

**Kansas Honey Producers  
Fall Executive Meeting  
Oct 26, 2017 Emporia**

Present: Greg Swob, Chad Gilliland, Norbert Neal, Joli Winer, Bill Vinduska, Kristi Sanderson, Mark Wood, Robert Burns, Jim Morford, and Becky Tipton, Marietta Graham

Also Present: Steve Tipton, Cecil Sweeney, Wanda Morford, Candy Vinduska, and Jim Kellie.

Absent: Carolyn Simpson.

Meeting was called to order at 8pm by President Greg Swob.

The minutes from the spring meeting in Topeka were approved.

Officers Report:

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Joli:** had to change hotel to Best Western the other one is still in renovations. Not many registered for this meeting 60 paid, expecting maybe 10 more to attend. Next meeting will be March 9 -10 in McPherson at the Cedars. Dewey Caron and Randy Oliver will be the speakers. Oct 26, 27, 2018 in Great Bend

I am still wondering what to do about the low turn out to the meetings. Need 70 attendees to break even. Hays had 77 attending. It is the same people attending the meetings, how do we get new people to attend. Cost of the speakers almost the same for 2 day compared to just 1 day meeting. The spring meeting is almost always better attended. Maybe beekeepers are going to the local meetings and feel that they don't need to attend the state meetings. Possibly have a joint meeting with another state, Iowa, Nebraska, or Missouri. Compared other states meeting costs and were compatible. Should we make the spring meeting the big meeting and promote the fun days.

Greg recommended that 3 or 4 people get with Joli and work on proposals for the board. There was a motion made and passed to: Set up an ad hock committee to work with Joli to bring a proposal to the board to decide how to go ahead with the meetings. Kristi, Norbert and Chad volunteered to be on the committee.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Kristi:** felt like had a successful fair. Hutch news reported that the fair attendees were down 10% the first Sat. But group sold a little more that day than last year. There was good weather for the week. The next fair dates are Sept 7 – 16 2018. Area cards were helpful. The lights in the honey judging and booth are still Florescent and need to be changed to LED. Shelving need to be modified with chicken wire on the back side. Items are being stolen from the back by the public. Liquid honey sales were down; the thought was that there are more local beekeepers that have their own honey. The value added products, soap, creamed honey sales were up. We bought 4 barrels this year. I could make up labels to identify the actual yard

that the bottled honey comes from or a different colored sticker for each yard. Buyers want to know where that bottle came from. Also have a map with a pin on the yards with a circle drawn around it at 50 or 100 miles to let people see what is “local”. Bee Source states that 10 miles is immediate, 50 miles local. Most of the state areas have the same floral source. An Air B&B House was rented, it is a 3 bedroom house, instead of a hotel, and cost is about \$50 a night. Jim Morford agreed to help call people to work the 2018 fair booth.

**Bee Yards:** There are 7 yards and there was 1100 pounds given to be sold at the fair. Lost a few hive over the summer but can make them up in the spring with splits. Would like to know how the individual yards are treating for mites so that the members can know what treatments do or do not work.

**3<sup>rd</sup>VP Becky:** There are 2 groups applying for the grant. Lucky stars 4-H Club in Jackson County and Rock Creek 4-H club of Cowley County. Since the grant fund has enough money in it the board moved and accepted that both groups receive grants. It was brought up that the grant recipients need to work at the state fair. It needs to be adults not just children. There should be 1 adult for 1 child when they work.

**Treasurer Robert:** Group treasurer report was presented and the State Fair report was presented. Both were approved

### **Regional Directors:**

**NW:** Mark. Honey production was really up this year because of all the rains. The honey was very light colored. Not having many meetings.

**SW:** Carolyn. Greg gave the report since Carolyn was absent. The mailing list has grown. The NW and SW have pretty much combined since there are so few beekeepers out that way. The goal is to have 2 meetings a year. Liberal Community College would like to start a bee club.

**NC:** Jim. They are meeting every other month. The most well attended meetings are the ones with demos, usually 10 to 40 attend. This year the area had bad “beekeeping” weather.

**SC:** Bill. We had a great May meeting it was a potluck with over 100 attending. We went through hives, had a swarm capture and did a bee beard. We meet the second Sat at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. Usually have around 30 each month. There are hives at the Nature Center that we go through before the meetings. In Nov we will meet in Norwich for a potluck. This year we had our first fun day ‘Bee Fest’ there were 75 attendees. Greg Hannaford was the main speaker.

**NE:** Chad. We had a busy year. Beginning beekeeping classes went well. The fun day in June had 340 attendees. We are working on an apprentice program for Veterans like the youth scholarship program. Had a BBQ in the summer in Topeka, it was indoors and well attended even had speakers. Hive beetles were really bad this year. It was a wet cool year.

**SE:** Norbert. 2 local clubs, Heartland in Pittsburg and Montgomery County Beeks, are going together to have a program where Michael Bush will speak. It will be March 17.

**Nomination Committee:** Talked to Robert and Joli both have agreed to run again. Jim Kellie is open to running for president. The Northern Regional Directors are up for election.

NO OLD BUSINESS.

New Business:

- A. No cost membership for those taking new beekeeping classes. There were some renewals. Notices were sent out that your membership was about to expire. Maybe have regional area directors reach out to those individuals.

A motion was made "offer 1 year membership to KHPA to anyone who takes a beginning beekeeping class in 2018" Motion passed.

- B. State Fair booth staffing: How to improve shift numbers. Personal phone calls are made the last 2 weeks before fair to get workers. There is the B & B for members that work several days can use. With approval from Kristi.
- C. KSU Extension: request they establish a full-time staff for bee/pollinator contact person. Currently there is no funding for a dedicated person. Need to see numbers of how the groups/clubs/Facebook pages have grown to prove a need. This needs to include pollinators and butterfly group's not just honeybees. Regional Directors need to talk to local clubs to do letter writing. Make a letter to send to the KSU contact person, Director of Extension Greg Hadley. Joli passed around a form letter to use. It would be better to send a letter than do emails. Does anyone know Extension Agents that are beekeepers or from a beekeeping family.
- D. Apitherapy education request: Candy Vinduska would like to attend the conference in California. She would then be able to give presentations at future KHPA meetings and at club meetings. This would be a good follow up since we have speakers on this topic. The conference is Nov 10-12, 2017. A motion was made "to fund Candy's trip up to \$2100, and she keep receipts and return any unused funds" motion passed.
- E. Carolyn Simpson. She has missed the last several meetings and will miss the spring 2018 meeting. So she is stepping down as a regional director. Will see if anyone from that area would like to fill that vacancy.
- F. Mother Earth News Fair Funding. The MEN fair is held in Topeka, it is a 2 day event and this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year in Kansas, 14 thousand attending. The NE group normally pays for the booth and then members can sell their honey/bee products there and pay a 10% fee. In 2016 there was quite a bit of honey left from the state fair and it was sold there, with

KHPA splitting the booth fee with NE. The booth is in the dirt arena and rents for \$550; there was a last minute chance to move into the concrete floor arena in a different building. The cost went up to \$1300. One of the members paid the \$750 difference and was asking for reimbursement. It was discussed if the extra cost was worth the money. A motion was made to “reimburse the \$750 paid for the MEN booth” there was no second so the motion failed. The EC felt that we may consider in the future helping pay for part of the booth rent since beekeeping is promoted in general at the booth.

G. Donna Brown passed away and would like to give money in her memory. A motion was made to “give \$250 to the University of Minnesota Bee Lab in memory of Donna Brown”. Motion Passed.

H. How to manage educational funding from KHPA to individuals. Kristi and Robert will get a budget together and see how much is needed to provide a base amount for the running of the state fair, booth rent, ribbons, judge fee, etc. and then we can decide how much of the income from the state fair we will have to give to offset the cost of education or even cover some of the costs of the meetings.

**Next meeting: March 8, 2018, 8pm at the Cedars in McPherson.**

Meeting Adjourned 11:15pm

Marietta Graham, Secretary