

## West Plains Beekeeping Association

### Minutes for November 2, 2012

Meeting was called order at 6:40 PM.

Minutes from last month's meeting were approved and seconded.

First, per last month's meeting, we will have a panel discussion regarding the wintering of bees.

Don – Wintered his bees last year with sugar and painters' paper and poked holes in the paper. Come spring, the bees did quite well. This year, he will use a mixture of sugar with mega-bee and vitamins which he purchased from Jim Miller.

Rob – Has his hives located on a hill. Three winters ago, he lost four hives. He feels he needs to build a wind break or move the hives. One hive is very aggressive; he has thought about killing it, but hasn't done anything with it yet.

Gail – The first-year with the hive was a disaster. The hive was put on blocks, however, it was set in a low-lying area and a puddle formed under the hive. It was too wet and the bees did not get fed enough. This year, our two new beehives are doing much better.

Discussion: Drivat's sugar versus regular sugar. Kevin Oldenburg suggested an experiment using synthetic nectar versus sugar. We would keep track of outside temperatures for a certain period of time. Jim Miller suggested we start in January. We would need to sign up 10 people. It was suggested that a group meet on November 16 at 6 PM to set up procedures.

#### Old Business:

The bee class will start on November 3. Jim Miller said he has everyone he needs for the class.

On January 12, we will have a showing of "Nicotine Bees" at EWU in Showalter Hall room 109. This will last from 1 to 5 PM. From 1 to 2 PM, there will be a talk on bees, from 2 to 4 PM, we will show the movie, and from 4 to 5 PM, there will be time for questions. The EWU "SELL" group will be there. Also, we should probably invite Turnbull to set up a table. We will need handouts. We are not allowed to sell honey, however, we could have a tasting and cards available where people can buy honey. It is also possible that Jim's books will be available.

For the website, should we set up information on the site regarding where people can get resources. West Plains Beekeeping members should get preference. There was some concern about complications because we are a nonprofit. It was pointed out that a nonprofit can earn up to \$25,000 without having to file a return, however, for anything over that amount, the filing is more complicated. No one seemed to feel that it would be a problem for our group. Should we fundraise and why - Our aim is to meet, discuss, and educate people about bees. With more money, we could reach more people. Also, should we allow advertising on our website? Money could be used for additional brochures and supplies. A motion was made for Kevin to chair a committee to explore getting a grant for a research study on honey production.

It was noted that we will need to advertise the January movie. We should probably advertise in the Inlander. There's an EWU student who can help with advertising. A motion was made to have this EWU student do the advertising for us online. Jack has set up a counter on the website.

Rob received an e-mail regarding natural beekeeping books called "Handbook of Natural Beekeeping". Would we be interested in purchasing these books? If 25 books or more are ordered, the cost would be \$4.75 each. The order requires that we pay up front and we would need to order by November 21. The question arose as to whether this was real or a scam. Who is the author of the books? As we will need more information, we will table this for now.

#### Education Committee:

Jim – ACDI/FOCA e-mailed Jim to ask if he would like to go to Egypt to help the beekeepers. The trip would be paid for by US Aid. Jim would be making a presentation to the Federation of Arab beekeepers about feeding, moisture, and queens. The trip would be from November 23 to December 8. Jim sent his resume and is waiting to hear back. Upon his return from Egypt, Jim would like to give one or two presentations regarding the trip.

For the beekeeping class scheduled to start on November 3, the cost is \$30 per family, \$10 for the class and \$20 per membership. So far, five people have signed up one has canceled.

December presentation – Ellen will be discussing what's happening in the hive.  
January presentation – Bee communication or a presentation on Egypt.

#### Membership Committee:

The question was asked, do we have a new membership form? Yes, we do, someone will get a copy to membership. Sherry has a list of all members' e-mails. Also, is it possible to put a members only list on the website.

#### New Business:

It was suggested that we record some of the lectures and put them on YouTube or a podcast. However, we don't want to just give them away for free. You would have to be a member in order to view the lectures. In addition, we could set up classes online, which would be helpful to people out of the area. Anybody wishing to take a class would need to become a member. It was asked if we should we still have the class in person or just online, or should we do both. We will discuss this further.

#### Treasurers Report:

Our bank balance as of last month was \$985.95. This month, two new members were added, increasing the account by \$40, for a total of \$1025.95. There are two invoices which need to be paid. These will appear on the report for next month.

#### Other:

There is a man named Lars Nisan who lives in the area and has been a beekeeper for many years. Martin spoke with him to get some of his secrets as to why he has nectar flow for a longer period of time. Lars said one of the things he has is a late blooming plant called the Seven Sons. Spokane Community College greenhouse/nursery carries this type of plant if anyone is interested.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.