

Ohio State Beekeepers Association Board Meeting
September 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Tim Arheit, President.

In Attendance: Tom Rathburn, Dwight Wells, Dwight Wilson, Joe Kovaleski, Alex Zomchek, Mike Doseck, Mike Soboleski, Angel Mitchel, Richard Manley, Tim Arheit, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Michele Colopy, Annette Birt Clark.

Tim reminds us all that elections are coming up and that three board seats terms are expiring, Erie Basin, Top of Ohio and Maumee Valley. If you are interested in continuing to serve on the board, please complete the nominee form which was sent out and return ASAP. All candidate information needs to be published in the newsletter as we do allow absentee voting by mail. Tim does not have the personal time this year to get electronic voting set up. We can hire a 3rd party service for \$40-\$80. Tim will look into this if we are interested.

Tim reminds all that the Heart of Ohio Director's seat has been vacated as Larry moved. Tim, as president, is able to appoint a replacement to serve out the term. He may ask Jeff Gabrick. Tim solicits all board members to look for volunteers for our board and our many club activities for which we need help.

Tim comments on information sent to all board members regarding proposed staggering the election of executive board members to alternate years for president/secretary (even years) and vice-president/treasurer (odd years). This will be a change to our governing documents and will need a membership vote. The next election in 2018 will be a one-time 3-year term for two of the executive board members. Overlapping terms will bring continuity to the executive board to continue projects, programs, etc that have begun and need further attention for completion and/or handoff.

Mike Doseck reads aloud the language of the amendment their club adopted this year as an example of verbiage. The president and vice-president can serve a maximum of 2 terms concurrent and no more than 5 years consecutively.

Terry makes a motion to amend our governing documents and accept the suggested format which Tim sent out to the board. Dwight Wilson seconds the motion. Vote is unanimous and the motion carries.

Tim reminds all to be on time for the strategic planning meeting. Please, come as early as 4:00pm to help with conference set up if you are able. The meeting is from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Tim comments that we have had good comments from board members, but still would like more. This is brainstorming, there are no bad ideas. We need to set goals and make plans for the future of the club. We need vision to build programs that are executed over several years. This is very important.

Mike Doseck requests that all board members fill out and return the brief bio format which Michele posted last week. He requests name plaques be at each board members place seating during the meeting. Tim comments that the bios will be sent out with the meeting agenda and that there will be name plates for identification of all board members.

Tim gives an update of the affiliate program. We finally were able to get insurance quotes for Directors & Officers (D&O) and General Liability for club members. Clubs need this to protect the officers and the club members. OSBA will facilitate all legal filings with necessary governmental entities as part of the program. There will be a full presentation of the program and applications at the conference. We will need to establish a committee to conduct the application process with local clubs in the future as the program grows. Tim has been handling this for now. The current cost structure includes and application fee of \$25, yearly fee of \$80 (which includes the D&O insurance, legal name renewal, website oversight) and \$1.09 per member for General Liability Insurance. For club leadership who cannot make the conference, Tim is planning a webinar in the future.

Terry discusses conference participation. If you are working less than 4 hours at the conference you need to register and pay online. You will be afforded free lunch. You need to email Terry separately to inform her of your lunch meal choice.

If you are working all day and you are bringing your spouse or significant other or other helper who will assist as needed for the full day, lunch will be complimentary for you both. You need to email Terry separately to inform her of the meal choices. You should pay for your conference admission. Your second party is complimentary.

Terry has checked several club Facebook pages and seen no tags or mention of the OSBA conference. Make sure you get something on your clubs Facebook page and that you contact other club leadership in your region to do the same. It is a valuable and inexpensive event for education and fun.

Terry has sent email information to all Master Beekeeper students, all new beekeepers for 2016 and to the entire membership. Letters to local association leaders will be send out within the next two weeks.

Michele discusses financial matters. Referencing our tracking of money and participation at OSBA table events. Counting the number of people who stop by to ask for information has shown us that we need more volunteers at our tables to satisfy the demand. Tracking table visitors allows us to evaluate which events are most valuable for the mission of OSBA.

If anyone sees the OSBA response story to the bee kill in North Carolina due to mosquito spraying printed in their local paper, please forward to Michele.

Michele references Quick Books and the new look of our P&L statement. Every financial transaction is tracked with great detail. Please, send Michele any checks you receive so that she may gather the needed information prior to depositing the check. You may see differences between the budget and actual numbers as some funds have not yet been spent.

There have been a few questions regarding the excel spreadsheet reimbursement form. It calculates the numbers for you. Please, just save it either as named or renamed by you and email or print and mail to Michele. If there is a great challenge, Michele will supply a Word Doc.

Michele references the grant application process form. We need to manage the process and set expectations of applicants. Tim comments that we should decide what grant amount will be available for 2017.

The last form Michele references is the Ohio Pollinator Plan pdf. This flyer, artwork and press release were approved by ODA on August 31st and news releases were sent out on September 1st. This group of stakeholders includes ODOT, Fish and Wildlife, OSBA and others. Now the ODA is reconsidering. Rumor is that ODA is afraid there will be "ban pesticide" language in the document.

The Pollinator Plan for any state is supposed to be established by input of all stakeholders. It is not regulatory. There is not funding and no enforcement. It is a collection of best management practices and good suggestions.

The 5 planned meetings are still being held and the online survey is very important for all beekeepers of Ohio to complete (quick, 5 minutes if you do not choose to type up additional comments). Please, get this information to all club leadership in your region as soon as possible. There will be a Facebook post on OSBA this week.

Terry informs that we have over 2400 likes on our Facebook page. We have 800-2000 reaches each week for our Thursday recipe posting. When we pay \$7 for a special posting to be boosted it is more than 4000. Please, "Like" our page! Please, encourage your club membership to do the same.

There is no news on the grant. We are receiving great feedback from our beta testers.

Tim recommends \$3000 as our grant fund for 2017. OSBA is financially able to support this amount. The application language should read "up to \$3000". There is also language that allow for a minor increase, "amount may change based on funds availability" in the event of a small increase as was the case this year for Reed Johnson.

Michele comments that if an individual applies for and receives a grant, this is taxable income. All grants must benefit many, not few, members and/or people and Ohio bees.

Some of the grant fund comes from income from license plate sales and seed sales. Get the word out for Ohio beekeepers to have the OSBA license plate. It is a great fundraiser for the club. Terry mentioned that less than 650 have been sold with over 5000 known beekeepers in Ohio. The more that are sold the more we can continue, grow and add to our beneficial programs.

Plenty of plates are being sold to remain active in the program as the requirement from the state changed, dropped. Each year we must confirm OSBA as a club for continuation. Tim has received and completed the letter.

Michele makes a motion to approve 2017 grant funding up to the amount of \$3000. Joe seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

Tim reminds board members of the previous vote to fund the 4-H program for 2017. The program was announced at the Ohio State Fair this year. Applications will be available and accepted on October 1st thru just before Thanksgiving. See the posting on Facebook on October 1, 2016.

Terry puts forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Doseck seconds. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 8:03pm.

Thank you all for your attendance.