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Warren County Ohio Beekeepers

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Officers' Meeting Notes

Date: August 3, 2026

Cadence: August Officers' Meeting

Participants

Present: Laura (President), Anya (Vice President), Jess Gray (Secretary), Bernie Youkman (Treasurer), and Dallas Jackson (Co-Educator)

Absent: Justin (Co-Educator)

I. Finance Report

Account Balances

- Beginning Checking: **\$1,062.29**
- Savings: **\$115.08**
- Basic Account: **\$6,820.56**
- CD #1: Rolled into checking
- CD #2: **\$4,321.55**, maturing October 2

Recent Activity

- Outstanding balances from Dallas and Justin have been paid in full.
- \$40 in checks was deposited.

Spending Discussion

The board discussed future purchases and vendors for:

- Club merchandise
- T-shirts
- Welcome bags
- Pens and promotional items

Any pricing

Jess will ask Tjauna second about pricing for welcome bags.

The board also discussed the Bee Expo ticket budget of approximately **\$200**, including when ticket prices increase and when tickets should be purchased.

II. Extractor Policy

The board revisited the extractor rental policy and discussed whether rentals should continue.

Discussion included:

- Extractors are a member benefit that was included in the 2026 budget and promoted to members.
- Approximately four rentals have taken place this year.
- Extractors are fragile and costly to repair.
- Training is needed for proper operation, transport, and storage.
- The club needs clear procedures for check-out, check-in, and responsibility for equipment.
- Storage and management remain a concern without a permanent location.
- The possibility of requiring a deposit or fee was discussed.
- Club extraction days were suggested as a possible alternative to individual rentals.
- The club will continue to need extractors for apiary operations.

Potential storage at the Zoo was also discussed, including the possibility of a secure 6' x 6' space.

Decision

Motion: Continue using the old extractor under the current arrangement through the end of 2026. All will extractors to stay in one location.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

The long-term extractor policy, including rentals and club extraction days, will be revisited during the November planning meeting.

The board also discussed the importance of:

- Making decisions collectively and presenting a unified approach.
- Trust and respect among officers.
- Protecting the club's relationships and reputation with members, vendors, and neighboring organizations.

III. Membership & Partnerships

- New memberships last month: **2**
- New memberships this month: **4**
- Total members: **190**
- Newsletter subscribers: **133**
- Three newsletter subscribers unsubscribed.

Potential partnerships with **Armco and Otterbein** were discussed.

IV. Bee School Planning

Proposed dates:

- **January 23, 2027**
- **January 30, 2027 — Snow Date**

Action: Anya will follow up regarding Bee School arrangements.

The board also discussed expanding educational opportunities beyond Bee School.

V. Secretary & Communications Update

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were completed and distributed.

Newsletter

Updates included:

- Revised teaching schedule
- Additional hands-on learning opportunities

- Ohio State Beekeepers Association newsletter information

Technology & Website

The board will investigate whether it is practical to consolidate:

- Mailchimp
- WordPress
- Website hosting
- Membership privacy information

Potential consolidation into GoDaddy was discussed, including website, marketing, email, SEO, social media, and e-commerce capabilities.

Decision

Motion: Move old website, hosting and streamline to GoDaddy.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Action: Jess begin the migration process.

VI. Speaker Presentation Fees

The board discussed developing a clearer policy regarding speaker fees.

In the past, the club has paid some non-member or long-distance speakers **\$100** for presentations.

Discussion included:

- Whether speakers should be paid consistently.
- Establishing criteria for payment.
- Strategically budgeting for one or two paid speakers.
- Paying based on expertise, travel, and the value provided to members.

A meeting/education budget of approximately **\$900** was discussed.

The board agreed that a more consistent speaker payment policy should be developed.

VII. Club Apiary Update

Current Operations

For now:

- Extractors will be stored at Bowyer Farm.
- The extractor policy will continue to be refined.
- Instructional videos should be created to demonstrate proper operation and maintenance.
- Loren may assist with filming.

Apiary Maintenance

Laura spoke with Chase regarding lawn care and upkeep. The club may need to purchase a weed eater.

Action: Laura and Anya will continue discussions with Mark regarding honey policies, storage, sheds, and other apiary needs.

VIII. Upcoming Meetings & Events

August 10

Location: Golden Valley Bee Barn

Time: 6:30–7:30 PM

Topic: Honey Extraction & Products of the Hive

Topics and activities may include:

- Honey extraction
- Wax processing and rendering
- Equipment operation
- Determining when frames are ready for extraction
- Transporting and storing frames
- Affordable extraction methods
- Products of the hive

Members are encouraged to bring:

- Honey recipes
- Products made from the hive
- Honey-based food samples to share

Dallas and Anya will assist with demonstrations and hands-on learning.

September 14

Location: Sacred Church

Potential topic:

- Recognizing Varroa Mites & Breeding Resistant Bees

Dallas will lead the meeting, with the final topic to be determined.

Speaker scheduling will be confirmed following the board's decision regarding presentation fees.

October 12

Topic: Preparing Colonies for Winter

Possible breakout sessions will be considered.

November 7 — Holiday Market

November:  Holiday MarketNov72026

The board discussed moving forward with the Holiday Market and identified the following next steps:

- Approve the event.
- Begin advertising.
- Open vendor applications.
- Determine vendor fees, if any.
- Announce a "Save the Date."
- Begin vendor recruitment.
- Create a bee-themed promotional announcement.
- Consider a refreshments booth.
- Explore a possible Zoo ticket raffle.

Vendor Goal: Approximately 12–15 vendors.

The board agreed that early advertising and vendor recruitment are important.

December

No monthly meeting.

Happy Holidays!

IX. 2027 Planning

Tentative Planning Retreat

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Time: 1:00–5:00 PM

Followed by: Dinner at the Golden Lamb

Planning Priorities

- Finalize Bee School dates.
- Reserve the Bee School venue.
- Develop the annual budget.
- Publish a Year-at-a-Glance calendar.
- Review the Mission, Vision, and Goals.
- Expand educational programming.
- Increase workshop offerings.
- Assign volunteer responsibilities.

Beekeeping Boot Camp

The board agreed to explore a small paid **Beekeeping Boot Camp** following Bee School.

Possible features include:

- A four-week format
- Small-group learning
- Additional hands-on instruction
- Advanced beekeeping topics

Action: Dallas will begin outlining curriculum ideas for the Planning Retreat.

X. Action Items

- Jess will ask Tjauna about pricing for welcome bags.
- Anya will follow up regarding Bee School dates and arrangements.
- Investigate consolidating website and communication accounts into GoDaddy.
- Continue refining the extractor policy.

- Develop instructional videos for extractor operation and maintenance.
- Laura and Anya will continue discussions regarding apiary storage and operations.
- Finalize the September meeting topic and speaker arrangements.
- Approve and begin promoting the November 7 Holiday Market.
- Begin Holiday Market vendor recruitment.
- Dallas will develop initial Beekeeping Boot Camp curriculum ideas.
- Officers will prepare for the November 19 planning retreat.