

West Plains Beekeepers Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2012 6:30-8pm at the Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA

Educational Program: Jack Miller - The Hive in Winter

Rob Henry opened the meeting 6:30

Old business:

- Request for a password protected page on the website with member contact information. Julia Zurcher will research password protection options and share with Rob Henry.
- Need to finalize membership list.
- **Jack Miller** presented Google analytics result for WPBA webpage, 32 visitors for the month of November.
- Turnbull booth confirmed for *Nicotine Bees* showing, possible honey tasting, equipment demonstration as well. Discussed options for local advertising and promotion venues for event.
- Look at expanding social media presence through Youtube and Facebook.

New business:

- **Fred Pollard** elected chair of Social Media Committee.
 - Social Media Committee: Look at creating and posting Youtube videos, expanding WPBA web presence and driving traffic to website.
 - Possibly set up an RSS feed?
- Motion approved to support **Synthetic Honey Project**: Do bees do better on synthetic honey or sucrose?
 - Request for email to be sent for 5 or more beekeepers to volunteer hives to be a part of the project. Those beekeepers are asked to meet Friday the 21st of December at 6:00p.m. to finalize grant for submission.

Events:

- *Nicotine Bees* showing at EWU on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in room 109 at Showalter Hall.

Treasurer's Report

- Present balance: \$1070.99

Motion- minutes as read – 7:12

Old business-

- Address registration system to collect phone numbers/email address of group members. Where will this be on the website? Post on website. How will we address making this available and to whom. What if members do not want their information available? We should also have an option for unsubscribe.
- Amend membership form to reflect change in information availability.
- Deferred for further implementation- Julia Zurcher will look into making the website accessible only to members.
- Jack- Looked at website using Google analytics. Average around 6 to 8 people viewing the website. 32 for the month of November. Want to explore further and see how to improve website. Not much reason for people to visit,
- Address uploading videos to youtube – sometime in Spring, perhaps electing a subcommittee to meet outside of established meeting times. Are we going to elect a media chair? -7:26
- What other events will be at the movie showing? Honey tasting, Turnbull booth, WPBA booth, bee nests, keep in mind cannot sell, only demonstrate. Beekeepers could bring equipment for display.
- Advertising for movie – Advertise to the greater community of Spokane, EWU students, no-cost educational Press release, Inlander, Cheney Free Press, Spokesman Review, Unitarian Church newsletter? Downtown Spokane indoor farmers market, other co-ops, public libraries, 10 county and 5 city library. Local NPR station? Craigslist. Humanist focus group.
- Discussion of social media group/committee.
- Old business – Push for youtube video to move forward, videos in infrared. Shoot hives in the winter, start uploading content.

New business

- Fred Pollard – chair of social media committee.
- Discussion of what we are feeding bees: Do bees do better on synthetic honey vs. sucrose. 9 hives will be association hives, 3 won't be fed at all, 3 hives fed sucrose, 3 fed synthetic honey. Look at parasite loads, general health and honey production. Experiment over a 2 year period. Hives all in the same location. Asking for 5, or more, beekeepers who would like to set up hives in the same study. Not asking for these beekeepers to do no-feed. Does mean that you cannot treat for fungal, bacteria or parasite load. There is a chance you could lose a hive over this experiment. Asking for volunteers to look at grant, which is at 85%, hoping to submit by end of year. Breed of bee may be an issue not under control. Hopes for publishing later on, no one else has done experiments on effects of bee feeds.
- Request for email to be sent to members for other volunteers.

- Request for formal letter of endorsement from WPBA to send with grant
- Volunteers will need to abide by strict set of rules/regulation
- Grant will cover feed expenses for the two-years
- Main requirement is taking weights

Motion for club to official support the Synthetic Honey Project – Ellen Miller moves that WPBA support the Synthetic Honey Experiment, Jack seconds, all vote aye, none opposed.

- Web page to post results as the experiment progresses. Can't put final paper online until publication.
- Request to meet to finalize grant proposal so it can be submitted. Friday the 21st at 6:00 meeting to finalize grant details including to wrap or not, style of feeder etc.
- Chair of research committee

Meet Up (the meeting place.com ?) – Fred may be a good person for increasing online presence. 7:58

Compile final membership list

*** RSS Feed or google docs place where a list of contacts/ by-laws can be stored. Take advantage of Google Drive, maybe start shifting important association documents to an online host.

Treasurer's Report – 985.99 – previous balance
Deposits of - 130
Internet bill of - 45
Present balance – 1070.99