

Dunn County Beekeepers Association
Menomonie Alliance Church Room 116
Minutes Feb 12, 2018 7 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call – 38 attendees

Secretary's Report – Motion made by Dave P. and seconded by Klaus B. to accept minutes. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Motion made by Klaus B. and seconded by Dave P. to accept treasurer report. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Organization topic – Dunn County fair booth entry fee – update from Steve F. Steve was not available for an update.
2. SOP on Club hive – Willie M. – working on it
3. Bylaws – Motion by Jim B. and seconded by Wayne B. to accept the Bylaws with changes listed. Passed unanimously.
 - a. Article VIII Meetings 4. Typo – 'conduced' should be 'conducted.'
 - b. Article VIII Meetings 6. Added 'at least seven days prior to meeting.'Note: WHPA annual membership is \$10 for first year and \$25 thereafter.

New Business

1. Workshop summary
 - Number of registrations was 25 with another 14 co-guests
 - Number of club members – 40 – great help! Great job!
 - Comments from group: Everyone thought the day went well. Jenny G. summarized the attendee feedback and will share with club members.
2. Bee supplier handout was part of workshop package with copies at meeting. Tom P. was present to collect orders from Black River Falls Apiary.
3. Mite check methods – demonstrations – should check packages and bees throughout the summer.
 - Powder sugar roll – Jenny G. gave an overview of how she does a check hoping to find only one mite per 300 bees. The powdered sugar roll is not the best practice, but one that is easy to do and you don't kill the bees. The alcohol wash is much better but you kill the bees.
 - Alcohol wash demonstration will be next month by Dave W.
4. Small hive beetle (SHB) – why troublesome? How to trap?

The SHB slimes up the frames and eventually the bees will simply abscond. The bees will feed the beetles just like they feed each other. SHBs like dark spaces and they are attracted to the alarm pheromone. Jenny G. showed how a trap could be made that can set on the frames with a 'riser' to allow space for the trap. (See separate document.) Another disposable trap the 'Beetle Blaster' (about 70 cents) is wedged in between the frames. It is about 6 inches long and holds a small amount of food grade oil which once the beetles enter the trap, they get stuck in the oil. Look for the beetles when opening a hive. If you don't check, it could mean disaster later. There is an excellent article in the American Bee Journal issue January 2018. The small hive beetle CANNOT survive our freezing winters. Once they are present, they have 4 or more life cycles through the summer. Check for SHB throughout the summer as they can fly long distances and enter your once SHB free apiary.
5. Installing a package – Jenny G. showed how she hives a package starting with a tool kit of two long nails and tiny marshmallows in a large pill bottle. (You always drop one of the nails.) There are

many ways to hive a package – find one that works for you with safety first – wear your protective gear.

6. Feeding in spring – Use one part water to one part sugar and dissolve. Un-dissolved sugar can block the feeder holes. Feed until the bees no longer take any sugar water.
7. Record keeping – volunteers – Jenny suggested you try something! Suggestions from the group included writing on the hive cover; having a piece of lumber on the hive and writing on it; using a software tool on your phone/iPad and writing down the date of what you saw/feed/pulled and what you need to do for each hive. The ‘Bee Informed’ online group does a survey each year and they ask about time spent in the apiary, treatments, honey production, etc. hoping to gather enough info on what works and what doesn’t.
8. Daytona Organic high oleic sunflower seeds to share with those present – Jenny G. handed out seeds to those present. The pollen from these seeds is good for bee gut issues.
9. Hints for beekeepers – Jenny G. – sent with agenda; any questions? – None.
10. Dale Wolf provided a door prize – Sarah H. won the syrup feeder pail. Thanks Dale for the prize.

Hive updates from group

11. Fran F. brought a frame of drawn comb to show a distorted area. The protrusion of comb matched an ‘indent’ on the adjacent frame. Discussion centered on cleaning up frames and that the bees will rework the comb to their liking. Fran F. also reported that the ‘Flow Hive’ was unsuccessful.
12. In March Chad Alberg will give a presentation on bears and fencing.
13. In April we will meet at Stout to hear Jim Burritt speak on latest research. Exact meeting room TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Dale Wolf was also present to discuss ordering bees through him. The queens are Italian/Buckfast. The first load of bees will arrive around April 13 or 14. Dale W. went over how to safely release the queen – timing is key. Contact Dale W. directly to place an order.

Please send requested agenda topics to Jenny at jmgwis@wwt.net.

If you have a ‘show and tell’ item, bring to the meeting. Frames of unusual nature or left over from a dead out are welcome.