Michigan Beekeepers’ Association
Executive Board Meeting
June 6, 2014


Call to order: (President Terry Toland) 10:03am

Approval of Agenda: Additions to the agenda were called for. The agenda was then approved. Motion to accept by Steve Tillman, 2nd by Roger Hoopingarner, then approved.

Secretary’s Report: (by review of distributed notes, Don Schram) A review of the secretary’s report was approved as written. Motion to accept by Roger Hoopingarner, 2nd by Dave Anthony, then approved.

Treasurer’s Report: (Steve Tillman) A thorough review of the treasurer’s report was as follows...Motion to accept by Dave Anthony, 2nd by Ann Leonard, then approved.

Financial:
Expenses $1,200 to MSU (Spring Conference)
$3,000 to MSU Research Grant
$2,752 to buy Honey Sticks
Checking Account: $33,433

Membership: 732 Members

Web Site:
Web Traffic: 41,667 Page Loads, approximately 600 p/day
Classified Ads: Approximately 18 p/day
Swarm Map: Need more people to sign up, especially in Northern Michigan area
Crash on Server: $37.50 refund and removal of ad
Cyber Bullying Issue addressed: one user posted inappropriate language changing the culture of the website, Steve got the board’s permission to delete inappropriate posts on the website.
Michigan Dept. of Agriculture: (Mike Hansen)

**GAAMPS and Michigan Right-to-Farm:** are GUIDELINES and are “not enforceable”

**GAAMPS Review:** Cover care of “Farm Animals”. Revision for 2015-Dr. Swanson, 2 tables (Small Lots & Large Lots)

**Michigan Right-to-Farm:** Bees are not “Livestock”, In a dispute, “Right-to-Farm” does not completely protect the farmer from lawsuits, but it helps if the GAAMPS are followed prior to and during a dispute. “Site selection” was intended for “livestock” so it does not deal with bees.

**MI Dept. of Agriculture:** Can write a letter on the beekeeper’s behalf if the person of interest has a history of observing and using the suggested “Best Management Practices” set forth in the GAAMPS rules. Site selection is of utmost concern when addressing issues where neighborly disputes occur. Suggestion: take flight route barriers into consideration when placing your bees near neighboring properties.

**HopGuard:** Asked to support it and keep it in Section 18 even though there was not enough data collected from 2013. New product called HopGuard II is coming out. HopGuard II can be added to Section 18 at a later date. Today, both are acceptable to use in Michigan.

**Additional Programs Helpful to Beekeepers:**
- Farmers CRP
- NRCS
- EQUIP Programs
- Pairing Programs
- Bolster Beekeeping Program
- CTIC-Conservative Technology Introduction Center

**MSU – Extension Service (Walter Pett)**

- Has promoted and asked beekeepers to fill out questionnaire for HopGuard(Section 18) issue
- Has attended various beekeeping meetings
- Has participated in various on-line and on-campus events involving bees and beekeeping
- Stance on Neonicotinoids (not as concerned about due to the various, extensive factors that our bees endure in our environment today) May be more a political issue than a scientific issue today
Old Business

**Summer Picnic:** All set, Octagon Barn in Gagetown, MI, Noon-Meet & Greet, 1:00pm Eat, Various activities throughout afternoon, Live Bee demonstrations,

**Fall Conference:**
**Banquet:** After a short conversation about the loss occurring from the banquet activity, a motion was brought to the table to discontinue the Evening Banquet altogether until further notice by Ann Leonard, 2nd by Sheldon Schwitek, then passed.
**Break Out Session:** We have appx. 8 different topics now set and looking for more.
**Hospitality Suite:** We need to promote its’ availability for use throughout the day. Checking into expanding

**Vendors:** Don Lamm again in charge.
**Table price for vendors:** Brief discussion ended in a motion to keep the table prices the same as last year for the 2014 Fall Conference with one lunch provided per table on Friday only due to Saturday’s meeting. Motion by Ann Leonard, 2nd by Rich Weiske, passed.

**Spring Conference 150th Anniversary**
**Keynote Speakers:** Don Schram will be in charge
**Michelle Obama:** We have a copy of the letter that Debbie Stabenow wrote. No responses have been returned as of today.
**New Business:** Zeke (Oprah’s Chef) may do a cooking demonstration.
**Commemorative Memorabilia:** Ideas of pins, keychains, t-shirts, sweatshirts, totes, and planners were exchanged.
**Make-it-Big Committee:** (Cindy Dudock) focus on public relations
**Vendors:** looking for large scale vendors and manufacturers
**Documentation:** (Roger Hoopingarner, Bill Lockwood) attempt to find written documentation to back up 150 year claim.

**H.A.S. Committee (Rich Weiske, Zach Huang, Ann Marie Fauvel)**
**Keynote Speakers:** Contacted Sue Colby, Dennis VanEngelsdorp will be the keynote speakers
**More info will follow on housing and events**
Constitutional Change Committee (Don Schram, Clay Ottoni, Sidney Risk)
  Tabled to next meeting.

Election Committee (Dave Anthony)
  Still looking for candidates to fill positions.

Historical Committee: (Roger Hoopingarner, Don Schram, Bill Lockwood)
  MSU Library hold information in the “Special Collections” area related to
  beekeeping. Holds the Ray Baker Collection that was donated to MSU prior to
  1850. He also wrote under the assumed name of David Grayson (Under the Elm).

New Business

Correspondence:
  • Covered in Web Site address-Cyber Bullying, Inappropriate Posts
  • Sara Hegman (West LaFayette, IN)– Pairing beekeepers with farmers. Would like to post a link on the MBA website.
  • Sara Hoover (Bear Bill) – June 10- MBA is backing it
  • Keith Council (FL beekeepers) – looking for a source of northern queens. Has been referred to the Northern Bee Network.
  • Queens for Sale – Jamie Ostrowski, Sheldon Schwitek, Dave Anthony

License Plates: Found to be too expensive to pursue based on required purchases

Window Decals: Possibility of something to hand out to our members at the Spring conference. A motion was placed on the table by Rich Weiske to get “Save-the-Bees” decals made up. Discussion followed. No 2nd took place. The board then agreed to table the topic until the next meeting so that further information could be collected regarding pricing and design.

Billboards: The Ad Council was contacted. Discussion took place about designers of billboards, making cross comparisons and digital billboards.

Highway Bee Act (Bill): House Bill 4790, ITC encourage plantings

Survey Kits Available: Mites and Virus Counts. Generally surveys run in the Fall but can be done in the summer. See Mike Hansen, Meghan Milbrath

Next Meeting: August 2, 2014

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Ann Leonard, 2nd by Steve Tillman, passed.