Michigan Beekeepers’ Association
August 8, 2015

Members present: President Terry Toland, Vice-President Ann Leonard, Treasurer Steve Tilmann, Secretary Don Schram, Anne Marie Fauvel, Cindy Dudock, Meghan Milbrath, Sheldon Schwitek, Bill Sirr, David Anthony, Bob Hollis, Walter Pett, Zachary Huang.

Meeting called to order at 10:09am.

Terry opened the meeting explaining that the next board meeting will be held on September 12, 2015, at the Horticultural Building, 10am. This change is due to the Labor Day weekend and because of the home football schedule.

(Voice 049)

Addition and changes to the agenda were called for.

Secretary’s Report (Toland): Notes were not taken, as HAS planning was the topic mostly talked about. No motions were made or actions taken outside of HAS needs.

Treasurer’s Report (Leonard): Steve Tilmann is not in attendance. Ann read notes that she had taken at the last meeting. June’s total $34,192.54 in the bank account, and a $15,000 CD. 880 members at the end of May.

David Anthony asked about our tax status and utilization of the Freemont Foundation monies. This was discussed, as well as our options to contribute funds to 501c(3) organizations.

(Steve Tilmann entered the meeting late. We took a moment to allow him to prepare.)

MSU Report (Pett): The university is inviting the Ag Committee to the MSU bee yard, but they’re not in session until September. Toland advised them to go ahead and invite them to our conferences as well.

Meghan and Pett also met with the Commercial Beekeepers’ Association. It was a very interesting meeting.

Milbrath is having good response with the mite testing kit tour. A website is up and coming at www.pollinators.msu.edu. She expressed surprise at the excellent reception at the Commercial Beekeepers’ Association for the kits. Funding for the program, she reports, looks to be favorable. Different ways to contribute to the program were discussed.

Motion was made to buy 100 kits, at $15 dollars our cost, to donate to Milbrath’s Mite Check program, plus shipping/transportation costs, made by Schram and seconded by Leonard.
Discussion regarding the mechanics of using this as a perk for MBA members, by allowing them to purchase them through Milbrath for $10 dollars (which gives Milbrath $10 dollars profit, instead of $5 dollar profit she would normally make). Milbrath will check into how we will make the purchase for her, as well as transportation costs. She will be offering these kits at a discount for MBA members. This discount will be for only 100 kits, and is not extended to kits purchased prior.

Motion passed.

Huang will be traveling to EAS tomorrow.

Treasurer’s Report (Tilmann): $33,343.28 in cash in our account. ProPay balance is $175.14. CD is $15,000, which is a fall maturity date.

About 150 transactions for the HAS account and registrations, totaling approximately $17,000, in May and another $2000 in June.

Income and expenses were also detailed.

Of noteworthy items in expenses, a $1000 deposit to Great Wolf Lodge for our fall conference was mentioned. The Summer Picnic expenses were $315, per his report, which Toland and Tilmann both felt was “light”. Fauvel mentioned that some Summer Picnic expenses may have gone through HAS via a different route. Toland noted that a conference call with Wieske needs to be made to make sure there are no other expenses outstanding with our organization.

There was $348 in Governing Board Expenses, of which $328 is with Citrix GoToMeeting for an annual license. This is the second year in a row that we have been surprised by the renewal, which comes without warning and without confirmation. (This occurs on July 20th, by the way.) Motion made to have Toland cancel the Citrix account in attempt to get a partial refund, motion passed.

Current membership is at 885 members. Summer renewals have been coming in early, which is strange. No reason for the upsurge was apparent.

Motion made to accept the Treasurer’s Report, and passed.

Dave Anthony introduced discussion about having two Certificates of Deposit, one coming due in the spring, and one in the fall, rather than one single CD, which comes due in the fall. Toland proposed this fall that we renew the 12 month, and open a new 18 month. Tilmann suggests that we look into this in the next few upcoming months. Schram asked if our fiscal year is a consideration. It is not, as this is a money management item, and not an interest issue.
Election Committee (Anthony): President Toland and Secretary Schram are both up for election. Sheldon Schwitek will also run for secretary. Tilmann would like to resign this fall, but would like to stay on to pass the torch to the new treasurer. Odd numbered reps will also be up for re-election. Ken Hoekstra (District 1), Dennis Holly (District 3), Larry Hilbert (District 5), Ed Wright, Ed Hugo and Joel Lantz (District 7). Anthony was advised that the slate needs to be completed by the end of September. Fauvel asked about the interim Treasurer, which is a position that can be appointed by the President.

Constitutional Change Committee (Toland): No report.

Old Business:
HAS (Toland and Tilmann): Has was held at Albion College on July 9-11th. It was very well received and a lot of favorable reports were had. 425 paid attendees, with 480 people in attendance. This is 3 times the people who attended last year. With vendors and speakers, it was approximately 600 people in total.

$52,446.50 was the total revenue brought in. This is more that any other HAS event ever.

Hits and misses regarding HAS were discussed. In all, it was a great conference.

Fall Conference (Toland): Toland suggested bringing in several keynote speakers, who speak in one large hall, to the entire membership. This is a format that the commercial beekeepers followed. This fall, breakout rooms are already booked, but this is a possibility for Fall 2016. Milbrath suggested a “Two-track” system, with beginners and advanced speakers.

This year’s Fall Conference is October 23 and 24th. Schram will provide a bio on Tammy Horn to Tilmann. Norm Adams will be doing Honey Judging and has requested assistants. Breakout sessions were touched upon. We have 7/8/8 sessions available.

Jim Withers is interested in teaching.
Barb Applebee has volunteered to do candlemaking.
Wilda Dodder is willing to teach classes, perhaps on lotion making.
Other instructors were mentioned and the names taken by Leonard.

Tilmann will not be at the conference. He threw out that it may be possible to provide a video Treasurer’s Report for the conference. Mike French and Mike Risk will be contacted early to go over the books prior to the conference.

A lengthy discussion about compensation for speakers was had, along with the low entrance fees for our shows. Ideas thrown out are a) mileage, b) a stipend, per breakout session.

Move to compensate speakers $100 per session presented, for this Fall Conference only, due to the location and logistical distance of the conference, made by Tilmann, and seconded by Dudock. Discussion. It was repeated that the association “has the
money”. A bio, and class description, has to be provided. This is for the Fall Conference only. Higher compensation amounts were discussed, along with possible mileage compensation. (Motion has been modified.) Vote called for. One dissenting vote, made by Schram. **Motion passed.**

Spring conference will be discussed at the next meeting.

**New Business:**
**Correspondence (Toland):** Nothing to report. This includes the Great Lakes State Fair, which has shut us (and SEMBA) out of the fair.

**Bill for Banner, from Leo Stevens (Toland/Anthony):** A bill for $407 for a new banner was provided to the board.

**Presidential Expense Report (Toland):** June 20th, Toland went to the UP to visit the club up there. Great Wolf Lodge was stopped at on the return. His mileage also included the Michigan Commercial Beekeepers’ Association, and the Michigan Honey Festival.

Anthony asked about keynote speakers in the spring. Toland and Anthony will have a sidebar conversation over the next couple of months.

**Next meeting will be on September 12th at the Horticultural Research Farm, across the street from the Honey Bee Research Building. On College Ave., south of Jolly.**

Beekeeper of the Year Award was brought up by Anne Marie. Assistance would be appreciated.

Meeting adjourned.