Michigan Beekeepers Association  
March 27, 2019  

Zoom Remote Meeting  

Minutes:  
Signed in: Chris Beck, Jen Blackburn, Theresa Bristol-Miller, Kay Cease, John Davis, Zachary Huang, Charlotte Hubbard, Brian Jennings, Don Lam, Kyle LeRoux, Dave Pearce, Sheldon Schwitek, Kale Tissue  
Call to order: 7:36pm Sheldon Schwitek presiding  

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

Secretary’s Report  
Motion to approve February meeting minutes: Theresa Bristol-Miller, Seconded: Joel Lantz  

Treasurer’s Report: Kale Tissue  

Accounts:  
Checking: $12,759.81  
CDs: $5015.89  
$5031.82  
$10,047.71  

Total cash on hand: $22,807.52 as of February 28, 2019  
Active/Current Members: 654  

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report: Jen Blackburn, Seconded: Theresa Bristol-Miller  

Steve Tillman is working on an audit, and wants to set up an online QuickBooks account for MBA that could be accessed by all necessary parties, at a cost of less than $200/year. Sheldon plans to complete a current budget by our next meeting. He assumes it will look very similar to last year’s budget.  

Member Communications: Jen Blackburn  

She has lots of website updates, and plans to post those this weekend. Rich Wieske sent her many videos/photos from the conference, which she also plans to post. Joel mentioned that some of the clubs’ information on the website is confusing with incorrect addresses. Also, the map district information needs updating. Jen welcomes this feedback, so if anyone else notices information on the website that needs updating/changing, please let her know.
**Newsletter:** Charlotte Hubbard

She would like to get something out after the UP Conference, so hopes to receive information from the District Reps soon.

**District Representative Reports:**

*Kyle LeRoux:*
He is new to this position, and is a third-year beekeeper from Battle Creek. He has reached out to Bob Baughman with the Michiana Beekeepers Association in his district to update that club’s information, but has not received a reply.

*Dave Pearce:*
Winter survival numbers seem good.

*John Davis:*
They are getting bee packages together. Mike Banyai has advised club members on a treatment regimen, and it seems to be working well for those who followed this schedule. Bob Mumby from Big Rapids is trying to promote Michigan produced bees.

*Theresa Bristol-Miller:*
Seven Ponds met yesterday and had yearly elections. Saginaw Valley meets next Tuesday, and will discuss the MBA conference. In May, Mid-Michigan will have a fundraiser for their honey festival. The package bees from AWS will be a couple of weeks late, due to weather.

*Joel Lantz:*
The UP Conference is this Saturday. They are completely sold out. Survival rates vary widely this year. Isaac Brennans is starting to raise queens. He has had lots of experience with this in Vermont, and his “snow queens” are looking good.

**MDARD:** Mike Hansen

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

In addition to the MBA ANR week meeting, I also attended and spoke at the SEMBA meeting.

MDARD is approaching commodity organizations to support the development of best management practices for protecting pollinators through our MP3 project. Meghan, Ana, Rufus, Walt, and I met with one organization last week. Jeff Zimmer from the PPPM Division is talking with additional groups. I’m sure Meghan will provide you with more of a report of the work Ana will be doing in this endeavor.

We should have our National Bee Survey kits shortly and will get started with spring sampling in May. If any of the board members has a yard with 10 colonies or more and would like to participate in the survey, please contact me. We will take most of our samples from commercial yards, but I always like to incorporate a new face or two into the project. We will take a total of 24 samples from 19 yards this year. For 5 of those yards, samples will be collected from the same colonies in both spring and again in fall, so it’s good to identify yards that will remain in one location all year.
**MSU:** Zachary Huang
The MSU honeybee field lab has been working with the college to obtain/equip a honey extraction room. He would like MBA to contribute to this project. Sheldon suggested he send us something in writing and we will consider this proposal.

**Conferences:** Chris Beck

*Spring Conference 2019:*
The compilation of the Conference Surveys is attached. Chris would like some feedback on defining an “Intermediate” beekeeping course for future planning. Don Lam suggested offering a class on garden pollination/gardening for honeybees. MSU offers an online [Pollinator Course](#), which may be a good resource for us.

Chris proposed paying an honorarium of $1500 to Meghan for her keynotes and breakout classes. Norm Adams seconded this.

Kale estimates $19,000 in conference revenue, including the microscope class and the auction. There were about 600 attendees. After expenses, profit is estimated to be about $7000. These numbers are all down from last year. The auction brought in about $1800, which is more than enough for the Eagle Scout project. We are going to give the Boy Scout $1000, and will look for another school group that can utilize the rest of the funds, possibly Mike Olsen, on the faculty of Clarkston High School.

*Fall Conference 2019:
The A2B2 Club is hoping to offer a limited number of breakout classes. Chris has discussed with them the need for a room and time for our annual business meeting and a room for the honey show. A2B2 has spent $500 for a deposit, and needs to contact Kale to be reimbursed.

*Summer Picnic 2019:*
Charlotte Hubbard reports that the picnic is Saturday June 29 1-3p at the DeLano Farm at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. She hopes to get assistance from several of the large bee clubs in the area. We are asking attendees to bring a dish to pass and adding an ice cream social. To use this facility at no charge, the event needs to be open to the public. The Kalamazoo Bee Club has several hives across the street from this location, which could be used for teaching/informational purposes. The Kalamazoo Nature Center wants to publish information regarding this event, so she needs to provide them with a link on the MBA website. Jen agreed to provide this assistance. Sheldon will invite Roger Hoopingarner to be our speaker. He also will coordinate getting tents, tables, and chairs. Kyle LeRoux volunteered to take care of the ice cream portion, including picking up ice cream, scoops, dry ice, ice cream dishes/cones. Charlotte needs a club to coordinate all the beverages and coolers, and plans to contact the Grand Rapids Club regarding that. She also needs something for children to do, and Theresa offered to contact her sister to help with that. Don Lam agreed to coordinate door prizes. Chris agreed to coordinate the “How to be a Beekeeper” table.

We need a club willing to host/coordinate the Summer Picnic 2020.

Sheldon has been in touch with Clay Otoni regarding our non-profit status.
Attached are Sheldon’s minutes from the Board Retreat.

Norm reports that his survey results showed that people overwhelmingly thought that the Beekeeper of the Year should be a member of the MBA.

Joel reported that we have 18 clubs affiliated with the MBA and 14 that are not. These lists with contact information are attached. We have 2 new applications, the Grand Rapids Club and the Muskegon Club. We need to make a decision regarding whether we are going to provide funds for these start-up clubs or not. Chris asked what the clubs would do with this money. Joel reports that they will use it to establish a club website.

Joel would like to provide new clubs with a set of simplified by-laws. Norm agreed to help him look into this.

Sheldon will contact Steve Tillman to be our liaison with the Freemont Foundation. They will provide Kale with the information needed to send a check in honor of Dennis Holly.

Motion to adjourn: Norm Adams, Seconded: Jen Blackburn
Spring 2019 Conference Survey

1. **How did you hear about the conference?**
   - Friend: 13
   - Internet: 26
   - Magazine: 3
   - Local bee club: 30
   - Other: 13

   If you answered “Other” please explain: **Attended before, email from MBA**

2. **How many years have you been a beekeeper?**
   - 1st year: 21
   - 2-5 yrs: 31
   - 6-10 yrs: 20
   - 11-15 yrs: 1
   - Over 15 yrs: 7

3. **How many colonies do you manage?**
   - 1-10: 62
   - 11-50: 10
   - 50-100: 2
   - 100-300: 0
   - Over 300: 2

4. **Are you a member of the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association?**
   - Yes: 49
   - No: 29

5. **Are you a member of any other bee club? Which one?**
   - Yes: 47
   - No: 25

6. **Would you recommend future MBA conferences to a friend?**
   - Yes: 78
   - No: 0
Board “Retreat” Notes

Past President List

Bill Sirr
Dave Anthony
Mike Risk?
Terry Tolland
Roger Hoopengarner
Richard Leonard

Committees

1. District Reps.
   a. Includes Member-at-Large
   b. Beekeeper of the Year
2. Nominating Committee
   a. Members
      i. Past President- Terry Tolland
      ii. Member-at Large
   b. District Reps to support recruitment
3. Program Committee
   a. Members
      i. Vice President- Chris Beck
      ii. New volunteers
         1. Brian Jennings- brian@jenningsweb.com
         2. 
   b. Annual events
      i. Spring Conference
      ii. Fall Conference
      iii. Summer Picnic?
   c. Hero’s to Hives
4. Election Committee
   a. Terry Tolland
   b. ?
5. Legislative Committee
   a. Members
      i. Scott Nichols- Chair
      ii. Dru Monti
      iii. Nick Groenho
      iv. Scott Barnes
      v. New Volunteers
         1. Debby Williams
         2. Janine Reed- jdiebel1953@icloud.com
   b. Purview
      i. Ag GAMPS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Member at Large</th>
<th>Past President</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon Schwitek</td>
<td>Chris Beck</td>
<td>Kay Cease</td>
<td>Kale Tissue</td>
<td>Norm Adams</td>
<td>Terry Toland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1738 Commonwealth</td>
<td>5495 Wisner Rd.</td>
<td>2260 Georgetown Blvd.</td>
<td>731 Ives Ave.</td>
<td>2703 Salzburg Rd.</td>
<td>3293 Hopcroft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo, MI 49009</td>
<td>Breckenridge MI 48625</td>
<td>48105</td>
<td>Big Rapids, MI 49307</td>
<td>Freeland, MI 48623</td>
<td>Metamora, MI 4845</td>
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ii. Honey-Maple Syrup Law
   1. Honey House Legislation
iii. Cottage Food Law

6. Audit Committee
   a. Members
      i. Steve Tillman - Chair
      ii. Mike Risk
   b. Freemont Foundation

7. Constitution Committee

8. Grants & Scholarships
   a. Members
      i. Sheldon
      ii. Kay

9. Honey promotion Committee
   a. Members
      i. Mike Risk
      ii. Ray Bowers
      iii. Theresa Bristol-Miller
   b. Promotional Materials
      i. Honey Sticks
         1. Need a decision on quantity by March 30
      ii. Colouring books
      iii. Charlotte’s books
   c. Honey Show
      i. Chris Beck & Norm Adams

10. Communications Committee
    a. Members
       i. Communications Director
          1. Jen Blackburn
       ii. Newsletter
          1. Charlotte Hubbard
       iii. Web Master
          1. Zachary Whang
          2. Sheldon Schwitek
          3. Steve Voisin

11. Historian
    a. Members
       i. Cecelia Infanté
       ii. Sheldon?
    b. Possible exhibition with Michigan State
    c. Notes
       i. Talk to Bill Sirr
       ii. Rich Weiske Interviews
Bee Clubs with MBA Affiliation Forms
3/23/2019

Lost Nations Beekeepers Association
President—Rollin Lauber
Secretary/Treasurer—Gene Elliot
Lnbabees@gmail.com

Center of Michigan Beekeepers
President- Michael Risk
Secretary/Treasurer—Diane Karsten
Mrisk75@gmail.com

Mid-Michigan Beekeepers
President-Barbara Applebee
Secretary/Treasurer-Pennie Rienas
www.midmichiganbeekeepers.ucoz.com

Saginaw Valley Beekeepers Association
President-Tyler Allen
Secretary/Treasurer-Ejessica Castillo
SVBASec@gmail.com

Superior Beekeeping Club
President-Michelle Landis
Secretary/Treasurer-Barbie Dupras
upbeekeeping@gmail.com

Fremont Area Beekeepers
President-Koffi Kpachavi
Secretary/Treasurer-Katie Replogle
www.fremontareabeekeepers.org

Kalamazoo Bee Club
President- Maria Barros
Secretary/Treasurer-Karen Halsted
President@kalamazoobeecubclub.com

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers Club
President-Michael Nardelli
Secretary/Treasurer-Lee Walsh
A2b2club@gmail.com

Grand Rapids Area Bee Club
President- Chuck Bauer
Secretary/Treasurer-Gary Lemler
Grbeeclub@gmail.com

Sunrise Side Beekeepers
President-Rodney Bear
Secretary/Treasurer-Gail McIlmurray
papabearbees@gmail.com

Copper Country Beekeepers
President-Dave Wiitanen
Secretary/Treasurer-Susan Peterson
s.petersen28@yahoo.com

Seven Ponds Beekeeper’s Club
President-Terrance Toland
Secretary/Treasurer-Bryan Allen
sevenpondsbeekeepers@hotmail.com

Northwoods Beekeepers
President-Claude Siders
Secretary/Treasurer-Nancy Osterberg
borderlandbeeks@gmail.com

Battle Creek Bee Club
President-Kyle LeRoux
Secretary/Treasurer-Nancy Bristol
Frontdesk@BCbeeclub.org

Muskegon Area Beekeepers
President-AJ Menefee
Secretary/Treasurer-Emily Grasch
MuskegonAreaBeekeepers@gmail.com

Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association (SE MBA)
President-Sandra Graichen
Secretary/Treasurer-Luke Harvey
34.SEMBAPres@gmail.com

Holland Area Beekeepers Association (HABA)
President-Ron Rhoades
Secretary/Treasurer-NA Recent Death
rgirhoades@allcomm.net

Grand Valley State University—
Meijer Campus Holland
515 S. Waverly Road
Holland, MI 49423
Attn: Cherilyn Denomme, Manager
Clubs Not Affiliated with MBA
3/16/2019

Pine River Bee Club
Sarah Nelson, Jim Ford
PineRiverBeekeeping@gmail.com
810-364-5777
https://www.facebook.com/PineRiverBeekeepingClub/

Little Traverse Bay Beekeepers Guild
Laurie McMurray
mcmurray.laurie@gmail.com
guilds@crosshatch.org
http://www.crosshatch.org/guilds

Grand Traverse Area Beekeeping Club
Club beca@gtbees.com
guilds@crosshatch.org
http://www.gtbees.com/
http://www.crosshatch.org/guilds

Scottville Beekeepers of Mason County
Lenny Feldberg
ifneedbee@earthlink.net
773-817-3181
http://www.scottvillebeekeepers.org/

Grand Rapids Area Beekeepers
Mark Stewart
mastewart1@outlook.com
616-437-6364
www.grbee.club

MCC Bee Club / Macomb Community College
Jim Ford
MCCbeeclub@gmail.com
586-917-7131

Oakland Beekeepers Club
Kerry Wysocki, President
kerryblair@comcast.net
https://www.facebook.com/oaklandbeekeepersclub/

Keep Growing Detroit
Kido Pielack
kido@keepgrowingdetroit.org
(313) 757-2635
http://detroitagriculture.net/

University of Michigan Student Beekeepers
Andrew Mills
umichbeekeeping@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/UMBees/

Beekeepers of Western Washtenaw
John Dohner
johndohner@gmail.com
(734) 604-5723

Napoleon Bee Club
Steve Clark
napoleonbeesupply@yahoo.com
517-499-0439
www.napoleonbeesupply.com

River Raisin Beekeepers Club
rrbeekepers@gmail.com
http://www.rrbeekepers.com/

Superiorland Beekeepers Association (Eastern UP)
https://www.facebook.com/SuperiorlandBeekeepersAssociation/

Bay de Noc Beekeeping Club (Escanaba Area)
https://m.facebook.com/baydenocbeekeepingclub/?ref=bookmarks