

New Jersey Beekeeping Association
State Meeting Minutes DRAFT
February 9, 2008
Rutgers Agriculture Museum

meeting called to order at about 9:30 by 2nd Vice President Bill Coniglio, standing in for Pete Leighton who could not attend.

Landi Simone spoke about Farmland Assessment Act of 1969, it's restrictions, potential for abuse, and the possibility that the rules may be changed just a bit to allow beekeepers a bit more flexibility in terms of attaining Farmland Assessment. The wording of the proposed legislation is still being reviewed to see what has a good possibility of passing, with the assumption that right now the political climate strongly favors support for beekeeping in New Jersey. Anyone wishing to contact Landi for more information or to make suggestions is encouraged to do so.

Secretary: There was a motion to accept the previous minutes as published on the website, which passed.

Treasurer's Report: read and approved: Total Assets: \$12,986 Members who responded to the request to RSVP for this meeting were commended for their consideration in so doing, which made planning for the meeting much easier. The Treasurer's report was voted on and accepted.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee: **Ray Markely** reported that he and Bob Hughes had reviewed the financial statements from the prior two years and agreed that they fairly represented the state of the organization.

MAAREC - Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium: **Joe Lelinho** reported on the November 2nd meeting of the organization, held at Virginia Tech. Virginia is the 6th member state of the organization, which includes Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Highlights of that meeting are listed below:

Dennis van Englesdorp of Pennsylvania presented an update on CCD. Basically the bottom line is that one year later there is "no smoking gun" and the issue may have multiple factors at play: stress, environmental toxins and pesticides, nosema, malnutrition, possibly re-emerging pathogens. Varroa was not considered a factor.

A small percentage of so-called "dark bees" in Europe have contracted CCD. Both coumaphos and apistan residues have been found in high levels in beeswax, reducing the sperm levels in drones by 50%. ApiLife-Var can have the same impact on the sperm level of drones. Because these residues are showing up in commercially produced wax foundation, one suggestion was to use plastic foundation whenever possible.

The second part of the meeting dealt with Africanized honey bees. In Virginia there are many feral colonies near ports that have been subjected to random testing. 5 colonies of AHB were found in Virginia, with queens that came from the South. Maryland found no colonies with AHB, but beekeepers there as elsewhere have been advised not to buy bees from Texas, where many of the AHB colonies appear to be sourced. PA has worked to develop a positive relationship with local newspapers. There is a bee inspector's workshop to be held at the Beltsville Bee Lab in Maryland in early March.

Website: Janet Katz reported that the website is doing very well. Copies of past state newsletters are now available on the website. Current newsletters will be posted there after a small delay. Minutes will also be posted there. Photos are somewhat up to date on the website – if anyone has submitted any that are not posted yet, please let Janet know. The branch calendars are also updated to the extent the information has been submitted. If any branch has new calendar information please contact Janet.

Honey Show: Janet Katz reported a 25% increase in entries this year. Bill Troupe from Maryland was the judge this year, along with Cybil Preston. There were a few fine tunings of the rules that were indicated during the show. Remember there is only one entry per member per class. There was one class where the assigned number of points did not add up properly. There was also an issue that came up such that next year there will be a tear-off on the entry form and those slips will be collected separately from the entries themselves, so that the collected slips can be compared against the slips to make sure all entries are accounted for. Anyone with comments or suggestions are encouraged to contact Janet directly. ALL comments are welcome.

Entries, judging sheets, and prize money checks will be available today. Pictures ribbon winners will be taken today as well.

Newsletter: Angelo Trapani said there was a tab problem with the last mailing, but it seemed to be taken care of. The pesticide registration forms should be sent into the state so that beekeepers will be notified of local spraying that might impact their hives. Calendar items should be sent to Angelo as well as any other suggestions for material that could go in the newsletter.

Dimlin Letter of Concern: Landi Simone worked up a letter to NJ DEP and the NJ Dept of Agriculture expressing our concern that the use of Dimlin be considered carefully because of its potential impact on honey bees. Elayne Leighton found that the state was considering the use of a growth hormone regulator known as “Dimlin” and she did a lot of research on this pesticide. There was a motion which passed to put the text of the letter on the website.

Constitution: Bill Coniglio summarized the changes to the constitution that were posted in the newsletter and broke them down into components that were each voted on and approved.

Rutgers Bee Researcher Position: Ed Kosenski reported that Rutgers has seen several outstanding candidates and a decision may be made soon, possibly by the end of February. This is a six year tenure-tracked position, and the final 10 candidates have been isolated. 50% of the position is funded based on research; 30% is based on extension and

technology transfer; and 20% is based on teaching undergraduate courses and mentoring students. George Hamilton reported that he was very pleased with the candidates. He said he appreciated the impact on the effort by Bea Tassot, Ed Kosenski, and Tim Schuler to assist in reviewing the candidate pool. Bill Coniglio said that he felt that Cook College and Rutgers had a great reputation in agriculture education and the beekeepers look forward to strengthening their relationship with Rutgers.

Eastern Apicultural Society: Dave Peregmon reported that the next meeting will be in Kentucky, following the most recent meeting at the University of Delaware.

Ag Week- Grant Stiles reported that Ag Week went very well, and he thanked the membership for putting in a good showing at the Honey Show, it was probably the largest honey show we've had in some time. There was a wildlife damages resolution that was passed at the convention that might possibly lead to some form of restitution for bear losses at apiaries. Land use discussions regarding the use of state lands for apiaries is in a bit of "legal limbo" right now as Trenton works out some potential pitfalls in the plan.

Bee Inspector: Tim Schuler reported that the honey show was a big hit during Ag Week, and some delegates wanted to buy honey. Tim is doing hands-on workshops on American Foul Brood with the objective of covering all of the branches in the organization. Tim will also be involved in the upcoming Essex County short course on May 13th, and the Rutgers short course April. The state is resurrecting the stipend grant program offering \$300 in funding for 50 new beekeepers this year. Tim urged members to register their yards with DEP by March 1st.

Constitution: Bill Coniglio led the membership on a vote to approve the changes to the Constitution as posted in the Newsletter. All proposed changes were approved. The final document will be posted on the website.

Elections: Curtis Crowell reported that Bea Tassot is stepping down as president, and Pete Leighton would nominally become president if no one else is interested. There were no nominations from the floor. There were no other nomination, and thus there was motion to accept the slate as nominated which was seconded and passed. The third vice president position is still open, with Pete becoming president and Bill Coniglio becoming first vice president.

A motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting was made and passed.