

## **RALEIGH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, February 16, 2017

**ROLL CALL** – The Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association met in regular session on Thursday, February 16, 2017 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.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA /ADJUSTMENTS**

R. Darrin Butcher called the meeting to order and requested approval of the agenda. Robert Jarrell made the motion to approve the agenda, Mark Lilly, seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

- There were no recognitions

### **COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**

- Board Reports - No Board Reports.
- Other Reports
  - R. Darrin Butcher, Treasurer provided an update regarding association membership and on Beginning Beekeeping Course enrollment. Mr. Butcher stated the Association membership has increased to 58 members. There are another 17 students/instructors from Raleigh County Schools signed up for the course. The students/instructors that complete the course will become automatic members of the Association. Demand for the Beginning Beekeeping course has been excellent. Due to demand, a second Beginning Beekeeping Course has been added for Saturday, March 4 and Saturday, March 11, 2017. 41 people so far have signed up – 25 for the Monday night sessions and 16 for the Saturday class. There are another 17 students/instructors signed up. Mr. Lilly commented on the increase in membership and stated that there are 27 other associations in WV and that the RCBCA could be the one of the largest associations in the state in two months which is impressive since the group is less than a year old.
  - R. Darrin Butcher provided the Treasurers' update to the group.
  - Mr. Butcher handed out membership cards and passed around a sample embroidery of the Association logo and discussed the opportunity for the group to purchase items such as hats, shirts, etc. to wear at events. Mr. Butcher, the cost is \$20 fee for the embroidery plus the cost of the item.
  - Mark Lilly, President provided an update to the group regarding the WVBA Executive Meeting. Mr. Lilly stated that members of the WVBA would receive an electronic copy of the spring Newsletter. Some of the items discussed at the meeting was the Honeybee Expo at Parkersburg had 411 in attendance. Agriculture Day at the State Capitol is February 22, 2017 – Mr. Butcher will be one of the representatives for the WVBA. One of the initiatives the group will pursue in changing the Apiary registration law to June 30 instead of December 31 each year. A move supported by Dept. of Agriculture Inspector Wade Stiltner to provide a more accurate count of the number of apiary yard and colonies in WV. Appalachian Headwaters has a job opening for a head beekeeper. Camp Lightfoot will be turned into a Beekeeping Education Center in Summers County. They have ordered 175 nucs with another 100 to be ordered. The RCBCA will be the closet Association to the group and should see benefits from that relationship. The idea of Regional Groups of Associations was discussed.

Spring Conference was discussed and will be on April 21-22, 2017 in Wheeling. It is the WVBA 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in coordination with the Tri State Beekeepers Assoc., the WVBA will have a video presentation of 100 years of beekeeping in the state at the Spring Conference. This video will be available to all associations in the state.

- Mr. Lilly discussed the WVBE Association Education Fund Fundraiser Donation Raffle. All proceeds benefit the WVBA Education Fund. It is the way the WVBA association pays for educational speakers and provides shared funding to associations in the state to provide local speakers. The cost is \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets. Tickets must be turned into the WVBA by August. Do not have to be present to win – 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$100, 4<sup>th</sup> prize \$100. \$100 worth of tickets sent to each association to be sold by club members.
- Mr. Butcher discussed a National Honeybee Day partnership with the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine and the RCBCA. The RCBCA was contacted by the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine to partner on a National Honeybee Festival to be held on August 19, 2017. Would like for the RCBCA to provide recommendations regarding activities. Conversations have centered around beekeeping hands on presentations/demonstrations throughout the day for guests. They would like the RCBCA to provide PowerPoint presentations centered around honeybees, preservation and beekeeping. Beckley Exhibition Mine/Youth Museum would provide joint advertising opportunities across five platforms. Their websites/Facebook has over 15K followers. They would provide the RCBCA with a large tent for displays and to sell honey in a beekeeper/buyer opportunity. Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine would like to include other entities that provide education around beekeeping (i.e. New River Technical, App. Headwaters, etc.). If approved by the RCBCA membership, Mr. Butcher and Mr. Lilly would meet with the Exhibition Mine personnel to develop an outline for the day and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Mr. Butcher stated that member of the RCBCA met on Saturday, February 11 to discuss the Apiary yard design and come up with the materials listing to provide a cost estimate to the Raleigh County Board of Education. Mr. Butcher thanked those that attended the meeting and stated it was very productive and informative. The committee also went to the Peters Farm location to discuss construction. Mr. Redden agreed to provide equipment and some materials needed for construction. Darius Wills agreed to provide the six hive boxes necessary for three hives. RCBCA members will assist in construction of the Apiary Yard. Raleigh County Schools will provide stone for the Apiary Yard and stone to fix the road leading to the site. Total construction/materials costs are projected to be approx. \$5,000. Meeting was held with the Vocational Director of Raleigh County Schools and beekeeping equipment and materials were ordered. The Vocational School will design the hive stands and provide to the RCBCA. The Vocational School also may provide a building for the site. Mr. Lilly stated that all work would be documented for possible inclusion in a future article in a Beekeeping publication. He stated that this was a ground breaking project to teach students about beekeeping, whether short or long term.
- Mr. Lilly provided the group with three different Hive Inspection Forms for use in their Apiaries and encouraged the group to use to assist in identification of hive problems and to also assist other RCBCA members when coming to inspect hive issues.
- Mark Lilly, President provided a discussion to the group about Spring expectations and best practices for February – April. Emergency feeding, pollen substitutes, water

sources, equipment needs, hive locations and requirements, hive beetles and other topics were discussed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –

- There was no unfinished business to discuss.

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

**CONSENT ITEMS**

- Approve minutes of the December 15<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Barney Wall made the motion to approve. Robert Jarrell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Future meetings/events: Regular Meeting – Thursday, March 16, 2017 – 6:30PM – RCBOE Central Office - Munson Hall  
Beginning Beekeeping Course, each Monday, February 13, 2017 through Monday, March 6, 2017 – 6:30PM to 8:30PM – RCBOE Central Office – Munson Hall  
Beginning Beekeeping Course, Saturday, March 4, 2017 and Saturday, March 11, 2017 – 10:00AM to 2:00PM – RCBOE Central Office – Munson Hall.  
WVBA Spring Conference, April 21-22, 2017, Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, WV  
WVBA Executive Board Meeting, Saturday, June 3, 2017, Flatwoods, WV

**NEW BUSINESS** –

- Authorize the President and Treasurer to pursue agreement in principle with the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine/Southern WV Youth Museum for National Honeybee Day with update to be provided at the next monthly meeting  
Trina Fitzwater made the motion to approve. Randall Smithson seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT** –The meeting adjourned by consensus.

RALEIGH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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Mark A. Lilly, President