

**Kansas Honey Producers  
Fall Executive Meeting  
October 29, 2015  
McPherson, Kansas**

Present: Steve Tipton, Becky Tipton, Joli Winer, Marietta Graham, Kristi Sanderson, Bill Vinduska, Robert Burns, Greg Swob, Norbert Neal, Carolyn Simpson

Absent: Andy Nowachek (pro tem), Kathy Richardson

Also present: Cecil Sweeney, William Graham, Candy Vinduska, Jim and Wanda Morford, Mark Wood.

Meeting called to order at 8:00pm by President Steve Tipton.

Minutes were approved as written.

Treasures report was submitted by Robert Burns.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Joli Winer:** As of the Friday before only had 40 registered, but as of the 29<sup>th</sup> have a total of 75 registered. Hoping for walk-ins, often more attend on Friday than on Saturday. Wondering how to get more attendance, does the name of the group discourage new beekeepers? It was brought up by Robert that the past newsletters indicated that until the 1970's the group was named Kansas Beekeepers, it was changed to Honey Producers since more members were commercial beekeepers, now there are no commercial beekeepers in the state.

The next meeting will be in Pittsburg, March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There is a new group in the area, Heartland Beekeepers. Since the meeting is close to Missouri and Oklahoma, information will be sent to those area groups. Diana Sammataro will be the speaker Friday and Saturday, and then will be speaking to the NE group's new beekeepers class on Sunday. She is the author of **The Beekeepers Handbook** now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kristi Sanderson:** Thank you to all the volunteers, there was a record attendance this year at the fair, was able to make \$700 more this year than last year. More products were left over but since ran low last year brought in more to sell. Day planners were handed out this year as a thank you; next year planning on giving out hive tools. People asked for names of local beekeepers, did not have a directory, maybe make a postcard with state divided and area directors listed, so they are able to contact them to get local beekeepers. List area clubs with contact information on backside. Need a brochure about pollen. Sign Up Genius had good comments from those who used it, it sent out reminders about the time you signed

up for. There were still a lot of holes in the schedule from people hesitant to sign up on line. Lots of calls were made.

Thinking about having an incentive for working multiple shifts to try to get enough help. Some thoughts were, to be entered into a drawing for having your dues paid for a year, one night paid hotel room, cash, gift card. There would have to be a dead line set to have already signed up for your shifts at the fair, probably 3 weeks before the fair like August 15. Those who helped this year will be called to see if they will help next year.

A lot of liquid honey was left over. Sold about \$2,300 at the Mother Earth Fair. Will be selling a gallon deal of 12 pounds for \$50 any size containers (\$60 at Fair) to those attending the meeting. Barkman's donated the liquid honey containers this year.

The judge did a good job this year, it was agreed that the judging was better than at the Nationals. She gave good notes on the entrants, she has also judged at the Missouri State Fair.

State Bee Yards: This was not a good year for honey all over the state. Steve has 10 hives alive, all new packages in Jackson County. Greg had 16 hives, 4 are alive in Ellis County. Robert has 8 hives from packages in Johnson/ Wyandot Counties, got about 14 gallons of honey. Kristi has 8 hives in Miami County, very little honey. Cecil has 10 hives in Johnson County, made about 300 pounds (1 super/ hive). Hives in the bee yard come from members that donate a hive to become a life member.

Gary LaGrange wants to start a bee yard near Ft. Riley/ Manhattan Kansas area. He will use the hives as part of a teaching tool for Soldiers with PTSD, how to not only keep bees but how to farm.

Joli made a motion to spend up to \$3,500 for Gary LaGrange to start a state bee yard at a location of his choosing. It was seconded by Greg. Vote was taken and approved. This should be enough for 8 to 10 hives depending on the final cost per hive.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Becky Tipton:** Will have hats and shirts for sale, hats are \$20, and the shirts are \$30.

Hive Grants, Browns Busy Bees from Abilene, they had a great year, over came some problems and did wonderful. Rogan wrote a letter explaining why he is not able to come to this meeting, he has qualified for State in Cross Country and it is the same weekend. He is willing to present another time, or do what ever we think would be necessary to make up for missing the meeting. He is also working with K-State doing a video about 4-H projects.

The Boy Scouts will be presenting Sat; they were able to produce honey (dark Catalpa) and entered all the categories at the State Fair.

New Grant Applications: Received 3 applications, one was from String Town Bombers 4-H club in Coffey County, the second one was from RHCH (Reno County Home School Connection). The third one was from the Spring Hill School, an FFA member would like bees, the application was late and was written for an individual. Will check with the NE group to see if they want to pursue an individual scholarship.

The EC will look over the applications and decide if one, both or none will be accepted and let Becky know hopefully this weekend. Acceptance also depends on getting a mentor in that area. Each grant would cost about \$1,200. There was no limit put on the number of grants that can be awarded. Each grant will be individually decided upon.

### **Area Directors:**

**North East:** Andy Nowachek, absent.

**North Central:** Kathy Richardson, absent, Jim Morford spoke. He will try to contact area beekeepers. Had a bad year with 12 hives got maybe 30 pounds of honey.

**South Central:** Bill Vinduska, Taught 2 beginning beekeeper classes last spring 20-25 per class. 3 club meetings 35-50 attendees, mostly new members show up. Have a Yahoo group with 130 members Last spring a bee truck broke down in South Wichita and in the process of transferring the hives dropped a pallet. Through the Yahoo group word got out that help was needed. Members went and picked up the bees and were on the local news. Red Site Box gave the SC group \$500 for scholarships. The State group is holding it since SC doesn't have a checking Account. We also have a Face book page, SCKHPA Beekeepers. We meet at the Great Plains Nature Center the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except May and December. There was yellow and white clover still blooming in August but only got about 1 super per hive.

**North West:** Greg Swob, Ft. Hays State University has a bee club starting up on campus. The NW and SW groups have combined about 52 people on the list and 15-35 come to meetings. Has been a tough honey year, lots of winter losses. Mark Wood from Colby is running for the North West director.

**South West:** Carolyn Simpson, Have been going to the NW meetings. Met in Scott City and Jim Kellie gave a talk “Surviving in a Monoculture Environment”. Have some members selling at the Garden City farmers market, and at the Whimmey Diddle Booth.

**South East:** Norbert Neal, Nothing new to report, got 13 pounds of honey per hive, had the best year in 9 years.

**Cappings:** Greg Swob, Let him know if you hear of anyone is not getting a newsletter. He has had no response on the BBQ (Backyard Bee Questions) section. He might have to submit his own questions.

### **No Old Business**

**New Business:** William Graham, Web Master, asked if he could rework the web site. He would like to move it out of Go Daddy into Blue Host to make it more customized. The EC agreed that he could proceed with the move. Go Daddy is up for renewal January 20 so the new site would need to be done before that.

Carolyn made a motion that the \$500 that Red Site Box donated be earmarked for the SC group, for their use. 2<sup>nd</sup> was made, vote taken, motion passed

Elections: President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer, North East, North Central, North West Regional Directors are up for elections at the general business meeting. Steve asked the Regional Directors to be the nominations committee. Steve also stated that Gary LaGrange is willing to be nominated for President.

Steve thanked everyone and said that he has enjoyed being President and working with everyone.

Meeting Adjourned 11 pm

Nominations Committee met.

Marietta Graham  
Secretary

**Next Meeting, Thursday March 3, 8pm.**