

# North Okanagan Bee Keepers

## March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome 7:02 p.m.

Keith welcomed all to our March meeting, noting a few special guests including a local Capital News reporter, as well as our new local bee inspector Stephanie Taylor and our provincial government representative Paul van Westendorp

-approx 60 people were present, with a couple of new people joining us. One of our largest meetings ever, we had to meet in the main cafeteria room

-reminder about 50/50 tickets and name tags

-Keith passed around the email address clipboard

#### 2. Discussion

a. Adopt Minutes – Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting,  
James motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> Smiley, carried

-one notable correction from last minutes was voiced:

-from Rick's Regional Report, it should read the rights to Fumagilen should have been to Canadian Honey Council

b. Buckerfields Beginner Talks: Kelowna, Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and  
West Kelowna Buckerfields on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

c. Joe Rich Community Hall Association, Lori 250-765-7248 to speak on keeping  
bees at higher elevations 3300 ft. above sea level

c. Heather Clay speaking on Urban Beekeeping in Vernon on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at  
Schubert Center

d. Darlene Brule with Nature's Wild Neighbours Society youth presentation still  
working on it

e. Bill Ruzicka in interested in doing the Breeder's Circle again this year and briefly  
spoke to the club:

1. Feb. issue of Bee Culture has a good article in it and we should read it,  
also on Mitebegone.com website under 'literature' link

2. Disease book – you should have a copy of it and keep it with you when  
you're doing your hive inspections

3. Bee Breeder Circle- go to mitebegone.com and click 'literature' link for  
more information

f. Day of the Honey Bee – Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, Bob Chisolm will try to get space  
on that day at the Kelowna Farmer's Market

#### 3. Business:

a. adopted minutes from Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

- b. Membership Fees: BCHPA or \$20 to local club
    - BCHPA will rebate our local club \$10 if you registered before Jan 31<sup>st</sup>
    - BCHPA also includes publication: Bee Scene
  - c. AFB EFB Disease Survey- reminder
    - any suspicious activity: ship off to Prov. lab for free
    - check Provincial website for info
    - research going on to record various strains into a Canadian database
  - d. Disease book for sale – every beekeeper should have one! \$15.00
    - talk to Keith or Carol
    - we received more books now
  - e. Facebook Page:
    - go to Facebook and search **North Okanagan Beekeepers** and ask to join
    - 15+ members so far
  - f. Regional Report: Rick Plantinga
    - lots going on:
    - discussed importance of joining BCHPA
    - discussed how to respond to people wondering if bees are at risk; honey bees are not at risk but natural pollinators are in trouble
    - wants to know about winter losses – a few members spoke up
    - pesticide issues are being discussed
    - Beaverlodge - working on apple blossom research
    - BCHPA does training – webinars, etc.
  - h. BCHPA AGM in Kamloops March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - 22<sup>nd</sup> is a business day
    - 23<sup>rd</sup> is education day
    - Kevin Hamilton is going up in a van and will drive on the Saturday
  - i. IPE fair: new honey brand display Aug 28<sup>th</sup> to Sept 1<sup>st</sup>
    - supply Keith with honey - local honey to be displayed
  - j. New Business:
    - Bee operations for sale: Brainy Bee: Bob and Kay, Arlo's Honey: Helen Kennedy, and Bills Honey Farm: Bill Ruzicka
4. College Update:
- still working on trying to get a storage shed for upcoming Okanagan College's own apiary
  - have 6 nucs lined up, need plastic foundation
  - still need bottom boards, inner covers, hive covers, super pallets, and super bee escapes
  - be on look out for a suitable storage container which is somewhat rodent proof

-Art Knapp has offered some land for College Apiary on Benvoulin Road, which would be only 0.7 km from another large bee operation

5. Guest Speaker: Paul van Westendorp, BCMA Apiculture Program
  - Paul welcomed our special guest: Stephanie Taylor, our new Okanagan Bee Inspector, her contact email and phone number are coming shortly
  - Paul gave an informative and in-depth look at many current issues
  - question came up from local bee keeper Frank Smekal about having major bee operations close to each other:
  - Paul addressed the issue nicely with the history of 'turf' issues and gov't involvement
  - currently: main focus of gov't is disease control, not local owner issues
  - spoke on winter losses and survey coming out for larger beekeeper operations- please fill it out and send in- important for reporting trends, etc.
  - club members reported varying amount of winter losses
  - in May – survey will be sent out, will only take 5 minutes but is very valuable data for all geographic areas
  - wasps: discussed the problems with them, and how to trap them earlier than later!
  - sending in samples to gov't: check website on how to collect properly and submitting them
  - discussed at length about the Varroa mites
    - importance of REGULAR monitoring!
    - Monitor! Monitor! Monitor!
    - Integrated Pest Management (*IPM*) is crucial
    - test every 6 weeks: take 300 bees and use alcohol wash and record the numbers
    - 3% is economic threshold, 10 mites is too much!
7. 50/50 draw – ticket #528 \$87.00 to Leif Scott
  - also, Vic McDonald donated a brand new hive tool and Carol won it!
8. Next Meeting: Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at Okanagan College Cafeteria at 7:00 p.m.
  - 1000 KLO Road, Kelowna
  - see map, we will be in building F
  - easiest parking will in lots 6 & 3 (*see map*) -it's free parking
  - link to map:  
[https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Assets/Departments+\(Administration\)/Registrar\\$!27s+Office/Become+a+student/Kelowna+Campus+Map+2017.pdf](https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Assets/Departments+(Administration)/Registrar$!27s+Office/Become+a+student/Kelowna+Campus+Map+2017.pdf)
9. Adjourned approx. 9:00 p.m.