Michigan Beekeepers Association
January 23, 2019

Zoom Remote Meeting

Minutes:
Signed in: Norm Adams, Chris Beck, Jen Blackburn, Theresa Bristol-Miller, Kay Cease, Charlotte Hubbard, Don Lam, Joel Lantz, Keith Lazar, Kido Pielack, Dave Pearce, Sheldon Schwitek, Kale Tissue, Terry Toland, Rich Wieske

Call to order: 7:35 pm Sheldon Schwitek presiding

Agenda
Motion to approve agenda: Joel Lantz, Seconded: Norman Adams

Secretary’s Report
Motion to approve September meeting minutes: Theresa Bristol-Miller, Seconded: Norman Adams

Treasurer’s Report: Kale Tissue

Accounts:
Checking: $1607.67

CDs:
$5015.02
$5030.08
$10,045.10

Total cash on hand: $11,652.77 as of December 31, 2018

Active/Current Members: 585

Kale contacted Teresa Wyatt because this membership number seemed low. Teresa believes this is caused by switching over to an online process.
Kale has been working on the budget, but needs to consult with Teresa to provide a smooth transition.
Sheldon will contact Steve Tillman regarding an audit, and they will form a committee of at least three people. Jen Blackburn offered to help.
All the banking accounts have been updated, and officially Kale and Sheldon are the signatories on the MBA accounts.

Kale received an email from Joe Hamill from Lost Nations Beekeepers Association regarding MBA dues collected by local associations, with the local associations keeping a percentage of the dues. Terry and Norm believe that the constitution has been changed to discontinue this practice, but there may still be an old version of the constitution on our website. Sheldon will check on this and get back to Jen so she can change the website, if needed.
Kale received an email asking if their local association is on our insurance policy. Yes, but they need to submit information to us. Joel is working on the possibility of providing startup funding for new clubs. Kale and Joel will meet to coordinate this.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report: Joel Lantz, Seconded: Rich Wieske

**Member Communications:** Jen Blackburn/Charlotte Hubbard
Charlotte plans to send a newsletter to Jen within a week. There will be information regarding the Spring Conference included.

Sheldon has received inquiries about a Marketplace on the MBA website. This practice was dropped about 2-3 years ago due to the amount of work involved. Steve Tillman used to do this as paid advertising for the Association. It’s difficult to keep the information up to date and accurate. Jen offered to set up a Google form that vendors could send to her and she could keep a list of vendors on the website. Kale offered to help set this up. Sheldon recommends that we have two pages, one for bees, and one for beekeeping equipment. These vendors do not have to be MBA members, since this list would serve as a resource for members.

Motion to approve a vendor list on the website: Keith Lazar, Seconded: Theresa Bristol-Miller

Honey and Swarm Map updates: We have a link to a Google form on our website. This is a member benefit.

Jen will add the Newsletter archives to the website.

**District Representative Reports:**

*Dave Pearce:*
Russell Bricks is heading up the Lost Nations group, and they are coordinating with the FFA group at North Adams Jerome School, and plan to teach some classes to the students. Mel Disselkoen is coming to their club in April. Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers had Drew Lathin speak on creating sustainable landscapes, and have ”So You Want to be a Beekeeper“ scheduled for this Saturday. Their Bee School will begin in February. Steve Tillman is going to speak on beekeeping in New Zealand at their next meeting. Napoleon Bee Club had Mel Disselkoen come to speak in January, with about 150 people in attendance. The Hidden Lake Bee Club is hosting Jamie Walters at a pancake dinner on February 23.

*Rich Wieske:*
The Mead Mamas were at the Pine River Bee Club, and it was very well attended. Oakland Bee Club had a wonderful meeting. Their former president, Dennis Holly, is no longer participating in beekeeping due to a major illness, but Kerry Wiskowski has taken over as president, and is doing a wonderful job. SEMBA’s Annual Beekeeping Conference is March 16, with Kent Williams, Jamie Walters, Jim Ford, and others as speakers. SEMBA Bee School is already sold out. They opened their bee school to 4H members and provided 2 scholarships for them.

Sheldon recommends that all the Bee Schools should be listed on our website calendar. Please send the information to either him or Jen.
Theresa Bristol-Miller:
All the clubs have been ordering their bees. The Saginaw Club is having a Bee School in March and April. In Fairview, Applebee Farms is having a Bee School in April or May. Seven Ponds is featuring beginner tracks at their next few meetings. The Sunrise Club in Hale will start their meetings again in March. The northern part of her district is already reporting a 30% loss of bees.

Joel Lantz:
They have a conference planned for March 30. Bee School just finished in Iron Mountain, and they have one coming up in Escanaba, and another one at the end of March. His hives are only about ¾ buried, and usually by this time they are completely buried.

Norm Adams:
He has been in contact with the commercial beekeepers regarding the bear fencing, and Jamie will get back to him.

MDARD: Mike Hansen
He was unable to attend, but provided the following written report:

I have set aside time on the Friday of ANR week to participate in the MBA Spring conference. If the planning committee wants me to give a talk, have them let me know. Otherwise, I will plan to be present to visit with beekeepers. I am scheduled to participate in the SEMBA Bee School in March.

Recently attended the Apiary Inspectors of America meeting in Tempe, Arizona. AIA met with the American Honey Producers and the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA). We were able to send two additional inspectors to this meeting - it’s good to build knowledge in more than one person.

A number of important changes in Chief Apiary Inspectors in the US
- Brandi Simmons has taken the head position in Florida following the retirement of David Westervelt
- We understand Paul Cappy in New York has retired, but I have not heard that from Paul
- Medhat Nasr, Alberta Apiculturist retired in early January. He plans to continue consulting. Shelly Hoover continues to be their Apiarist (head inspector)
- Samantha Bruner, North Dakota, will continue for another year as the President of AIA, Kim Skyrm of Massachusetts will continue as the Vice President
- Ken Chalcote, Mississippi passed away last summer. We do have one Michigan beekeeper that travels to Mississippi. Randy Boyle is currently overseeing bee programs there.
- Wade Stiltner of West Virginia recently retired

If people want to move bees, the AIA website, https://apiaryinspectors.org/provides a list of state apiary contacts under the Inspection Services heading. The contact information for several states should be updated soon to include names of new State Apiary contacts. Note that for a number of states the Apiary contact may not be the inspector, but rather a contact in their state office that can assist with any questions you may have.

AIA and AAPA plan to meet with the American Beekeeping Federation next January in Schomburg, Illinois (West side of Chicago). This will be a great opportunity for Michigan Beekeepers to participate in the Federation meeting, AAPA will hold their American Bee Research Congress event at the meeting - an excellent opportunity to listen in on the most recent research.

Beekeepers moving bees to California for pollination are now required to register their apiary locations, and to update their location list each time bees are moved for pollination.
This is part of the State’s pesticide program and Managed Pollinator Protection Plan. If you are sending bees, likely your broker will take care of the registration, however remember they are your bees and you want to make sure your broker is completing the process.

North Dakota is involved in a project working with California to allow for pre inspection of colonies that are headed to California for Almond pollination. If this pilot program works out, it’s hoped additional states (likely those with very little risk of Fire Ant) can be added. CDFA inspectors inspected bees in North Dakota this past fall, and those shipments received Certificates of Quarantine Compliance that allowed California Border stations to release those trucks from the border stations without additional inspections. Loads in the program were able to be pulled from the bee inspection line, and resumed their movement into California without a long wait. This is a pilot, another year of CDFA inspectors in ND is expected to training ND inspectors. Note that this type of process is not new - just new to beekeeping. At this point, it’s unknown which other states may be allowed to participate, but we are hoping for success with the ND initiative.

We have seen most of the results come back from the National Bee Survey, however I anticipate we will have to wait on pesticide residue results and some of the final lab results due to the federal office shutdown, Some of those tests are completed through USDA Laboratories. We are scheduled to participate in the survey in 2019. Again, we will collect 24 samples. We need 5 - preferably stationary apiaries - that we can sample in both spring and fall in what USDA calls a Longitudinal Survey. The remaining 14 samples are to be collected 4-5 in the spring, 4-5 in the summer and 5 in the fall. Beekeepers with at least 10 colonies in their apiary can be considered for participation. I will note that Michigan has been fortunate to have excellent cooperation from willing participants, but we do like to include new locations if we can. Migratory beekeepers, and queen producers are good choices, but we are not limited to those.

Tracheal Mite: Mike Studer, Apiarist from Tennessee, observed that beekeepers in his state that have switch over to using only Oxalic Acid for Varroa Mite treatment are suffering high losses from Tracheal Mite (TM). Beekeepers reported colonies appeared to freeze out, something that is not a normal occurrence in Tenn. Mike investigated and found balls of dead bees in the colony, there were face forward in the cells (as in starvation). He also noted K-wing symptoms, and an analysis of trachea from the dead bees found high levels of Tracheal Mites. Operations lost of to 80% of their colonies. Mike notes that Oxalic does not treat Tracheal Mites, and beekeepers who moved strictly to Oxalic are no longer controlling TM. Many considered TM to be a pest of the past, and were not looking for it. Treatments using Formic, the Thymol products or other mite controls that target TM need to be part of the annual treatment package to keep TM from building up. Beekeepers can submit samples of adult bees to the Beltsville lab for analysis, or if a person has access to a 60 power or greater microscope, they can easily analyze a sample of bees for themselves. There are directions available on the internet.

Conferences: Chris Beck
Spring Conference 2019:  
Online registration is almost ready to launch, and Kale and Jen will coordinate to get it online. The Kellogg hotel code is 1903beekee.  
Zachary will do the microscope class on Saturday morning. He would like the collected fees to go to his program at MSU. In the past we have charged $40 for this class. We will continue to do this in 2019.
We need to establish registration fees for attendees. Last year the charge for members' individual one-day was $20, individual two-day was $35, family one-day was $25 and family two-day was $40. For non-members, individual one-day was $25, individual two-day was $40, family one-day was $30, and family two-day was $45. Vendor tables were $75 each. Our contract price with MSU has not changed. Last year we profited about $9000 from this conference. The board agreed to keep last year's pricing.

How many promotional/free tables should we provide? We can fill the ballroom with paid vendor tables and the free tables can be set up in other areas. We can probably easily fit 10-12 in those areas.

Dr. Fehrat Ozturk wants to speak at the conference regarding his study on honey analysis. He is also speaking at SEMBA's conference. SEMBA has already agreed to fund half of his flight here, up to $250. He has a place to stay while he attends the conference. Motion to approve this expenditure: Chris Beck, Seconded: Rich Wieske

We need to establish a benefactor for the Honey Auction proceeds. Chris suggested that it go to an Eagle Scout in his area, who is an MBA member. Sheldon suggested that the Eagle Scout should provide us with a proposal.

Chris is still looking for confirmation from our keynote speaker, Mae Berenbaum, She has not responded to e-mails from Meghan.

The next spring conference committee meeting is scheduled for February 6. We need to get class descriptions from our speakers online.

Sheldon has the a/v equipment and believes we currently have enough for every classroom.

Meghan requested a table for the Veterinary Students regarding the feed directive.

Sheldon would like to put together a Board Member slide show for the conference, so please send him a photo and bio. We are considering having a Board Retreat the Thursday night before the Spring Conference. Sheldon and Kale will look into booking rooms for this.

Fall Conference 2019:
October 19, 2019 at Washtenaw Community College with Rebecca Masterman and Decklan Schrader speaking

The Summer Picnic invoice has been paid.

Rich has contacted Kirsten Traynor regarding speaking at the Spring Conference in 2020. She has agreed. Motion to approve this speaker: Chris Beck, Seconded: Theresa Bristol-Miller

We typically donate $3000 for the UP Spring Conference. Terry made the motion to continue this, with Chris second. Motion to approve this expenditure: Terry Toland, Seconded: Chris Beck

There has been no activity regarding trying to achieve non-profit status.
We need to create a constitution committee.

The Beekeeper of the Year award membership requirement will be decided on a year-to-year basis, with the focus on members. We will move the Beekeeper of the Year announcement to earlier in the day at the next Fall Conference. Regarding the Honey Show participation at our Fall Conference, 14 of the 23 participants were non-members. Two of those people are now members.

Historian report:
Cecelia Infante is working with MSU regarding an exhibition about Michigan beekeeping.

Apimondia: Rich is going. We should promote this conference and look into a possible group arrangement.

Joel is working on start-up grants for new clubs. They need to meet the requirements of the constitution of the MBA. He thinks we should do it on a case-by-case basis. They should send in paperwork and the grant review committee can bring it to the board.

Our Zoom account has been changed from a monthly plan to a yearly plan, since this format has been working out well for us.

Motion to adjourn: Norm Adams, Seconded: Joel Lantz