

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Washington State Beekeepers Association

Rodeo BBQ Restaurant, Ellensburg WA - October 26, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by President Mark Emrich following committee meetings.

Present were Mark Emrich, Bob Combs, Steve Foley, Mark Hohn, Nate Sittom, Arajean & Brian Johnson, the Alvarez family - Ari, Ana, Ari Jr. & Maria - Bob Arnold, Lee & Arlene Massey, Jim & Cyndi Smith, Fran Bach. Charles Bennett, Susanne Weil, and Tim Hiatt were all excused from the meeting.

In his opening remarks, President Emrich thanked the Education Committee, who had just finished their meeting, for a superlative effort. The Washington Master Beekeepers Program is being used widely in WA and in other states. South Carolina and Puerto Rico are pending.

Regarding the **Methow Valley fires** this past summer, WSBA is developing a plan for future assistance, perhaps help with rebuilding, working with the state government to open public lands to beekeepers, hosting hives etc. With burns going over 4 inches deep in some places, there will be no forage there for at least 2 years.

Beekeepers are being sought by county commissioners, zoning and health boards etc. for help in **updating standards for beekeeping in towns and cities**. Constituents want assurance rules are in place, but boards do not want to impact beekeepers negatively. For anyone asked to provide such boards with information, Mark has talking points to help keep the focus specifically on bees, not lumped together with multiple insects or other animals. Bob Combs offered his wife's help (a Legal Aid for Seattle City Council) to check for effective language in such cases.

Mark will be sending a legislative note on how to work with codes to the associations directly.

Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting: Motion by Bob Combs, seconded by Ari Alvarez, that the minutes of the 2013 annual meeting be accepted as published in the newsletter. Carried.

Treasurer's report: "A good year", reported Treasurer Brian Johnson, with WSBA banking almost \$5000 over expenses. Brian requests that any clubs who will be needing funds in the next year please contact him now so it can be budgeted for. Discussion on use of PayPal and addition of payment options for advertisers. Noted that a credit card program called "Square" allows the costs of a transaction to be collected from the payee instead of having to be paid by the organization. Brian needs a newsletter report (my apologies for not having it done) as well as tracking on the Master Beekeepers' Program, number of books etc. He also asked when the cost of the website becomes due. Paul paid it last year. WSBA takes over next. Brian also commented that 3 people must audit the books according to our bylaws. Mark said it will be done before year end.

Motion by Brian Johnson to accept his report as given. Carried.

Membership: No report

Area reports:

Area 1a - Bob Combs reported there are some problems with awkward rules in the town of Duvall - beekeepers need special permission from Town Council to keep bees in town, have to keep them on the ground rather than rooftops etc. - as beekeepers got involved too late. A hot, dry summer so not enough moisture resulted in restricted honey flows.

Area 3b - Arlene Massey reported mixed results for folk in her area. Mint did not produce as usual. Of those who took bees to Montana, some did not badly, some got flooded out. Mites built up quickly, especially in the flood area.

Area 4 - Steve Foley reported so far all beekeepers in the fire areas have been covered by insurance for winter feed. The biggest issue will be bee forage in 2015. West side club fundraising is helping with reseeded the burned-over areas. Outside of the fire area, beekeepers obtained a reasonable honey flow.

Area 6 - Bob Arnold reported that April and May provided an ideal start to the season, June was still hopeful but then everything fell apart. In his home territory of Deer Park, he has fed a lot more sugar and got a lower return than in any year since 1971. In Newport, the honey crop was fine but there were too many commercials vying for territory, a problem all over Northern Idaho.

In his own operation, mite loads were almost non-existent in June; visible by Aug; then all kinds of disasters. A windstorm blew trees down, smashing his shop and throwing fall beekeeping, including mite control, way off schedule.

On average, probably 100 beekeepers attend each local club meeting. Two classes of 75 max. planned for the spring are already full.

WSU - No report

Education Committee report - Bob Combs said the Committee expected to be handing out a similar number of certificates to 2013. Participation in the Master Beekeeper program is essentially doubling each year. Two recommendations were offered: 1) standardizing across the state how the program is charged for, and 2) requiring local club affiliation to get onto the program. Books are only circulated to clubs. Bob finished by noting "Supporting the clubs is our business."

Honey Queen Committee - No report. Brian Johnson noted none of the funds earmarked for the Queen program have been requested as yet. He would like to know where this program is at present and what future financial needs are still to be tendered.

Legislation Committee - Neither Franclyn Heineke nor Tim Hiatt were present but Mark reported that there is lots going on and as developments occur, the information will be placed on the website. The Committee is hoping to craft legislation for the next sitting of the State Senate. (See also page 8 report).

Nominations Committee - not present

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board policies - Mark has not yet followed up since requesting job descriptions from board members

2. Presidents' meetings - Difficulty reaching a number of clubs as currently the level of contact information is poor. Very important to bring bylaws in line with insurance requirements and crucial to be able to specify security is built in.

3. & 4. Meeting venues & possible 2015 Area 2 bee event - Options include east/west meetings, groups doing educational days, or associations-sponsored conference, possibly with clubs hosting parts of the program, obtaining speakers and splitting proceeds with WSBA. Area 2 is looking at an educational weekend for next fall.

5. Insurance - 21 of 25 clubs have sent in dues for 2014. Intentions of the rest are not clear. Need timely feedback to WSBA office from clubs. A special board meeting will need to be held to approve payment of funds for state insurance.

As regional reps to **Western Apicultural Society**, Jim & Cyndi Smith requested information from regions not represented at AGM.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for grant of \$912.50 from the Mid Columbia Beekeepers Association (they will match funds) to develop a demonstration apiary for teaching purposes. Approved.

Brian Johnson asked if clubs receiving grants are not responsible to provide a report on how the funds were used, results etc. If they don't, should they be funded in future? Mark responded that such reports are requests but are not a hard rule. Discussion was that as a general rule we should receive something at the end - some kind of report and/or pictures showing what was accomplished with the help of the WASBA grant. Without feedback we are not sure if the funds were put to good use as intended.

Elections - In view of the missing Nominations Committee, motion by Lee Massey/Bob Combs seconded, that the current Executive be re-elected en masse. Carried.

Request from President to Regional Reps to serve one more year - the four reps present (Bob Combs, Steve Foley, Arlene Massey and Bob Arnold) agreed to continue.

Mark announced this is definitely the last year he will serve as President. Much has been accomplished and WSBA is getting the respect of local, state, out-of-state and out-of-country entities. Thus congratulations are due to all who serve in WSBA and club offices. However, we do need better interaction from some clubs.

Arlene Massey requested WSBA meeting revert to Saturdays instead of Sundays. Mark responded that Saturday is the preferred day whenever possible.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by Fran Bach