

California State Beekeepers Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 22, 2016
California Farm Bureau Federation, 2300 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833
SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m.

The minutes of the November 20, 2015, Board meeting were approved as read.

The financial statements were approved. The Board voted to use the Publicity budget line to pay Joy Pendell, and to raise that line by \$3,000.00.

The correspondence was circulated.

OLD BUSINESS

2015 Convention – Brad thanked all who helped, it was really good! Jackie praised the agenda, and Carlen noted best-ever statistics except for Research Lunch attendance.

2016 Convention – Dion is getting speakers. Carlen noted that the overflow agreement must be written, and that the San Diego bee club is enthused about helping. Patti and Carlen need copies of the contract.

2017 Convention – Steve arranged our hotel tour for our May Board meeting on some other Friday than Mother's Day weekend. Patti noted that the Harrah's facility looks way better and the staff are still tops.

Convention Program Guide – Susan needs help with it. Dion's office staff, and perhaps Joy, will look into e-publishing it and maybe using ideas from the AHPA's experience.

Question on CSBA's tax status vs. cash balances – Our tax accountant said that the IRS concerns itself with how we spend our funds, that the funds are going for the purpose stated in our documents. Carrying cash balances over is not an issue, it's very common.

NEW BUSINESS

CSBA involvement with Aglink program? – The consensus was to not be involved.

Dialog with CAPCA representatives –CAPCA wants to include the beekeeper point of view. As the County Ag Commissioners are the first-line pesticide use enforcer, report bee kills first to them and CDFA. CAPCA is in most counties, deserts excepted. Pesticide safe-application meetings on January 26 in Bakersfield and February 5 in Kern County both need beekeepers; Steve and Roger will try to go. CAPCA is working with DPR's BMPs, which the PCAs now have. If more is needed, CSBA needs to bring CAPCA any further info. The ag commissioners want better bee reporting than 5% registration. The CSBA promotes registration. Out-of-staters sometimes register, but then move and don't reregister. Also, on the laminated handout we passed around from Pollinator Stewardship Council, there need to be the follow-up process and statistics related to bee kills. Ag commissioners should have point-of-contact lists, but not all have good registration programs. We noted that even water can kill bees if they are sprayed, so timing matters. Also, the fact that a product's label doesn't say it kills bees, doesn't mean it doesn't. CAPCA said that the new labels for fungicides will have bee warnings. CAPCA does not accept our BMPs because there was no input CAPCA input to them, and the only big difference from the BMPs CAPCA does use is tank-mix data. Also CAPCA said the our very narrow BMP's would, if followed without discretion, result in big almond losses in a wet year. CAPCA does invest millions of dollars to check out new materials. They also represent PCAs, not chemical companies, those these are invited to be part of the conversation, and all they do with PCA's is offer advice. Reporting bee kills tends to get beekeepers thrown off our pollination lands, so could we set up anonymous reporting? CAPCA suggested collaboration with the CSBA on legislation to get enforcement funding for Ag Commissioners.

Nominate CFBF representatives – The CFBF has restructured and now has advisory committees for Ag Labor (for which John Miller volunteered) and Animal Health/Welfare, State Budget/Taxes/Land Use, Energy/Environment, Fed Economy/Farm Policy, Forestry/Public Lands, Marketing/Crop Protection/Food Safety, and Transportation; we've requested a specific one for bees. We can probably still get nominees in; Gene will see if Shannon Wooten is interested. We could also contact county CFBF reps, as that's the backdoor way to get in, now. **We may email our membership to request that CFBF not change their structure.** We might also send a CSBA letter to Mr. Wenger, saying, "We want to be involved, and are concerned about your direction." Volunteers need to be available for 2-3 days in March, a tough sell. Beekeepers have said they want the meeting to stay in January; this is known at CFBF.

Chlorpyrifos vs. CSCC letter – The consensus was to take no further action.

Whistleblower issue / Blue Dasher Farms: – The Board directed that Dr. Lundgren be asked for a proposal, and information and encouragement be emailed to our members. **DID WE DO THIS?**

Anti-pesticide lawsuit support: – The Board approved a letter, which Gene and Brock will draft, with an email to the litigants saying we won't litigate. **I want a copy of the letter.**

Renewed support for Pollinator Partnership? – The Board declined to renew support.

Volunteers for almond pollination media outreach – Roger volunteered on an as-needed basis. **The CSBA position on EPA's imidacloprid ruling is, "We are still formulating an opinion; call back in May, as we hope to have an answer by then."**

Sponsorship for Bee Biology International Conference? – The Board approved a \$1000 sponsorship.

CCLT event March 8-10: guidance needed – Use "Introduced", instead of "Invasive" to describe plants and animals that are now part of the environment. We should also ask U.C. Davis and other bee scientists to research BMPs for honey bee/native pollinator coexistence. Elina will talk to Neal Williams about the coexistence issues, eg. blue orchard bees with honey bees in almond pollination. Robin Thorp has also done helpful work. Note that honey bees are very important and they need safe forage. Note that some plants are endangered due to insufficient pollination. Perhaps we could produce a comprehensive pasture management plan. Population density is a key issue, and the process is painful, but beekeeping does need the lands enough to make this worthwhile. Finally, the federal ombudsman may be able to help. Gene will be asked to give Joy the ombudsman's contact info.

Volunteers needed: Ag Day @ Capitol – Eric Mussen was suggested as a volunteer, as he still likes to do this sort of outreach. Carlen will ask him.

CSBA governance / Sec/Treas replacement – The Board established an ad hoc committee to generate a job description for "CSBA Executive Director". The consensus was that we need to spend the money for this position, despite the hit to research funding, because we need someone watching continually for our interests, and we need something like an Executive Director if we want to grow. Joy gave a "definite maybe" on working into the Secretary/Treasurer position. The ad hoc committee, consisting of Jackie, Bryan, Roger and Brock, will try to report in September. They will ask a bunch of past presidents for input, Holly will give advice, and Ria gave contact information for a guy who advises non-profits on governance.

AGENCY REPORTS

Apiary Board – There has been no meeting since our convention.

American Honey Producers Assn. – Their convention had a gorgeous facility, the Embassy Suites, but the agenda was totally on pesticides. CSBA's convention agenda had a much better variety, especially in terms of beekeeper panels. The AHPA auction went very well.

Calif. Specialty Crops Council – The Board voted to pay the \$3000 annual dues. This is seen as an opportunity to sit at the table with about 12 grower groups. They are pro-pesticide, but this is a chance for us to advocate caution.

American Beekeeping Federation – Their convention at Sawgrass had 900 attendees. American Bee Research met at the same time and place, resulting in great synergy. While there were no beekeeper panels, there will be some at next year's joint convention with the AHPA in Galveston. The Commercial Beekeepers' breakfast was extremely successful. February starts a new trial-membership period for brand-new ABF signups, and Tim May is the new ABF VP, which means that in due time he will replace Gene as ABF President. Dr. Lundgren's upcoming 2/2/16 webinar was mentioned too.

PAM – PAM now has a succession plan, and new hires Danielle Downey and Billy Synk now round out the team. PAM's current emphasis is on fighting the *varroa* mite. Gordon Wardell is the PAM Board's chair. Joe Traynor and Dan Cummins have resigned from the Board, and Christi Heintz is somewhat reducing her activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Convention – Patti will step down from this position after the 2017 convention. Whether this position continues depends on the duties of any new Executive Director. She advised the Board to look for an apprentice.

Ladies Auxiliary – They need a logo to use in promotions. Carlen will send her a copy of the one he has.

Legislative – The Capitol is very busy, but term limit changes mean there will be only 20 new members instead of 40, which makes educating them easier. Please be there for Ag Day: the legislators and the public love the CSBA booth! Platinum Advisors screens 2000 new bills for anything affecting beekeeping in every session, but asks us to note anything interesting and to bring public lands access problems to Holly or Jackie, as the act we got passed last year gives us some leverage. Governor Brown’s Water Action Plan is the big issue this year, and it includes a huge focus on habitat and species protection. We may get some chances to weigh in on water’s importance to agriculture. The state budget is huge, but very conservative, with big investments in infrastructure and education. The California Bee Breeders saw a CHP presentation on the new B.I.T. truck regulations, which have very severe effects on our members who haul bees in any size of truck and have not previously come under regulation. Andrea Fox at CFBF is on this issue, and Christine Souza did an article in Ag Alert, too. The ABF is working on the Federal Pollinator Protection Plan. Pesticide labeling is beekeepers’ most major protection. Depredation permits are now expedited, and this appears to be helping with our bear problems, which Holly and Jackie are tracking so as to have data to support putting dogs back into bear hunting. Border station problems appear to be minimal now; the border station people are happy with CSBA’s educational outreach.

Media Director – Website updates include posting of 2015 Convention news, almond booth news, 2016 convention advertisement; membership form, officers list and sponsors brought current; links cleaned up; and some formatting changes made, so the website is in good shape now. A few policies and forms that will be updated shortly. A new website monitoring system will provide more information concerning web traffic. The Board approved spending up to \$400 for mobile-device updates to the website. On Google and Bing, we are near or at the top for searches related to beekeepers in California. Elina asked about putting funded researchers’ reports on the website.

The current format for e-news updates is article titles with hyperlinks and explanations as needed. There are two categories of “should read” and “nice to read” based on what is deemed more or less newsworthy.

Joy now has admin access to the Facebook Page. The posts for the last year or so have been decent, with nothing too political or divisive. It’s not always on-topic or from very authoritative sources (Rolling Stone, L.A. Times), but it’s not bad. It has over 530 “likes”, good reviews, and a decent amount of traffic. The audience is probably mostly smaller, urban/suburban beekeepers with a variety of experience; articles will be posted accordingly and heavily advertise the convention as it approaches. The Board’s stated consensus is that Joy should be the only admin.

The Board’s consensus was that Joy needs to keep doing the printed BEE TIMES, but that no new member will be added to the list of printed-copy recipients.

Membership – Updated membership brochures were available on the back table.

Nominations – None have been made so far.

Research – The researchers approved for 2016 haven’t asked for their money yet.

CLUB REPORTS

Central Valley Beekeepers – February 18 will be their next meeting, at which Elina will speak. They will also get a report on fungus research.

Delta Bee Club – They elected officers at their December meeting. There was an open discussion on managing the small hive beetle and wax moths, and Melanie Fisher with CDFA Regulations spoke on the importance of registering your hives with the county ag department. In January, the primary discussion centered around the upcoming almond pollination. An informal survey at the meeting showed many beekeepers are expecting higher losses than usual. There were some beekeepers with uncommitted colonies. The February meeting will be on the 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at Harvest Hall, Stanislaus County Ag Center, with Dr. Brian Johnson of U.C. Davis as guest speaker.

Sacramento Area Beekeepers – The annual holiday party was a wonderful evening of great food and friendship enjoyed by 29 people at SABA’s usual meeting place, the Ag Extension offices near the NW corner of Bradshaw Ave and Kiefer Blvd. Serge Labesque will present on double deeps.

Shasta Beekeepers – Their next meeting will be in August.

The next Board meeting will be at Harvey’s-Harrah’s, Stateline, Nevada, at 9:00 a.m., date in May 13, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlen Jupe, Secretary/Treasurer