

West Plains Beekeepers Association

August 18, 2017

Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA

- 6pm-6:30pm** Social Hour
- 6:30pm-7:10pm** Education Program: Erin O'Rourke from WSU Bee Diagnostic lab talked about her role in USDA survey of hives and covered information about current research and what the WSU lab provides.
- 7:10pm** Meeting called to order by Ellen Miller @ 7:10pm

Approval of the July Meeting minutes: Motion made by Jim Miller, 2nd, approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin Ryan – nothing new to report. Approximately \$4,000 in the bank currently.

Education:

- Marilyn asked members in attendance to sign up for the Airway Heights festival on August 19.
- September presentation will be Fall Management. Club is looking for someone new to do the presentation. If you are interested, please let us know. Also, if you have any ideas for upcoming education programs, please contact Margo or Marilyn.
- Youth Ops (Jenifer Priest reporting): 9 youth finished the WPBA course with a field day on August 14. The kids were excited about the hands on portion of the class. Youth Ops will need WPBA help with fall management.
- Beginning beekeeping classes scheduled for November 2017 and March 2018.
 - Depending on interest, WPBA may schedule a beginning class for February 2018
 - Kevin, Margo and Ellen met with Erik Budsberg with EWU's sustainability program; Kevin will connect with student club about possibility of holding a class for EWU students
 - Jenifer said that she has talked to a business in the West Central neighborhood that may provide a location for classes there
 - Jim Miller would like to find a location/dates/times for a Journeyman class in February

Publicity:

- The club decided not to proceed with the recipe project as there has been no interest from other clubs
- WPBA has been approached by ReImagine Medical Lake to produce a brochure about bee friendly neighborhoods. Ellen plans to start working on this shortly.

Research:

- Dr. Jenifer Walke was introduced and welcome. She is new to EWU and did her dissertation on bacteria that benefits frogs/amphibians. Her post-doctoral research focused on honeybees and their gut symbionts. She is interested in probiotics and their benefit to honeybees and how the

use of antibiotics, pesticides and other introduced pathogens affect/disrupt honeybee digestion. She is interested in collaborating with local beekeepers.

- Kevin Oldenburg let Dr. Walke know that the club is looking for research opportunities.

Airway Heights Correctional Center: Jim Miller – AHCC has educated 40 apprentice beekeepers and has 11 men in the Journeyman class. Joe Miller is working with Jim and AHCC to produce a new Journeyman textbook for their class. Jim reported that, with the WPBA donation of books, the AHCC has one of the best recourse centers on bees that he has seen. The AHCC hives are doing well, and Jim expects to get 15 gallons of honey from 8 hives. AHCC also has minimum security prisoners who are interested in working on honeybee hives in the community. Jim suggested that EWU could explore hiring this group to care for its hives in the summer.

EWU Sustainability Project:

Kevin, Margo and Ellen met with Erik Budsberg. Kevin expressed disappointment to Erik that the club had not received the report from Emily, and he was following up with Emily's contact info from Erik. The following was covered:

- EWU is planning on returning farmland to native Palouse plants, which would provide more food/nutrients for honeybees
- EWU and WPBA co-hosting a conference in November 2018
- WPBA working with the student Sustainability Club to educate EWU students about bees and getting them to care for the EWU hives
- The possibility of WPBA getting classroom space at EWU

Erik was open to working with WPBA on these items.

Website: Jack Miller had nothing to report.

Washington State Beekeepers Association: There has been little feedback from education group within the Washington State Beekeepers Association regarding changes to current education program. After speaking with the WaSBA president, Ellen has the go-ahead to produce an apprentice beekeeping book that focuses on hobbyist beekeeping in the Inland NW. She will start working on it using the curriculum from the Youth Ops education program and will have something for the November beginning beekeeping class. Jim Miller suggested that it could be "beta tested" on the apprentice beekeeper students at the Airway Heights Correctional Center.

Request to adjourn: Jim Miller motion to adjourn at 8:10pm

Submitted by:

Margo Buckles (for Jan Lawrence, secretary)