Michigan Beekeepers' Association
Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2015

(Voice 043)


Don's What You Need To Know:
- ANR Week attendance appears to be up again this year.
- Big changes coming from the MDARD, in regards to Pollinator Protection.
- ANR Week matrix completed. Social mixer to take place Friday night with cash bar, with vendors needing to “show or cover”. Contributions and volunteers sought after.
- Lunches provided for vendors at ANR Week.
- MBA gives permission to use association name and logo, with president's approval, for this year only.
- Next board meeting March 7, 2015, 10am, Natural Science building.

Meeting called to order at 10:03am.

Additions to the agenda called for, and agenda approved.

Secretary's Report (D. Schram): No new business. Minutes accepted as written.

Treasurer, Membership and Website Report (S. Tilmann): The MBA currently has $35,758 in checking, a Paypal balance of $100.77, a ProPay balance of 1001.55, and the Certificate of Deposit at PNC Bank totaling $15,000.

Sources of income within the 6 week period are Advertising $25, Spring Conference $2995, Vendor fee $50, and $2515 in Member Dues. Expenses in the same time period are $238 in Bank Expenses, Constant Contact $561, Office Expenses $6, Website $300, and Board Expense (insurance) $100.

No reports of any issues with ProPay, when there were near constant problems with PayPal.

HAS items: The MBA Constant Contact portal for registration and payment is being used for HAS registration. This is something that the MBA has done for local clubs, like Kalamazoo Bee School, for example, and we act as a “pass through” account. HAS has $9250 in checking as an initial deposit. In the spirit of full transparency, the check from HAS to Stephen Tilmann to open the account was erroneously stamped with the MBA “deposit only” stamp. To prevent problems, Tilmann is advising the board that there will be $9250 in, and $9250 out of the MBA account, and into the HAS account.

This year we are looking at a 23% increase in enrollment for the Spring Conference over last year. We have 166 people pre-registered this year, up from 135 for this same time last year. 20 people are enrolled for the microscope class, compared to 1 at this time last year. Rooms at the Kellogg Center
sold out very quickly. The Marriott is also rapidly selling out. Toland told that Rhonda, our contact at
the Kellogg Center, has said that there are a few rooms left for Thursday, but Friday is on a waiting
list. Corey at the Marriott has 5 for Thursday and 8 for Friday left available. The discounted room
code at the Marriott is BKABKAD for a room with two queen beds, and BKABKAK for a room with
one king. Cost is $104 per night. (Secretary's Note: Bob Hollis attempted to book a room at the
Marriott during the meeting, and was told there were no more in our block. Toland will investigate.)

Total membership is currently 740, with 414 lapsed members.

Website traffic is up about 25%, with 616 page loads per day. The website, which was hosted here at
the university, has been moved off site due to “brute force” attacks by hackers. A break down of the
popularity of pages followed. Tilmann suggested that local clubs inform their membership, “If you
want to sell honey, the Honey Locator page is the place to be.”

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed.

**MSU Report (Pett/Huang):** The department has hired Dr. Meghan Milbrath who is serving as the
Pollination Directive Director.

Pett asked for the board's thoughts on a neighbor of his who is involved with Africa Bee Cause. She
was wondering if there were any groups in the US that may want to “link up” with her association in
Gambia. The board needed more information from Pett before any decision can be made.

**MDARD Report (Hansen):** Late last month, Terry Toland and David Anthony went to the Ag
Committee regarding the proposed changes to the 2015 GAAMPS, and spoke with the Right to Farm
people. There were a few minor changes suggested by the board regarding “developed” properties, as
well as hive entrance orientation. These changes were well received and adopted. The GAAMPS
subsequently were voted on and published, and are available on the state website. For future
GAAMPS, Ben Phillips, an extension agent out of Saginaw, may be consulted for his opinion on
pollination hive density, rather than continuing to use generic regional information.

Last year the federal government has asked other departments on the subject of National Pollinator
Protection Plans. Hansen had shared the plan of North Dakota with us previously. As part of this new
federal plan, there are new guidelines, currently in the form of a template document, for neonicotinoid
product labeling, with special regards towards managed pollinators (bees). These guidelines will
require applicators to do pesticide applications adhering to the pollinator protection plan, or be done
only during restricted hours. January 1, 2016 is the target deadline to have these plans in place. Public
input is part of the process. Brian Rowe is the pesticide section manager here. Hansen wants the MBA
to know that, in the coming months, we will be asked for input and discussion. Tilmann has received
from Hansen the document, and will post it on the website.

Hansen highlighted various portions of it for the board. A portion of it addresses the need for
beekeepers to detail their bee yard location on a website to prevent an accidental bee kill incident.
Since there is no official beekeeping registration in Michigan, it is most likely that we will be using a
third party website called DriftWatch.org as a vital part of notifying beekeepers prior to pesticide
application. Some states have already made suggestions to the plan. In states with aerial applications,
such as Mississippi, the recommendation was to make the no-spray flags larger to make it more visible
to aircraft spray rigs. It was commented that when it comes time for the MDARD to ask for our assistance, we should have someone already in mind to assist and report back to the board. Pett noted that DriftWatch.org has very little listed currently for Michigan. Hansen noted that many people don't know about it.

The board discussed the possibility of having Hansen or Rowe be a keynote speaker for Spring 2016 as a vehicle for rolling out this new federal plan. As secretary, Schram asked Hansen to be part of the information loop.

On a local level, the board feels that its best to introduce this plan and DriftWatch.org, now. Our work will be cut out for us to inform people of the benefits, and combat fears, of detailing the locations of their bee yards and hives. Hansen noted that the caveat is that if there is a pesticide application, and a subsequent bee kill, then there is no recourse for the undocumented beekeeper.

In other news, the FDA has made a decision that we have way too much antibiotic use in the United States, and too much prophylactic use of those same antibiotics. In the next year, they will be rewriting the labels for 283 different products, such as Lincomycin, Terramycin, Tylan, etc. This change will require a prescription from a veterinarian to get antibiotics for bee use. Hansen acknowledges that there are challenges and unknown questions for the future. But, he informs us, this is going to happen. Antibiotics in the future will be harder to get, and probably impossible without a Veterinary Feed Directive (prescription) in hand. Hollis asked if any vet can write a prescription. Hansen responded to Hollis' question, by saying that he doesn't know. It's unknown if a bee sample will need to be submitted to get a prescription, or if a veterinarian has to come out to the site and inspect sick bees. It was noted that there are obvious problems with either scenario, as sick colonies need to be acted upon quickly.

**Old Business:**

**Spring ANR Week Conference:** March 13 and 14, 2015. Keynote speakers are Michael Bush and Dr. Roger Hoopingarner. Roger will speak Friday 9-10:30am (History of Michigan Beekeeping), and Saturday from 2-3pm (on another topic). Michael will speak Friday from 1:30-3pm (Lazy Beekeeping) and 3:30-4:30p (on another topic), and Saturday 9-10:30a (4 Simple Steps) and 3:30-4:30p (on another topic). A discussion of the importance of videotaping both Bush's and Hoopingarner's sessions followed. Toland will check into a videographer.

A length mapping of the conference class matrix followed, performed on the white board.

Cindy Dudock noted that she has a list of volunteers from last year, and will provide that list to Toland. She asked if she needs to find volunteers for the Children's Area this year. The answer is an emphatic yes. Toland will assist in getting her more volunteers. Tilmann also requested 4-5 people each morning to assist with registration.

Toland told that 1000 tote bags have been ordered and are on the way. Catalogs and other items to stuff the bags will also be coming. Ann Leonard said she will email vendors for other stuffing materials.

Toland and Schram presented to the board the possibility of having a cash bar on Friday evening. Schram told of his experience at American Beekeeping Federation in Anaheim, how one evening, the trade show was opened after hours, and a cash bar/meet and greet was held in the vendor area, with an emceed “game show” type entertainment, as well as a live auction. It was widely agreed by the board that this was a good idea. Toland had called ahead for pricing and a cash bar and tables could be set up.
for a mere $250 for most of the evening (7-11p). The vendor area will be open, and vendors will need to be contacted so they are aware that they’ll need to either sell, or need a sheet to cover their wares.

As part of our tradition of providing the Kellogg Center with a beekeeping gift basket, Toland requested contributions of honey.

Toland also made a request for a donated jar of honey for the coffee/tea station. Hollis agreed to provide 2 two-pound jars for the coffee station.

Lastly, the subject of box lunches for vendors came up. Schram was asked to consult the minutes. As a result of a strange exchange, the board had nixed lunches, as well as raising vendor fees to cover lunches, at the same time. Last fall, we provided vendors lunches, going against the previous board decision. Toland noted that we need to provide an answer, so he can inform the Kellogg Center of our intentions. There was a lengthy discussion of the merits of providing lunches. The fact that vendors are asked to donate gifts was brought up, and a reciprocated gesture of a lunch (1 per table) is a nice thank you to them. **Motion to provide box lunches, 1 per table per day**, made by Hoopingarner, and seconded by Leonard. **Motion passed.**

Schram asked to be given permission to use the name “Michigan Beekeepers’ Association” for t-shirts to be sold. A lively discussion of the use of the association name followed. Schwitek noted that the association name should be used in tandem with the logo. The topic of royalties were touched upon briefly. It was determined that there should be a policy for use of the association name and/or logo put in place for the future. As the 150th Anniversary is drawing near, however, a decision needed to be made for this year. It was decided that a “membership-wide license” of the use of name and logo would be made, rather than granting it to a single vendor. Schram agreed that this would be in the best interest of the membership. There were some concerns about “slanderous use” of the association name, or products in poor taste or quality. These concerns were accommodated by products needing the approval by a board member, namely the president. Tilmann mentioned that notification of this decision should be made on the web. **Motion to allow at this time a one time use of the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association name and or logo associated with the 150th Anniversary, with prior approval of the President, given to registered MBA vendors,** made by Cindy Dudock, seconded by Stephen Tilmann. **Motion passed.**

At ABF, Schram was approached by the current coordinator of the ABF Honey Queen program, Anna Kettlewell. She expressed great disappointment that Michigan no longer participates in the program, and noted that several Honey Queens have hailed from our state. In a discussion after our last board meeting, Schram reiterated that we would rather see a Honey Ambassador and spoke a bit about the problems encountered in our state programs of the past. She acknowledged problems, and told of ways to correct those issue. She desires the opportunity to approach the board and to present what the Honey Queen is now, and what it could do for the state. The board decided that Schram will contact Anna Kettlewell and see if she can attend the Spring Conference. Bill Sirr followed with a historical perspective of the Honey Queen program in the past.

**HAS in Albion (Huang/Schwitek):** In a HAS planning meeting with Rich Wieske and Deb Schimmel, it was told that volunteers will need to start being gathered. Schwitek has a list of jobs that need to be filled. Anne Marie Fauvel has the matrix for the talks well in hand. Schwitek noted that if you are a presenter at HAS, a photo and a paragraph synopsis of your talk will be due February 15. Zachary has been assisting Tilmann with the registration aspect of HAS.
**Summer Picnic (Toland):** Summer Picnic is July 11, at the end of HAS in Albion. Clay Ottoni volunteered to be on the picnic committee. Cindy Dudock will also assist him, along with Toland volunteering Deb Schimmel. Bill Sirr was also volunteered to serve on the picnic committee.

**Fall Conference 2015 (Toland):** Toland isn't getting much communication from Firekeepers Casino near Battle Creek. Anne Marie Fauvel has been in contact with an event coordinator in Grand Rapids. Information should come soon. Schwitek noted that the Crowne Plaza is an excellent venue, which Toland noted is on the list of recommended venues for Grand Rapids. This may be for 2015 or 2016.

**MDOT Brochures (Toland):** MDOT Brochures have been shipped out. Leftovers will be divvied up between the clubs and distributed at ANR Week. Joel Lentz will be taking some up to the UP. We did have to pay extra for banding, but the cost was reasonable. Theresa McCarty will be submitting a bill for reimbursement.

**Correspondence (Tilmann/Toland):** Mark Hagerty, with Michigan Solar Solutions, is looking for a business type relationship with the MBA. Options are display ads on the website, or possibly a table at the conference, but this option would need to be vetted by the board as it is not directly beekeeping related. The tie in would be using solar energy to power a honey house and using solar power for bear fencing. The invitation will be given by Tilmann, however, Hagerty will need to make sure his presentation is a fit with the theme of beekeeping.

Toland received a correspondence inquiring if we have have military discounts for membership or admission to conferences. Hoopingarner noted that we used to have a student discount in the past. Historically, it was noted that discounts caused tremendous bookkeeping and registration nightmares. Tilmann also noted that registration and admission costs are very modest already. Different modes of recognition for our military members were discussed, but it was generally felt that we could not open the discount door. Hansen noted that this sort of thing brings about other problems, such as how to determine military discharges and whether it was an honorable discharge.

Toland, and many on the board, received an email from Wieske. The email was read aloud by Schwitek. In it, Wieske has taken it upon himself to contact various speakers and book them as keynote speakers for our conferences. The board will seek clarification from Wieske and his “confirming” speakers, without consulting the entire committee, as well as confirming speakers without a hard date or location for the conference was discussed. Schram noted that keynotes have expressed interest in coming, but may need to be denied, due to the double booking of speakers. The creation of the committee and a chairperson was to prevent this from happening. As Wieske is absent from this meeting, he will need to clarify at a later date.

Dates of the next board meetings were discussed. We will be meeting on March 7, and May 2.

Tilmann was asked by Dudock to provide to the club presidents a “How to Organize a Club” document that was handed out a few years ago.

Adjourned 1:41pm.