

# West Plains Beekeepers Association

October 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Gail Pollard at 7 p.m.

Attendees: Ellen Miller, Jack Miller, Jeremy Street, Nancy Street, Fred Pollard, Gail Pollard, Don Richter, Cathy Richter, Robert Swanson, Joe Geiger, Jim Miller, Kevin Field, Eileen Field, Connie Hickman, Amy Hickman, Glenn Zimmerman, Gina Zimmerman, Ari Alvarez, Maria Alvarez, Ari Alvarez Jr., Margo Buckles, Kevin Oldenburg.

Gail asked Ellen Miller to serve as temporary secretary. Copies of the minutes for the September meeting were approved as printed **M/S/C**.

## Old Business:

1. A reminder was made to pay membership dues to Joe Geiger or use Pay Pal on the WPBA web site.
2. Fred Pollard will check with the Spokane International Airport concerning the locating of hives on airport property. He will contact those members who are serving with him on this committee as soon as there is further information.
3. Fred Pollard attended the West Plains Chamber of Commerce and will keep the WPBA informed of any topics relating to the group.

## New Business:

1. Jim Miller asked if the WPBA was interested in having any association hives identified as Certified Naturally Grown Apiary hives. **M/S/C** - Jim Miller will gather information on having the association become a member of the Certified Naturally Grown Apiary. Any hives the association may own as an association would follow Naturally Grown guidelines.

## Committees:

1. Education - Margo Buckles reported that the Journeyman Class will be held October 5 and 12; the Top Bar Class will be held October 26; the Beginning Class will be held November 2, 9, 16. The cost of the Beginning Class is \$30 and includes hands on experience with hives in the spring. There is an addition cost of \$10 for any person wishing to take the Washington State certification test.

All persons interested in having their honey judged at the December meeting need to bring a jar of their honey to the November meeting. Honey comb will also be judged if there are people who are interested in bringing comb.

2. Research - Kevin Oldenburg has turned in one grant for the association on feeding of honey bees and will be submitting another one before the end of October.
3. Media - Fred Pollard reported that Margo Buckles wrote press releases for the classes and he urged all members to look at the WPBA on FaceBook and to "like" it to help increase its exposure.
4. Membership - Marilyn Geiger was absent and there was no report.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Geiger reported that there was \$1182.18 in the account.

## Other:

The topic of I-522 requiring genetically modified labeling of food products was discussed. The issue was raised about the WPBA taking a position. Various approaches were considered such as a pro/con statements or a panel discussion at the next meeting concerning the affects of I-522 on honey bees. **M/S/C** There will be an open education forum after the November meeting for all those interested in hearing more about genetically modified organisms (GMO).

The meeting was adjourned **M/S/C** at 8 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Ellen Miller, temporary secretary