

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association was called to order at 7:00PM on January 28, 2020 in the basement of the Adams County Farm Bureau Building in Quincy, IL by President Bruce Moechnig. We went around the room and introduced ourselves along with how many hives we currently manage.

Present

Stan Brinkman, Steve Bush, Josh Inghram, Jim & Gladys Reese, Jerry Miner, Cecil Dean, Jerry Brinkman, Dale & Judy Hill, Susie Dunnaway, Austin Anderson, Gary Kaufman, Bernie Andrew, Ray & Stacy Nelson, Nick Muehring, LeRoy Rossmiller, Bob Egley, Dwayne Bonser, Laurie Stark, Brian Schenck, Dave Barry, Richard Lefringhouse, Jennifer Oitker, Andrew Perrine, Debi Love, Guy Spoonmore, Paul Woodworth ~A total of 29 members & guests present

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 2019 meeting was attached to the meeting reminder that was sent out by Secretary Stacy Nelson. Minutes from that meeting were approved as they were with no other additions or corrections made. Going forward, this is something that we will be doing at the suggestion of our President Bruce Moechnig. The reading of the minutes takes up time that could be spent on discussion so we will try it this way to see how everyone likes it.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer Josh Inghram is new in this role and there wasn't any business transacted during the transition from our previous Treasurer Debi Love and himself. As it stands, we still have a current balance of \$1,713.28.

Inspector's Report

Bernie didn't have a whole lot to share with the members at this time due to him not officially being back on the job until April 1st of this year other than to share that his boss was asked to resign and that he would be heading to Mammoth College on February 22, 2020.

Old Business

Club t-shirts & ballcaps- Stacy has gotten all of the items ordered & even has a few extra for anyone still interested. The t-shirts are \$12 for regular sizes & \$14 for 3X & up. The ballcaps are \$10.

Showing of the documentary “The Pollinators” will only happen if we sell the threshold that is required. We still as of our meeting need another 23 tickets for the showing to take place. Continue to share with other clubs or even friends & family that may be interested. We would really like to see this showing happen.

New Business

Should the MVBA obtain a Square Reader to accept payment for dues, classes, etc?

Several opinions were shared about the possibility of having a square reader. While there were a few that thought this may be a good option, it was also pointed out by our treasurer, Josh Inghram, that they charge a percentage to the organization for each transaction. After hearing this, most thought that maybe this wasn't such a good idea since we are a non-profit and it was asked if this was an issue in the past with potential members not wanting to pay with cash or check. Since Debi was our past treasurer, she said that she never had a problem. It was decided that as a club we wouldn't pursue getting a square reader at this time.

Beginner Beekeeping Class, Planning Committee: Our first class of 2020 will be held on Saturday, February 15th. In the past, we have ordered bees as a club from Albert Hilty. Last year there was some issues with some of the packages purchased from Albert. Discussion we had pertained to whether we would continue as a club to order bee packages from Albert Hilty as well as if it was better to order packages vs ordering nucs. There was a lot of good discussion on ordering nucs but some also thought that the new beekeepers would gain more knowledge by ordering packages and installing it themselves rather than having the nucs with resources already there. Some thought that the more experienced members may want nucs rather than packages. Dale did say that Albert has already contacted him about bee packages. **Another option we may have available is to order bees from Chisam Darnell with Darnell Bee Farm. One of our members, Tom Stark, has been in contact with him regarding bees. Chisam offers nucs rather than packages. As a group, if we ordered 1-10 nucs it would cost \$150 each, 11-50 nucs \$145 each, 51-99 \$140 each, 100 \$135 each. Darnell Bee Farm also offers queens 1-9 queens at \$35 each, 10-25 queens at \$30 each, 26-50 at \$25 each. He also offers single deeps with all new equipment for \$250.** We may have to go with ordering from Albert this year and look for another person to order bees from next year. This discussion may continue as we had no real resolution.

Hive Reports: Members gave an overview of how their hives were doing so far this winter. Some may have lost a hive or 2 but most seem to be doing ok for the most part. Some have gone back in and added more candy boards as the bees are going through the food stores.

Educational: Bruce had a power point of the Different Types of Honeybees. This power point gave an overview of the different characteristics that make up each type.

Upcoming Meetings & Activities: Old Time Days will be held at Farm & Home Supply in Quincy, IL on Saturday & Sunday, February 22nd & 23rd. On Saturday from 9:00AM-3:00PM, we are in need of a couple of volunteers as we usually have a table set up with information to hand out and talk to people about beekeeping. Josh Inghram has agreed to volunteer from 12:00PM-3:00PM but we still need someone to volunteer in the morning. Please let us know if you can help.

Missouri State Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting will be held at Metropolitan Community College ~Longview Campus, Education Building in Lees Summit, MO on March 13th & 14th. Some of the speakers include: **Grant Gillard**~ Seven Habits of Highly Successful Beekeepers & Taking Your Beekeeping to the Next Level, **Tammy Horn Potter**~ Launching the Kentucky Certified Honey Program, Best Management Practices for Hive Health, & Establishing Pollinator Habitat, **Nathalie Steinhauer, Ph.D.**~ Bee Informed Partnership: Who We Are & What We Do & Best Management Practices to Reduce Colony Loss, **Jerry Brown**~ Honey Issues in the USA.

Monthly Beekeeping Activities for January/February: Dale asked, how many have checked your hives in the last 2 weeks? Some have, some haven't but were planning to and soon. As Dale stated, the big challenge right now is making sure bees have food. If food stores are low, you may want to consider adding a candy board to your hive(s). This consists of a 4 pound bag of sugar & 6 ounces of water. You may also add 1-2 Tablespoons of salt to the mix as well. As the temperature outside starts getting warmer & the days start getting longer, this will stimulate the Queen and she will start laying eggs so may want to add some protein as well. When checking your hives wear your veil, jackets & gloves even during this time of year. If you have old equipment that needs repaired, now is the time to do so. You don't want to wait until you need it to do any repairs. Have your equipment ready.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM by President Bruce Moechnig. The next general meeting will be at 7:00PM on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in the basement of the Adams County Farm Bureau Building in Quincy, IL with our topic being on **Crop Chemicals and Application** by Tim Luthy from Helena Chemical Company.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary Stacy Nelson

Approved by: Name