

Ohio State Beekeepers Association Board Meeting
February 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Terry Lieberman-Smith, Vice-President.

In Attendance: Dwight Wells, Dwight Wilson, Joe Kovaleski, Tom Rathbun, Richard Manley, Mike Doseck, Peggy Garnes, Chris Dresel, Marishka Wile, Jeff Gabric, Brad Hibbard, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Michele Colopy, Annette Birt Clark.

Tim Arbeit is traveling and will hopefully be joining the call.

Terry comments that it was a busy weekend and will be a busy year. All the volunteers did an amazing job completing 1000 ADK kits by 5:00pm on Saturday.

Michele comments on new Word doc form for reimbursements as new option in addition to the existing Excel spreadsheet form. A grid was added to the document requesting specific details about the local club visits. Please, complete forms monthly. Waiting longer we can all forget details and we don't want board members to be cash strapped when expenses should be reimbursed. If you have any questions, contact Michele.

Most local club memberships have been completed and paid for on behalf of OSBA. A few clubs do not have a Facebook or Website with an application. Michele may reach out to board members for assistance. If you have a club who does not have an online presence which supplies membership information, please send Michele the treasurer's contact information and the fee for membership so that she can complete the OSBA 2017 membership participation in all local clubs.

As we did not receive an application for research funding from OSU (Michele spoke directly to Reed Johnson who conveyed that his lab did not have a need this year) it is being proposed that the \$2500 budget line item for research be transferred to fund the expenses necessary to bring Dr. Jonathan Lundgren in as the keynote speaker at the 2017 OSBA conference. Michele will send out a link for information on Dr. Lundgren and his research. In addition to pollinator research, soil health and sustainable farming are among his areas of focus. Having Dr. Lundgren may bring a more diverse audience to our conference, farmers, CSA participants, etc.

The funds which members have donated specifically for 4-H or other research with their membership dues will not be a part of this shift of funds.

Michele puts forth a motion to transfer the funds from grant research to the conference budget for the purpose of bringing Dr. Lundgren in as the keynote speaker. Peggy seconds the motion. Terry calls for a vote. Vote is unanimous. Motion carries. Michele will make adjustment to proposed 2017 budget and send to the board.

All financials, except the proposed budget, were sent with the meeting announcement. OSBA is in good shape financially. End of December we saw some large purchases for

the ADK kits, but most all have already been reimbursed. Our membership categories, for purchase and renewal, are now separated student and senior on all platforms. This allows us to better understand the demographics of our membership.

The ADK for sale from OSBA number 300 kits.
The ADK free kits to satisfy the grant number 700 kits.

Terry shares that she has been sending out New Beekeeper Packets to clubs around the state containing brochures, pens and a student roster. The specifics for eligibility to receive an ADK kit for free are supplied. These include proof of completing a new beekeeping class, proof of apiary registration and proof of purchase of bees or equipment. The free kit is available to new beekeepers who took classes in 2016 as well.

Terry is sending out welcome letters via email to all students from this year informing them of their free year membership to OSBA and information to apply for the free ADK. Additionally, she is sending email letters to last year's students regarding free ADK eligibility. Terry will send all board members copies of these letters for reference.

Terry and Mike comment on all the hard work done at Tim's property assembling the ADK kits. The grant has specific parameters for reporting and reimbursements. Tim's tremendous sourcing and purchasing allowed Terry to submit 99% of all purchases 3 days before the reimbursement deadline. This allowed OSBA to be reimbursed in a very short period of time.

All 1000 kits are complete. 18 have been preordered online. 6 stand alone manuals have been ordered and shipped. Surrounding states have asked for kits to see what OSBA has put together. 165 total USDA specialty crop block grants were awarded. 4 were for focused on beekeeping. 3 of the 4 were awarded to universities.

The kits will be available in limited quantities at Tri-County and SWOBA. As they are all boxed, the footprint of one kit is sizable. Only so many can be transported to events, so kits will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

There are 9 applications for the 6 paid ADK speaker positions which the grant funds.

Iris Meltzer, facilitator of the January OSBA Strategic Planning Meeting, has created a rubric (A scoring tool that explicitly represents the performance expectations for an assignment or piece of work. A rubric divides the assigned work into component parts and provides clear descriptions of the characteristics of the work associated with each component, at varying levels of mastery.) to review these 9 candidates to enable the judging panel to score the applicants objectively. The panel will consist of Tim Arbeit, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Michele Colopy and Iris Meltzer. All names will be removed to allow for a blind judging as Tim and Terry know several of the candidates, Michele knows a few and Iris knows none.

Michele comments that it is imperative that the speakers convey the message consistently and accurately. No board members can participate as speakers and receive financial benefits. No board members are permitted to present the ADK presentation. Board members can show the ADK slide, created by Terry and sent out last month, to their local clubs and encourage beekeepers to apply for a free kit, purchase a kit or ADK manual and monitor their hives as a BMP.

If any board member gives an ADK presentation on their own, they may put OSBA in violation of the grant parameters and put OSBA at risk of repaying all grant funds. This is a very serious matter. If there is a violation, Michele will report the party to the appropriate authority.

The grant funds 30 presentations over 2 years, but may be completed in one year. Once these presentations have been completed, meeting the contractual obligation, additional presentation avenues will be explored by the board.

Michele and a team consisting of Terry Lieberman- Smith, Marishka Wile, Jamie Walters, Chris Dresel, Roger Myers, John Grafton and Jeff Gabric have been working on recommendations for the Ohio Pollinator Plan. They have compiled 24 pages of information for beekeepers. The first draft has been submitted for review. The process will include a second draft and a third and final draft. The goal is to have it complete and approved for Pollinator Week in June.

Michele shares that Scotts is again sponsoring Pollinator Week in Ohio which will be the third week in June. There may be an event in Toledo in addition to Cleveland, Dayton and Cincinnati. Events will likely be on the Saturday and Sunday at the beginning and end of the week. Michele is planning June 21st as "Lobby Day" to walk the pollinator plan door to door and speak to legislators. Michele will keep all posted. The Honey Queen or Princess will be present for the "Lobby Day".

Terry reports that thus far we have 664 paid members for 2017. 65 of which were free newbees from 2016 which is 10% of currently paid membership.

Terry reports that an outside company was contracted to handle the mail renewal outreach this year. 1239 envelopes went out on Friday. This was a trial and cost effective.

The Nexus pipeline will stretch 255 miles across northern Ohio from Pennsylvania to Michigan. Tim was on an initial phone conference call. Terry and Michele attended a meeting at OSU. Part of the project is an investment in habitat and a public outreach for pollinator awareness. They referred the project team to Ohio Prairie Nursery for appropriate seed mixes. The Wildlife Habitat Council led the team to believe that Spring 2017 plantings were possible.

Michele is working with some landowner partners who will be able to maintain the planting as this is a "one and done" effort. The funds need to be spent this year,

somewhere between \$5k and \$50k. Fall would realistically be the earliest time to plant. Soil tests need to be completed, land owners secured, etc. OSBA is proposing two projects along the pipeline, one urban and one rural for maximum outreach.

Next Saturday, February 25, 2017, Peggy Garnes, will be attending the 2017 Ohio Veterinary Conference on behalf of OSBA. Chris Cripps, DVM from Betterbee, will be giving a presentation regarding Rx for bees, new protocols and needs of beekeepers. OSBA was given a complimentary pass. The meeting is from 8:00am to 11:30am.

Michele will send the updated proposed budget for review. With Tim's approval, the updated budget will be sent for the board approval vote by email.

Terry shares that Emily Mueller is the new Master Beekeeping Program Chair.

Terry informs that additional volunteers are still needed for the Tri-County table. Two to three people are needed during each time slot. Annette will send the Excel spreadsheet out again after confirming Dwight Wilson's time slots.

The ADK manuals, sold as stand alone, and ADK flyers will be available at Tri-county.

Annette asks when the Strategic Planning notes from the January meeting will be shared with the board as she and others were not in attendance. Terry comments that Tim has the notes. Michele comments on good things that came from meeting. She will contact Iris to get notes as she does not know how long Tim is traveling and when he will get to review them.

Peggy Garnes reports that she, Chris Dresel and Jeff Gabric are nearly finished with a proposed syllabus for new beekeeping classes for OSBA to share with local clubs. This guide will supply suggested basic knowledge topics which can be expanded upon and tailored to the local club's environment.

Michele puts forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Kovaleski seconds. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 8:33pm.

Thank you all for your attendance.