

RALEIGH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 15, 2016

ROLL CALL – The Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association met in regular session on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 6:30PM at Munson Hall with the following members present: President, Mark K. Lilly, Secretary, Debra Baer, Treasurer, R. Darrin Butcher and Vice President, Robert K. Jarrell was absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA /ADJUSTMENTS

R. Darrin Butcher called the meeting to order and requested approval of the agenda. Mr. Butcher made the motion to approve the agenda, Trina Fitzwater, seconded, motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

- There was no recognitions

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

- **Board Reports** - R. Darrin Butcher and Mark Lilly reported on a conversation that they had with Appalachian Headwaters, an organization created out of the Alpha & Patriot Coal bankruptcies. The goal of the organization is to reclaim mine property and plant native trees and flowers. Another goal of the organization is to have over 3K hives and have an extraction location at their main center at Camp Lightfoot in Summers County, WV. Loans of hive and equipment would be given to those below poverty level and that loan would be paid off in honey provided to the extraction center. Mr. Butcher stated that he and Mr. Lilly would reach out again to the organization in January with the hopes of creating a partnership to increase the Association membership and create an education opportunity and possible grant sharing opportunity going forward.

Mr. Lilly and Mr. Butcher gave beekeeping presentations to students at Liberty High School to garner interest in the cooperative agreement with Raleigh County Schools. Eleven students expressed interest at Liberty High School and 14 expressed interest at Shady Springs High School. Posters will be provided to each school regarding the Beekeeping initiative. Mr. Butcher and Mr. Lilly will also give a presentation to the second semester students in January and get a final total of students to take the Beginning Beekeeping Course in February.

- **Other Reports**
 - Mr. Butcher stated that the Raleigh County Board of Education approved the cooperative agreement with the RCBCA at the December 13, 2016 Board meeting. Mr. Butcher and Mr. Lilly stated that the RCBCA hopes to have the apiary work completed no later than late March/early April. The RCBOE will pay for all equipment, textbooks, hives, and materials for the apiary yard. RCBCA will provide the training for students and instructors and hive management. Mr. Lilly stated that the RCBCA MOU with RCBOE is the first of its kind in WV and we hope to partner with other organizations going forward.
 - Mr. Mark Lilly provided the group with the second part of a presentation on Bee Disease.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- A discussion was had regarding the dates for the Beginning Beekeeping course in February / March. A decision was made to have the course starting on Monday, February 6th through February 27th at Munson Hall from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Can also possibly do a four hour course on Saturdays, February 11th and 18th. Mr. Lilly stated he would also come out and offer at least one visit to new beekeeper hives and offer assistance. Mr. Lilly also stated that some of the membership would need to assist as volunteers to help other new beekeepers.

- Mr. Butcher requested members to sign up to be a volunteer to assist with the Beginning Beekeeping course. The following members signed up:

R. Darrin Butcher	Bobby Jarrell
Ritchie Redden	Mark Lilly
Debra Baer	Trina Fitzwater
- Mr. Butcher requested members to sign up to be a volunteer to assist with brush cutting / removal at the new apiary yard at Peters Farm in Cool Ridge. The following members signed up:

R. Darrin Butcher	Bobby Jarrell
Ritchie Redden	Tresia Mason
Debra Baer	Mark Lilly
Trina Fitzwater	Phillip Stumpf
- Mr. Butcher requested members to sign up to be a volunteer to assist with the layout design/construction of the apiary yard at Peters Farm in Cool Ridge. The following members signed up:

R. Darrin Butcher	Bobby Jarrell
Ritchie Redden	Tresia Mason
Debra Baer	Mark Lilly
Trina Fitzwater	Randy Smithson

Mr. Butcher stated that he would send some correspondence to attempt to get some funding through the state for the electric fencing for the apiary yard.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – There were no policies or procedures to be considered.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Approve minutes of the November 15th meeting. Mr. Butcher made the motion to approve, Mark Lilly seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- Future meetings/events: Regular Meeting – Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 6:30 PM – Munson Hall
Honeybee Expo – Parkersburg, WV, Saturday, January 28, 2017

NEW BUSINESS –

- Approve volunteers to assist with beginning beekeeping course
R. Darrin Butcher made the motion to approve. Trina Fitzwater seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approve volunteers to assist with new apiary yard
Mark K. Lilly made the motion to approve. Debra Baer seconded it. Motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT –The meeting adjourned by consensus.

RALEIGH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Mark A. Lilly, President