

Kansas Honey Producers Association Executive Meeting
March 3, 2022 (Thursday) Salina, Kansas
Hybrid meeting in person at Courtyard Marriot and a zoom meeting

Becky Tipton called the meeting to order at 8pm. Attendance in person was Greb Swob, Robert Burns, Kristi Sanderson, Julie Cahoj, Jim Kellie, Cheryl Burkhead and Nikki Bowman. Attendance by Zoom was Becky Tipton, Sondra Koehn, Tiny Jackson, Jane Kill, Jo Patrick and Joli Winer. Absent was Amy Dikeman and DeeDee Gebhart.

Minutes: Executive Board meeting minutes from Jan regarding the Constitution and By-Laws review previously provided by email from Sondra. No questions, Nikki motioned approval and a second by Julie, all approved. Unfortunately, the recording from the Executive Board meeting on November 4, 2021, was lost and no written minutes were taken.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Burns previously provide financials by email to all board members for review. Per Robert, the fair is good support and financials are in the black. There are 54 registered for this spring conference.

1st VP Report: Greg Swob stated all presenters for the Spring conference will be in person except Gary Reuter will be by Zoom. The fall conference is starting to come together as well. Greg questioned why the attendance numbers are so low. Becky commented other meetings in other states are struggling as well and believes it is related to covid. Some are redirecting their topics, like Mother Earth News is more focused on food.

2nd VP Report: Kristi Sanderson reminded us of the State Fair this year is from September 9th thru the 18th. All three booths that are 10'x10' have been rented and a down payment has secured the Airbnb.

3rd VP Report: Julie Cahoj reported there were no grant applications this year but had a call from someone in the Scott City area that might be interested in one for a community project. Becky had a call from Loren Hall regarding bees in the 4H program. We will see where these go from the online apps they have been directed to use.

Area Regional Directors Reports:

NE: Jo Patrick reported the group is busy with the Jan meeting having a good attendance but Feb not as much. They are now preparing for Funday in June. The silver Maples in the area are starting to bloom.

NC: Nikki Bowman reported no meetings yet but plan to meet in May at the Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina and get back on track for a meeting every other month. The Zoo is not charging for the meeting and has hives to use as hands on observation. Nikki also made business cards to hand out with meeting information.

NW: DeeDee Gebhart was not available so no report.

SE: Tiny Jackson reported several groups in their region are having meetings including a new beekeeper meeting and more are planned for this spring.

SC: Jane Kill reported they have monthly meetings and had a new beekeepers meeting. Attendance still low and thinks that is due to covid. She thinks attendance will increase when they can get into the hives.

SW: Amy Dikeman was not available so no report.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee: (Jim Kellie, Steve Tipton, Brian Withrow) Jim Kellie reported there have been questions regarding a license for bottling honey. The regulations are with the bottling not the extracting. Any licensed kitchen can be used for bottling honey which are easy to find and inexpensive to rent. Other states have "cottage laws" that have a wide variance of weight and financial allowances. Kansas has them as well but are more for the selling side of honey and its products. Do we want to pursue changes with legislation which are expensive and time consuming? It was concluded the association needed to pursue educating the people on the details and regulations on bottling before pursuing any changes in legislation. Jim also mentioned the food bill in the legislation which would have taken tax out of food sales but the bill was pushed out due to so many issues tagged on to it. They may work at stepping down the taxes over time.

Constitution Committee: Julie Cahoj reported that the constitution and by-laws have been reviewed and are ready for a public vote. Kristi brought up a couple of changes that are needed in the by-laws for handling the state bee yards. The group decided to continue with the public vote on the updates that have been made and presented to the public. Additional changes can be reviewed over the coming months and will be presented to the public for a vote at the fall conference.

Cappings Editor report: Nothing to add. The next issues will go out in May and August. It was agreed that if any public announcements need to be published for the fall conference it would be best to add in the August issue.

Old Business: None to discuss.

New Business:

1. If there are any elections or changes of Officers needed to please let President Becky know so they can be prepared for November elections.
2. A webmaster is still needed if anyone has ideas or wants to volunteer.
3. GPMB (Great Plains Master Beekeeper) has a grant to do teachings in apiaries. This is a tier level teaching so it can be done at a university, at permanent apiaries around the state or satellite apiaries meaning they move around to different apiaries. They also test the hives for their research. If we want to do this, we will need to follow their guidelines and regulations which also has insurance coverage. They would like 10 hives so maybe the state hives would be good permanent hives. Becky proposed Kristi get with the state yard committee and review what is need and assign locations and dates. More information will be sent out as this is put together.
4. Kristi brought up the state yard at "SAVE" hives and if the hives need to be moved since there have been some financial difficulties. Nikki reported she has been trying to work with the situation and there is confusion, miscommunications and hives seem to have been lost. It was discussed and the group decided to forgive the loss, but if Nikki could recover any hives in her working with them it would be a plus and she would keep them at her yard for now.
5. Becky brought up promotional materials or ads for KHPA and likes the idea of making cards to hand out like Nikki is doing for the North Central region. She will put some ideas together for review.
6. Discussed how do we increase KHPA membership and participation, but nothing specific was suggested.
7. Joli wanted to know if the group wished to continue the Value-added Zoom Program "Extracting more \$\$ From Your Hives"? The group agreed to continue as people from other states have been joining in and commented how much they liked the meetings. Any topics for this would be appreciated and was suggested we could run the same topic twice maybe from a different presenter for more variety.
8. Greg asked if "Beekeeper of the year" is still active. Yes, it is, the form is on the website. The last one nominated was Stephanie Brown and Mark Mounce and still needs to be presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:28pm by President Becky Tipton with a 1st and 2nd motion from the group.

Minutes submitted by Sondra Koehn