Michigan Beekeeper’s Association  
9/17/2016

Present: Don Lam, Meghan Milbrath, Walter Pett, Zachary Huang, Dave Anthony, Roger Hoopingarner, Cindy Dudock, Steve Tillman, Ann Leonard, Chris Beck, Norm Adams, Ann Marie Fauvel, Matt Tanana, Theresa Wyatt, Mike Hansen

Call to order by Ann Leonard

Approval of Agenda-Don Lam & 2nd by Dave Anthony

Approval of Secretary report Steve Tillman, 2nd by Dave Anthony

Treasurer’s Report-Steve Tillman
    Just shy of $34,000 in checking
    Pro-pay $202.08
    $15,00 in CD's (3-$5,000) will be rolled over
    Source of income-majority from membership dues 928 members as of 8/31/2016
    Expenses-$660 mainly website annual dues
    Website-39,000 page views ~638 p/day
    Site views-Beekeeper’s Workshop, Home Page, Various Articles
    Honey Locator map-Dave Anthony got a contract with China through website

Need clarification of who is taking ownership of treasurer’s responsibilities

A question was raised about how much is too much money before IRS looks at you-We are supposed to be spending more money on education and honey promotion

Freemont Foundation-around $100,000-foundation will only disperse funds to 501C3, spending average increases if we don’t use it, so it is increasing; Memorial Contributions still match up to $500
Roger will write up a synopsis of how to contribute to Freemont Foundation, he also said we have taken out a little bit of money a couple of times.
Steve will look into keeping the 100,000 and using the interest now

Life Membership-Bee yards used to be set up in the name of beekeeper, not feasible because it because too expensive because bees aren’t living like they used to

A question was brought up about Corporate Memberships-some time in the future we may consider them

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report by Dave Anthony, 2nd by Roger Hoopingarner, Passed.

Member Communications-Meghan Milbrath
    2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow-January 10-14, 2017 Galveston, Texas
    MSU Related things-Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)—information on American Veterinary Feed Association website-waiting to see how labeling will be handled, no good outlines for vets related to bees (this will be done at state level)-creating a MI Association of Vets/American Veterinary Association setting up Webinars. Also setting up link to Pollinators Protection-information about the veterinary feed
A directive which will have how & when it will go into effect. Another link that is being set up is a location of where vets are going to be able to access the supplies they will need. Most of drugs will be dispensed through prescription rather than a feed source-Vets may follow some of the same protocols that we already use on larger livestock. There is a potential for a beekeeper tech program that work with vets to help out with the Veterinary Feed Directive Program. Anticipate that diseases levels are going to go up when VFD goes into effect.

Mike Hansen-added that the FDA still has no answers of how the VFD will be carried out. DSA-Apairy inspectors program will have a topic about this /Canadians are also going to have similar rules soon/vets don’t want to see exemptions for beekeeper’s (due to cross using drugs on other animals)/don’t forsee any exemptions in the future. Education of vets will become very important. Client/Patient relationship-clarification will be also very important. Marla Spivek has hobbyist beekeepers suggestion.

Meghan & Mike-
• Vet Tech program-may be a link between actually needing a vet or advise person on how to stop the problem before they need a vet. Possible Fee for service, but may address the problem for smaller beekeeper’s
• New York-Fight The Mite Program-Classroom & Hand’s On inspection (Train-the-trainer Program)-Meghan has applied for funding - training possible 2 people from each club to be the liaison between clubs and MBA (next spring and summer-before mites get really bad)
• Hives to Heros-Combat vets program that trains veterans in beekeeping; ATT and private donors are also helping this program
• State Representative-Tom Chocherin-Meghan is working with him because he is well intentioned to write a bill to establish a task force to look into pollinator protection-He is really motivated into helping but looking for guidance as to how to help
• MP3 talk-Managed Pollinator Protection Plan-coming up with guidelines on labeling pesticides-motivation guides what the plan needs to look like-need stakeholder input!-don’t have a plan because we don’t have regulations in place-it will be a living document that will be added to, labeling on regulation for spraying and /or communicate with beekeepers
• Mike Hansen-He is meeting with many different organizations who are concerned about the communication plan and the newer regulations who will help with writing the document above
• Concern for Repercussions if the commercial growers don’t follow the labeling. Options for an individual, if knowledge that a grower is not following label ill need to be outlines. They will have to file a formal complaint/suit. After an investigation, the grower could be fined. They will still have to hire lawyers and such. Other states have it built into their legislature that if a pesticide kill is evident, the beekeeper could be compensated for the kill.
• MI has had compliments from commercial beekeepers about the way growers are working with beekeepers.
• Important to talk with your neighbors and close colonies up when fogging in backyard etc. for parties, etc grad parties/weddings

“Be careful about information that the media is putting out.”
• Inspections are ongoing now to move bees south, give MDA notice/heads up to them so inspections can be scheduled during this busy season.

Walter/Zach
Zach-haven’t got green money for a few years now, but has gone to a smaller grant and received another $180,000, need additional $10,000-15,000, to hire graduate students as researchers rather than undergraduate students, downfall is that undergraduates have high turn over rate. Graduate students are usually more long term. The research study on neo-nics is not only for beekeepers, it is benefiting all pollinators. MBA will need to seek support in addition to what we are doing and may need to reach out to other organizations to help with funding the program (not Zach’s responsibility alone, it is MBA’s Responsibility)

Summer Picnic-Not as good of a turn-out as planned.(Note: HABA had same picnic day-with only ½ as many show up as planned also)

Fall Conference-
Debbie Delany-anticipated that she will be here-Ann Marie will be her host
Gateway Center-Need to check into registration code and reserved rooms
Break-outs-Fixed
6 Main Sessions- with smaller breakouts happening throughout the day
Vendors-similar as last year
Clubs-out in main hallway
Honey Judging-Colleen will help, Norm will help, Meghan will post on website honey judging rules, Certificates for winners-we will check with Terry about ribbons to make sure they are available
Registration-Theresa Wyatt-will handle at conference, Meghan will handle pre-notification of upcoming conference
Beekeeper of the Year-Deadline this Tuesday-district representatives submit nominees and make a decision

Election Committee-Have to print ballots up by Sept. 21st.

Correspondence
Chatfield School update-Sincere Thank you letter
An MBA Member-Wants to use Logo on Website or webpage, Motion by Dave, 2nd by Roger to deny request to use logo on personal website. Passed unanimously
Thank you for Honey Sticks
Coloring Books-give books to kids at Fall Conference
MSU Autumn Festival-need to get application in
Transfer of treasurer responsibilities-Steve to Theresa Wyatt
Website-Transferred to Meghan

Keeper of Items: Pass on to Theresa, and she will have to come to the board to ask for help
• Steve has passed Theresa password to items needed
• Constant Contact-Membership database/E-mails/Stat Counter (Go Daddy)
• Pro-Pay- has gone to Theresa
• Pay Pal-has gone to Theresa-suggestions to remove money and close the account by Steve, continue to use Pro-pay instead
- PNC Bank—paperwork will be filed end of fiscal year transferring to Theresa
- CAN Surety—insurance Policy for board against malfeasability-responsibility going to Theresa
- Blackmore Rowe—Liability Insurance—turned over to Theresa
- State of Michigan—Filings—turning over to Theresa
- Conference Registration—MSU Extension has people to do registrations etc. MSU E-events—online registration form—possible outsourcing registration and conference planning. Meghan will check into getting them to help in the future

May need to plan an Executive board meeting to help with treasurer transfer of responsibilities. (End of September—Beginning of October)

Mecosta County—looking to form club, he needs to e-mail something to Meghan so she can post it on the website

Adjourned at 1:24pm – Motion by Dave Anthony 2nd by Meghan, Passed.