

RALEIGH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 16, 2017

ROLL CALL – The Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association met in regular session on Thursday, March 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. Mark K. Lilly made the motion to approve the agenda, Barney Walls, seconded, motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

- There were no recognitions

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

- Board Reports - No Board Reports.
- Other Reports
 - R. Darrin Butcher, Treasurer provided a final update on enrollment for the Beginning Beekeeping Class and stated that 47 students achieved their novice certification. Membership currently stands at 66 regular members and 6 student/instructor members for a total of 72 association members. .
 - Mr. Butcher provided a power-point update on the Peters Farm Apiary yard. Excavation has been completed and the existing building moved. A big thanks to Ritchie Redden for all his work on the Apiary Yard. Hive stands rims have been provided to the Vocational School welding program for construction/painting. Hive equipment has been ordered and most of the equipment received. Two nucs have been sourced with expected delivery around May 1st. One package of bees has been sourced. Six hive boxes will be provided by Darius Wills. Road fabric and pins are available. Limestone gravel will be provided by the Raleigh County Board of Education when needed. The Raleigh County Academy of Careers and Technology will provide a building currently under construction for the Apiary Yard with electrical hookups.
 - Mr. Butcher discussed the details of the Memorandum of Understanding between the RCBCA and the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine/Youth Museum for National Honeybee Day. The event will take place the third Saturday in August annually and will be on August 19, 2017 at the Beckley Exhibition Mine. There will be Power-point and video presentations about honeybees. There will be live honey bee demonstrations, display tents, equipment and demonstration hives, youth activities and area vendors along with the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. RCBCA members will be the exclusive provider of local honey to sale at the event at rates pre-determined by the membership of the RCBCA. Beckley Exhibition mine will be providing a tent or screened area for the live hive demonstrations as well as advertising and banners publicizing the event. Mr. Butcher stated that there will be many items to accomplish prior to the event such as: gathering information from the WV Dept. of Agriculture/WVU Extension Services; development of a RCBCA brochure for handout at the event, purchasing banners, completion of the RCBCA website, equipment and

other items to display at the event, honey labeling classes for members to get approved labels for their honey prior to the event. All honey sold by RCBCA must be properly labeled with approved WVDOA labels; volunteers to assist at the event; kids activities. Mr. Lilly also discussed the need for members to enter honey in the State Fair this year for experience as this may be something the group would also want to do as a part of National Honeybee Day in the future. Areas judged are bottle honey, cut comb honey, wax blocks, candles, and baked goods.

- Mr. Butcher also provided an update on the website design. RCBCA has found a web master to help with design. Website hosting has been purchased for 36 months at \$178.20. Our new website address will be www.raleighcountybeekeepers.com. From our webpage, we will have access to a Facebook page, WV Beekeepers and other relevant websites for beekeepers. We hope to have a Marketplace where members can post items for sale. Agendas, minutes, and relevant forms will be accessible. A committee will be formed to design and complete the webpage.
- Mark Lilly, President provided a discussion to the group about Swarms and Splits, when to do them, tools needed, timing, how to do identify swarm cells vs. supercedure cells, how to do a split and why. Mr. Lilly also provided general information regarding swarm traps, equipment needed to catch a swarm, baits, location and different types of traps. Vendors were on hand to discuss some beekeeping products sold locally by the Computer Chic and Terry Dillon.

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 February 16th meeting. Trina Fitzwater made the motion to approve. Barney Wall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Future meetings/events: Regular Meeting – Thursday, April 20, 2017 – 6:30PM – 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 –

- Approved Memorandum of Understanding between the Raleigh County Beekeepers Cooperative Association and the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine/Youth Museum
Robert Jarrell made the motion to approve. Detlef Ulfers seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT –The meeting adjourned by consensus.

RALEIGH COUNTY BEEKEEPERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Mark A. Lilly, President