

Location: Alliance Church Room 314, Menomonie, WI

Attending: Jenny Gruber (group organizer), Mary Lotten, Charlie Anderson, Mary Byrne, Veronica Knudson, Gary Johnson, Nancy Walters, Tom Humpal, George Zien. Bud Mecusken, Bob Cassell and family (Joyce and Josh), Randy Rykel, and Nancy Walters

Jenny Gruber opened the meeting at 6 PM. History reviewed on interests of group members and forming a group with goals to provide more and better foraging for honey bees and all native bees and pollinators.

Gene Hatfield who has an established pollinator forage area is not able to attend. A meeting with him to learn more of his pollinator project is set for March 24th at 6:15 PM at the Community Services Building 3001 Hwy 12/29 Room 101. (This location is the old health care center remodeled and now houses many county services.)

Individuals introduced themselves, where they lived, and interests that brought them to the meeting. Many have designated native pollinator habitat acres or are in the process of development of designated acres through NCRS.

Prior to the meeting, Jen created an Interest and Product list based on responses from beekeepers interested in this group. The activity at this meeting was to prioritize this list by identifying 3 items of interest in each list. Seed and plant sharing, seed/plant sources is # 1 priority of the group.

Action item --- pull together any lists or sources you have of seeds in the next couple of weeks and pass on to Jenny for summation. Name of site with their email/web address would be great. The compilation will be shared and become one of the "products" of the group.

A summary noting the ranking of each topic of interest/product was created in a separate document. One product, Facebook Page, will not be created at this time. Many of the 'products' are similar so they could be combined. See document.

We will request the creation of a web page on the DC Beekeeper web site. Our email 'list' address is: habitat@dunncountybeekeepers.org

Discussion started regarding draft of group's purpose. Time to discuss ran out.

Several beekeepers got native prairie/pollinator seeds through River Country RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) Council, Inc. (<http://www.rivercountryrcd.org>) in Eau Claire. They ordered native prairie seeds in January. Seeds are available only through orders. Developing a large area is expensive even if there is cost sharing through NCRS. It takes several years to get a plot established. Invasion of grasses and quack grass is a problem.

Several beekeepers shared books they found valuable. It would be nice to create a list of reference books, we find valuable, to share with others. Send info on books to the group list. Jenny will compile a master list.

Recording duties will rotate at future meetings. Nancy Walters will lead the April 11th meeting.

Adjourned at 7 PM. The next meeting to establish group's mission/goals will be April 11 at 6 PM Room 314 Alliance Church. The informational meeting with Gene Hatfield is March 24th (see above).

Record by: Mary Lotten