

**West Plains Beekeepers Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2014 Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA**

Attendees: Fred and Gail Pollard, Margo Buckles, Kevin Oldenburg, David Sheppard, Joe and Marilyn Geiger, Ellen and Jack Miller, Don and Cathy Richter, Glenn and Gina Zimmerman, Ari Alvarez, Michael Lavoie, Russ and Jo Ekstrom, Robert Swanson, Kevin and Eileen Field, Gege Haugstad, Ruby Anderson, Jeff and Jan Laurence, Peggy Clemons, Sean O'Quinn, Cara Hagar, Richard and Orma Donovan, David Jones.

6:30pm Kevin Oldenburg presentation on "Swarming" from a new beekeepers perspective. Discussion on Why do bees swarm? How does the beekeeper prevent swarming? Physical characteristics of a swarm, capturing a swarm, tools for capturing a swarm.

7pm President Gail Pollard started the official meeting. New beekeepers introduced themselves.

- Positive feedback on last months' cash mob.
- May 3, 10 am, Desert Jewel nursery tour 9809 East Upriver Drive, Spokane
- March meeting minutes - m/s/c to approve
- May 31 – Turnbull Floods, flowers and feathers 8am-3pm. We need volunteers to talk with the public.
- Discussion about Demonstration beehives. The insurance at an event is a problem. Ari may speak with Inland Beekeepers about their insurance policy. Fred Pollard and Margo Buckles will research.
- Medical Lake Founders Day is June 21. Is WPBA interested? It costs \$25. May base the commitment on # of volunteers. m/s/c to approve to pay the \$25.
- Library Program – Jack and Ellen Miller have prepared the Beginning Beekeepers segments.

New Business –

Nomination of Officers. **Nomination Chair Fred Pollard** will read out general membership for nominations

President – Kevin Oldenberg

Treasurer – Joe Geiger and Glen Zimmerman

Secretary – Sherry Hession

Vice President – No nominations

Marilyn Geiger encourages all to be officers to gain the Journeyman points.

Committee Reports

Education Committee – Margo Buckles

- In the future, we need to extend the New Beekeepers course from 3 to 4 days to address the time and space constraints.
- Proposals to WPBA – a screen for the Pizza Factory. Kevin Oldenberg made a motion to buy a 80 inch screen and projector for the classes. We'll have to get approval from Pizza Factory to put it up there. Motion was tabled till next meeting.
- Location of future meetings – school or Pizza Factory. Food is an upside for attendance.
- High school Beekeeping Course was not as interactive as the adult class. We will need to address creating a class for kids. The high school teacher is making beekeeping part of their curriculum.
- August 3, 1pm – 3pm Annual summer picnic gathering for the West Plains Beekeepers. Location TBD
- Next July 4 is our Friday meeting for July. Looking for input.

Research Committee. Kevin Oldenberg needs a volunteer to weigh hives on May 10. Fred Pollard volunteers to lead – anyone willing to assist, contact Fred. There are some variations apparent in the research hives in food consumption and hive weights. The honeybees seem to like the sucrose/micronutrients.

Joe Geiger, Treasurer \$4,184.44 total assets. Ellen Miller – Library program would like 10 library programs in the spring and fall.

Media – Fred Pollard. Fred is open to ideas regarding media and marketing.

Membership – Marilyn Geiger – 48 family memberships, maybe a historic high.

8pm M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.