Michigan Beekeepers Association  
February 27, 2019

Zoom Remote Meeting

Minutes:
Signed in: Chris Beck, Jen Blackburn, Theresa Bristol-Miller, Kay Cease, Ana Heck, Charlotte Hubbard, Don Lam, Keith Lazar, Meghan Milbrath, Dave Pearce, Kale Tissue, Terry Toland, Rich Wieske, Greg Willis, Dave Zurek

Call to order: 8:00 pm Chris Beck presiding

Agenda
Motion to approve agenda: Terry Toland, Seconded: Don Lam

Secretary’s Report
Motion to approve September meeting minutes: Dave Zurek, Seconded: Don Lam

Treasurer’s Report: Kale Tissue

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Total cash on hand: $14,530.92 as of January 31, 2019

Active/Current Members: 607

The Spring Conference microscope class on Saturday is all sold out. There are currently 250 registered for the conference.

She will soon send the $3000 check for the UP conference.

She has received an insurance policy renewal bill for $2435.

She has been communicating with Steve Tillman regarding an audit, and that is in process.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Theresa Bristol-Miller, Seconded: Greg Willis

Member Communications: Jen Blackburn

She will send out another email tomorrow regarding the Spring Conference, which will include a finalized schedule with class descriptions. She is starting to receive changes for the swarm notice, and a few changes for the clubs.

She received a phone call from Hope Gardens on the west side of the state. They go in to schools and help educate students about farming and pollination, and would like donations of coloring books and honey sticks.

Mike Risk has been warehousing
those items, and plans to bring them to the conference. Don Lam will receive these items at the conference and pass them along to Hope Gardens.

Jen does not have a current copy of our by-laws. This document should probably be held by the secretary and the historian, but neither of them have copies. We will ask Sheldon next week.

District Representative Reports:

Greg Willis:
He received an email from one of the instructors of the Heroes to Hives program, asking for a donation. He made a motion to donate 6 free passes to the Spring Conference to this program. Jen Blackburn seconded it.

He made a motion to have the Annual Summer Picnic on August 24 in the Kalamazoo area. Don Lam seconded it. Chris suggests that we table this motion until next week when we can consult Sheldon.

Dave Pearce:
A2B2 club hosted a “So You Want to be a Beekeeper” talk, with 70 in attendance. They have begun their Bee Schools. The Steve Tillman talk was cancelled due to weather. In March they will have Vera Strogolova from Strong Microbials speak to the club. They are planning the Fall Conference and things are on target. Their build day is scheduled for March 23.

Steve at Napoleon Bee Club said that Charlotte Hubbard is scheduled to speak to the group in April. Hidden Lakes is trying to put together a Bee School, and working with Hidden Lake Gardens, an MSU extension.

Rich Wieske:
The SEMBA conference is scheduled for March 16, and their Bee School is starting on March 3. Dennis Holly, an active member of the beekeeping community passed away last Friday. Rich made a motion for a contribution to the Fremont Foundation. Theresa Bristol-Miller seconded that. These contributions to the Fremont Foundation are matched.

Chris reminded him to bring the honey exhibits from the Fall Conference to the Spring Conference next week.

Theresa Bristol-Miller:
She tried to get a survey of her district regarding how the bees are doing, but has not heard back from the commercial beekeepers. The California Farm Bureau Federation is stating that there have already been reported thefts of bees. Among the sideliners/hobbyists, there are mixed reports. Seven Ponds met yesterday and discussed varroa control. Saginaw Valley is meeting this month, with Dean Hutchinson speaking.

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

I will be discussing Tracheal Mites at the March 8 MBA ANR Week program. Tennessee State Apiarist determined that several large die offs in that state were due to TM, largely because those beekeepers had switched their varroa mite management over to using only Oxalic Acid, which apparently is not effective against TM. It’s a good time to revisit what this mite could mean, what beekeepers need to know (remember) about managing TM.
I've also been invited to speak at the SEMBA bee school on March 16.

Some beekeepers are inappropriately using roach baits for control of Small Hive Beetle. The practice is inappropriate, and risks contamination of the colony and the honey you want to sell. State apiarist, who were called in to investigate bee deaths found CD cases and rant traps filled with roach bait. During a dearth, hungry bees managed to get into the plastic cases, colonies died. The beekeepers can only blame themselves In these cases, the use totally backfired on the beekeeper, but at what risk to our food supply are we facing when we use product off label. I'm sorry, I do not remember if the pesticide agency in those states filed any action against the beekeepers.

We are fortunate to be in the north where Small Hive Beetle pressure has not been the same as it is in the south. While that appears to be changing, use the tools that are available to us. This industry cannot afford honey getting a reputation of being contaminated.

**MSU: Meghan Milbrath and Anna Heck**

Anna's position has been recently added. She will spend 50% of her time on the Managed Pollinator Protection Plan, and 50% on other MSU projects. Anna has a Masters in Public Policy, and was recently working with the Bee Squad at the University of Minnesota. She supported beekeepers, taught classes, and managed bees in over 100 locations. She also worked on training youths to be ambassadors for the program. Meghan reports that Anna will work with the Mite Check Program, training the trainers, and also work with the Sentinel Apiary Program.

**Conferences:** Chris Beck

Terry will speak with his Seven Ponds Board to see if they would be interested in hosting the Fall Conference 2020. Terry would like to join with the Pine River and Mid-Michigan clubs to see if they would like to host it together.

*Spring Conference 2019:*  
Chris is looking for conference materials, such as promotional items, signage, and tickets. Keith believes that Sheldon may have these materials. Keith suggested that Chris should check with Adam.  
Kale reports that she has contacted volunteers, and believes that she has sufficient coverage for registration.  
Sheldon is trying to set up a retreat for Board Members on Thursday evening, March 7. Keith and Don report that they have about 40 vendor tables and 10 free tables reserved, out of about 64 total tables possible.

Sheldon would like to form a Constitution Committee. We will discuss this later.

Mike Risk will bring coloring books to the Spring Conference. Charlotte reported that they formed a group to review our coloring books, and found the current ones to be adequate. She checked some preliminary printer costs, but they were quite high, so they decided to go with the ones we already have.
Rich Wieske asked if anyone had information about Richard Adee in South Dakota losing 50,000 hives in January. There was no additional information beyond what has been reported in the media.

Motion to adjourn: Rich Wieske, Seconded: Meghan Milbrath