

## ECWBA Meeting Minutes

Nov 18, 2017

*Location:* Green Lake Caestecker Library,

Meeting called to order by Patti Ingram at 9:34

Attendance: 6

Introduction of members- where are you from, how are your hives doing

### Discussion

- Lost hives already. Possibly wiped out by yellow jackets...?
- Winterization methods
  - Insulation on outside
  - Insulation on top and bottom
  - Moisture board
- Bees don't seem to like black plastic foundation. Duragilt was mentioned that it's a twist on the traditional plastic frame because it's a thin plastic sheet covered in beeswax that slides into wood frames. Yellow plastic foundation is also available and you can spread melted beeswax on the frames before inserting them into the hive.

### Secretary Report

### Treasurer Report

### Committee Reports

- 501c3 Report
  - Committee went to the Dodge / Jefferson Beekeepers (501c6) meeting on Nov 12 to gather information from a fellow 501c club.
  - Dodge has an agricultural focus where we would be educational.
  - One of the requirements is to have a constitution
    - A constitution was drawn up and presented at the meeting
    - Should we add a quorum
    - Should we add bylaws, ex: for voting
    - Tabled to Dec meeting
  - Benefits- reduces liability by becoming an LLC and having insurance, can do fundraising, apply for grants, charitable donations will be tax deductible to donors, tax exempt
  - Drawbacks- paperwork, filing taxes-990, cost of having insurance
  - Initial and Yearly costs
  - Start with being an LLC-non profit corporation and get EIN
- WI Honey Producers Fall Convention Report
  - David Tarcy- quality of commercial queens
    - University of North Carolina did a blind study on queens to see if the issues with packaged bees are because of inferior breeding
      - 144 queens were analyzed (12 queens from 12 different breeders)
      - Today's queens are equivalent to the 1940s queens with the exception of nosema, that didn't exist in the 1940s
      - Queens averaged 15.4 matings and had viable sperm in their spermatheca
      - Focus is now being centered on the colony workers

- Marla Spivak- bee health and nutrition
  - Bees prefer non-native plants
  - University of Minnesota is researching pollen content in honey to try and determine favored plants
- Ross Conrad- natural beekeeping methods
  - Elevated CO2 levels in the atmosphere are causing plants to produce higher amounts of sugar and lower amounts of protein which is less nutritious to bees
  - One beekeeper used 2:1 syrup with 4x the recommended amount of Honey-Bee-Healthy to treat dwindling colonies. When the bees refused it, it was poured over the frames of bees to force them to take it. After multiple applications, the bees recovered and thrived. This is something that needs to be researched.

### Old Business

- Extractor- pallet is attached but not installed at Rushford Meadery and Winery yet
- Damon Reabe Presentation - no date locked in yet

### New Business

- Consensus is to have a Dec meeting on the 3rd Sat
- Do members prefer 2nd Sat or 3rd Sat for meetings - tabled to Dec meeting
- Acceptance of the club Constitution -tabled to Dec meeting
- Possible Fund Raising Efforts
  - Beginning Beekeeping Class and/or Intermediate Beekeeping Class
    - Certification shouldn't be needed
    - Possibility of having a two part class Oct/Nov for beginning knowledge and basics, Dec breakaway at meeting for any questions, and Jan/Feb for mentoring
    - Advertising - flyers, newspapers, local media, blog
    - Facility - a library, Ripon College

### Announcements

- January Meeting will be voting for President and Secretary
- February 19 - Markesan Library Presentation 6pm

Next Meeting Dec 16th, Green Lake Caestecker Library 9:30am

Meeting Adjourned 11:06

Caestecker Library provided coffee and doughnuts.  
Patti brought water and honey corn muffins with raisins.