03am.

Additions to Agenda: TV Program discussion & Farmer/Rancher Grant

Agenda approved.

Secretary’s Report (Secretary absent, distributed copies available) – The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting for review. Terry Toland asked if everyone received a copy, if not one was passed out. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Rich Wieske, seconded, and passed. Discussion ensued regarding the minutes and agenda for meetings. Some members feel that they would like to get the meeting minutes sooner after the board meetings. They feel that the quality of the minutes is excellent, but would like to see them sooner. The treasurer feels that if the minutes go out earlier, everyone will be able to get their job done easier as they will have a reminder of everything they have committed themselves to. Another member reminded the group that the minutes used to be distributed, at the most, one week after the meetings. Further discussion about receiving the minutes sooner led to the idea that the agenda should be distributes sooner as well so the additions could be posted. After numerous reminders that the quality of meeting minutes are very good, the group agreed informally to attempt to become more prompt at distributing both the minutes and the agenda in a timely fashion. Minutes being distributed no later than one week after a meeting.

Treasurer’s Report (Steve Tillman) – Current Financial statement as of 10/4/2013 includes: Checking Account Balance at $ 25884; Pay Pal Balance at $558.00; Certificate of Deposit stands at $15,000.00 (due to mature this November). Expenses were: Bank Expenses at $23.00, Website at $92.00, and Picnic at $15.00.

Life membership was brought up again and Norm Adams asked for a list. He stated that he would follow up on the list to locate and verify if any of the Life Members were deceased.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report by Mike Risk, seconded by Rich Wieske, and approved.

Steve Tillman noted that the website is still very active as is the Facebook page. He still would like assistance with these media venues. One of the most revisited topic for time of year is “Cut-Outs”. He answers question very often directing them to the webpage. He also would like the club presidents to remind the members to list themselves on the “Honey Locator” and “Swarm Removal” Maps.
There are currently 31 people Pre-Registered for the Fall Conference resulting in an increase of $510.00 due to Pre-Registration fees.

MDA – Mike Hansen was not able to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

FALL CONFERENCE 2013 – October 25-26, 2013

Vendor Area - We have doubled the vendor Space this year. We currently have **12 vendor tables** that will be occupied by committed vendors.

Honey Judging will take place and be placed in the Vendor room.

Side note: The Rules for Honey Judging Competition are posted on the website. Dave Anthony will obtain additional ribbons as needed. Certificates of Award should be issued to the winning competitors. Steve Tillman stated that he could make certificates up quite easily.

Break-Out Sessions – We have more than rooms allow. A tentative schedule was made up so that it could be posted on the MBA website.

Terry Toland has an upcoming meeting with the Holiday Inn regarding the Fall Conference to wrap all additional questions and finalize all plans.

There will not be a **silent auction** at the Fall Conference. No Door prizes awarded either. These activities will take place again at the Spring Conference in March.

We still need **volunteers in the registration room** in the mornings and various positions throughout the day.

Terry Toland will attempt to **greet** people as they come in. More greeters are welcome to help out.

The **Hospitality room** is set for the conference.

**Nominations for various MBA positions** should be posted after the Summer Picnic. Absentee ballots are accepted.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of only one person running for each of the positions. Do we need to have an election? The answer was No but we must take nominations from the floor Up until Friday morning when the election ballot boxes close.

SPRING CONFERENCE – March 7-8, 2014

The Spring Conference is one week earlier this year.

**Keynote Speakers** are unknown at this time but will ask Don Schram if he has anyone in mind.
There was mention that we should post on the website the two hotels that people will be staying at ahead of time. The two are the Gateway and the Kellogg Center. There will probably be a limited number of rooms at the Kellogg center again this year due to basketball season and other events in the area.

**Break-Out Sessions**  – Roger Hoopingarner will be attending the ABF Conference and will approach some of the speaker there to see if there is any interest in attending or speaking at our conference.

**Vendors**  – Terry Toland and Don Lamm are working on this area. Terry offered that Don Schram has suggested we invite wholesalers to the conference. These wholesalers would not be there to sell their product, as the vendors would do that, but they would be there to answer questions and promote their products, thus not taking business away from our vendors. The majority of the group in attendance liked the idea so Terry and Don will begin contacting some of these wholesalers to see if there is an interest. We will develop a letter to mail out to the wholesalers to present to the board at the next meeting.

**Brochures**  – We need to re-visit and complete the promotional brochure. Cindy Dudock still has the start of the one she was working on last year, but Barb Applebee has another one that she hands out to potential beekeepers at the honey festival. Another member has an old one as well. The group decided that we would like to put the information together and complete the project in the near future so it would be ready for the spring where it could be put in the rest areas around the state. Cindy will e-mail Roger what they have so he may use one of them at the Autumn Fest in Lansing.

**Status of Michigan Beekeepers and Historical Documents**  – Roger Hoopingarner has done some research and, to date, has found that the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association is, in fact, the oldest Beekeeping organization in the United States. There are a couple states that are close with New York and New Hampshire being established in 1867. Records indicate that Michigan organized their club in 1865. Discussion was had about the status of possibly the oldest agricultural organization, but agreed upon that it would be a very lengthy and difficult process to research this claim as there are so many organizations out there. Terry and the board thanked Roger for his outside research in this area!

**Bylaw discussion**  - There have been a few local beekeeping groups that are organizing and are interested in possibly becoming established clubs of the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association. They should be directed to our by-laws. The By-laws dictate the requirements of how to become an established club.

**FALL CONFERENCE 2014**

Location – The Fall Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan again for 2014. The dates will be October 24-25, 2014. Terry mentioned that the deposit will be paid during this year’s Fall conference. He would like to see another area selected for the 2015 Conference. Brainstorming ideas came up suggesting that Kalamazoo or Ann Arbor be location of choice.
**SUMMER PICNIC 2014**

Saginaw Valley Beekeepers have volunteered to host the picnic for the summer of 2014. A tentative date would be July 26, 2014. Norm Adams will check into the Hartley Outdoor Education Center as a possible location. We had it there quite a few years ago with success.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TV Program** – Cindy Dudock mentioned that her club was approached by a producer of and television program that is a division of Univision. She would like to do a Television kick-off episode about Beekeeping. The Saginaw Valley Beekeepers are interested in taking part in the effort, but would like additional help from other clubs as the producer would like to make the show a series. The producer suggested to Cindy that each episode have a different theme related to beekeeping. The aim of the show would be to educate the public about the problems beekeepers are having and how the general public itself can be involved and help beekeepers out all the while stirring interest in beekeeping. Joan Mandell has extensive media experience and suggested that Michigan Beekeepers invite ??? to the next meeting to verify her qualifications as a producer and expertise. Cindy agreed to offer the invitation.

**Farmer/Rancher Grant** – The Farmer Rancher Grant is virtually divided into two separate areas. It is funded by the North Central Sustenance Grants program. They offer up to $75,000 for Industrial programs and up to $22,000 to groups such as ours.

**Educational Grants** – It was mentioned that there are many educational grants available as well. MBA may want to look into these for future funding. Ann Marie Fauvel will be contacted for more information regarding these opportunities.

**Obtaining Grants** – MBA would need to begin with and idea for a project. From this idea, the organization would have a better chance at obtaining one of these grants. Suggestions came up that we may want to create something special for our 150th anniversary that we could obtain a grant for. Discussion continued and Steve Tillman reminded the group that there is a lot of accounting requirements with some of these grants. Many of the funding agencies like accurate tracking records of how the money was used or would like a financial plan prior to obtaining the grant.

**Side Notes for Board Members and Club Presidents** - Dave Anthony mentioned that there is talk within Canada about opening the border up for bee trade with the United States. The talk on the street is that there will be a severe shortage of bees available to purchase this year. Dave is concerned with this border issue because the price of packages and nucs may soar beyond reasonable rates for bees due to the already existing shortage of bees. He suggested that we keep an eye on what Canada’s decision will be: Open the border or keep it closed.

**Queen Rearing Program** – The Canadian discussion led into discussion about beginning queen rearing programs throughout Michigan.
Discussion continued by revisiting the possible Bee Path through Michigan. (Originated years ago by Terry Klein) Possible ways of how the general public could help beekeepers became the topic. Brainstorming ideas brought up the possibility of the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association taking part in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Terry suggested that it could be a visual display of how the general public could help beekeepers. We could adopt a section of highway and check into the “No Spray” signage possibility with wildflowers present.

Motion to Adjourn was placed by Dave Anthony, Don Lamm 2nd it.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:47pm.

MBA Next Scheduled Meeting will take place at the Fall conference On October 26, 2013.

Follow-up meetings are scheduled for November 9, 2013 and January 4, 2014.