

Apiary Inspectors of America's Annual Meeting, 2007, Phoenix, Arizona

Welcome by President Jerry Hayes at 8:11am on January 9, 2007

Representatives of the following member states and provinces were present:
MD, ONT, MI, WI, MT, NC, GA, AL, PA, MN, VA, MS, AR, FL, OH

Secretary Ed Levi (AR) read minutes from the 2006 meeting
Harry Fulton (MS) moved to accept
Barry Smith (GA) seconded
Minutes were accepted as written.

2007 AIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT, Jerry Hayes (FL)

I want to thank all of those who have worked so hard to allow us all to participate in this meeting. All the committee chairs, Ed Levi, Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Keith Tignor, and Harry Fulton's continued expertise and insight are appreciated and valued.

This has been another bumpy year for beekeepers in the United States. Low honey prices, honey imports, contamination, residues, pests and diseases that seem to defy management recommendations have negatively impacted commercial beekeepers. Almond pollination and potential revenues keep a bright light on for some beekeepers. The Industry is struggling and we all have concerns for it's future. Beekeepers and the pollinators and nectar collectors they manage will always be needed but I'm not quite sure what the Industry will look like in 10-15 years from now.

I started out my day today with a gentleman from south Florida in the hospital on a ventilator from an encounter with aggressive honey bees. African honey bees (AHB) continue to spread, and is increasing it's inter-actions with people, pets and livestock in some points of South Florida. Last week we all learned that AHB had been identified in New Orleans. The main wave of AHB is moving east and we have our separate population in Florida. The whole east coast will be dealing with this at some time. What can we do as a group to protect our citizens, and the Industry that we serve? Because of the problems of AHB and the decline of honey bee numbers, the Industry has gotten more positive media attention the last few years than ever. For the Apiary Inspectors of America the question is how can we, as an Industry group organize ourselves into a stronger more influential force?

I believe the AIA is uniquely positioned to be the bridge between beekeepers, the beekeeping industry, and the research community. What can we do and how can we do it? Can we be the mechanism, the tool and the path that collects and distributes information that helps the Industry? A clearing house for information that promotes, encourages, and directs Industry action. We can be this if the AIA wants to be, or we can continue to meet each year as our membership slowly shrinks. Do we want to be an active force and make positive things happen? We have to decide what we want to do and be.

If we can be better, then our Industry is better. Not all of the decisions made this week will come to fruition. But we can start to change the perception of the AIA by researchers, consumers and Industry organizations from one of not knowing how we really contribute to one where we are a valuable asset that must be included and consulted.

I didn't mean to be condescending, or insulting, but we can be more than just a name on a letterhead. It's your organization, you decide.

Announcements of committees

Nomination

*Don Hopkins (NC), Jerry Fischer (MD), Liz Meils (WI)

Auditing

*Patty Denke (MT) and Dennis vanEngelsdorp (PA)

Sites

*Jerry Fischer, (MD)

Awards

*Harry Fulton (MS), Paul Jackson.(TX), Barry Smith (GA)

Research & Reg. (incl pesticides)

*Ed Levi (AR), Patty Denke (MT), Don Hopkins (NC)

Pesticide Advisory

*Mike Hansen (MI), Jerry Hayes. (FL)

Resolutions

*Harry Fulton (MS), Gray Haun. (TN), Patty Denke. (MT), Dennis vanEnglesdorp. (PA)

Discussion: where we want to go:

CAPA's White papers are produced to announce priorities

 This is used for researchers etc. to promote their projects

 Do we want to do this?

Should it be on a newly developed web site.

We are more important, in the eye of gov., due to AHB but otherwise we are just the police to the industry.

How can we better cement our relationship with the industry?

 Promoting good and focused research.

Based on this discussion, an Ad Hoc committee was formed to create a "white paper" stating the association's current goals and objectives:

Ad Hoc for Creating Goal/Objectives: "white paper"

*Ed Levi. (AR), Jerry Hayes,(FL), Keith Tignor (VA), Dennis vanEnglesdorp (PA), Harry Fulton (MS), Doug McRory. (ONT)

AIA 2006 Secretary's Report

Ed Levi (AR)

The following items were completed since the January, 2006 meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

1. Sent out thank you letters to the speakers of the Baton Rouge, Louisiana conference.
2. Forwarded resolutions, pasted at the Baton Rouge, Louisiana conference, to the appropriate parties.
3. Updated the state/provincial apiarist directory.
4. Conducted correspondence and miscellaneous duties.
5. Sent a state report questionnaire to all directors.
6. Prepared 2006 AIA Annual Conference held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Commented about needing input: the secretary stated that there is little point in publishing the annual proceedings if the membership doesn't have the energy to fill out the State's Statistics Data Sheets and send in reports to be published. It was again agreed that it is the duty of the directors to assure reports and surveys are completed.

Don Hopkins (NC) moved to accept
John Grafton (OH) seconded
Passed

AIA 2006 Treasurer's Report

Keith Tignor (VA)

Membership: 32

28 Regular

4 Associate

Income: 6,080.00
Expenses: 8,374.22
Net Income: (2,294.22)

Balance at beginning of 2006: 15,270.22

Balance at end of 2006: 12,976.00

Barry Smith (GA) moved to accept
John Grafton (OH) seconded
Passed

Email l-serve

Keith Tignor (VA)

Are people being served? We have some wrong and/or discontinued addresses. Some unsubscribed. Should we be sending to non-member states?

Web site

Do we want to make it great or do we want it as a directory and links to information of other organizations.

New Business

Ed Levi questioned the coordination of states' inspection needs for incoming or transiting bees. It was agreed that we should add to our web page the requirements for bees to enter or transit each state.

Barry Smith (GA) will collect this data and get them to Keith Tignor (VA).

The meeting was adjourned for the day to reconvene on January 10.

That afternoon we had presentations from invited speakers on various topics.

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

The business meeting was reconvened by President Hayes;

The following member states and provinces were represented:

MD, ONT, MI, WI, MT, NC, GA, AL, PA, MN, VA, MS, AR, FL, OH

Resolutions Committee Report

Harry Fulton, MS read resolutions:

Resolution NO. 1:

Requesting USDA to Establish a Task Force on Africanized Honey Bees

Africanization of feral honey bee colonies is occurring as confirmed by recent findings in south Florida, the Northeast U.S., the New Orleans area and a host of other areas in the U.S. The threat to agricultural pollination, to public safety and harm to pets and livestock increases accordingly.

Natural expansion and accidental transportation of the Africanized honey bee, *Apis mellifera scutellata* (AHB), is becoming a nationwide issue and no longer a regional one, which makes it more difficult to study, to plan strategy and to disseminate factual information to those in need.

Therefore, at its annual meeting on January 10, 2007, the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) requests USDA to organize a working task force to meet at least annually and as needed otherwise to address concerns in AHB research, health and public concerns, regulatory issues and other related matters. Such a group would serve to unify industry, regulatory and public entities while acting as an advisory group on all AHB issues. Members could include but not be limited to representatives of USDA agencies, Regional and National Plant Boards, industry delegates, AIA, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and universities.

Audience:

To: Secretary of Agriculture
David Hackett

Copy: NASDA
National Plant Board and Regional Plant Boards
American Honey Producers Association
American Beekeepers Federation
Other industry organizations
AIA member states

Cover letter expressing why AIA more specifically thinks such a task force is needed.

Ed Levi (AR) moved for acceptance and Dennis Barclift (AL) seconded.

Motion passed

Resolution NO. 2:

Requesting a National Survey for Exotic Honey Bee Pests

USDA/APHIS/PPQ-VS is receiving more petitions from foreign countries to export packaged honey bees and queens to the United States. In order to protect the U.S. beekeeping industry from the introduction of exotic pests, especially *Tropilaelaps clareae*, *Nosema cerana*, *Apis mellifera capensis*, other *Varroa* species as well as other species of pests not yet found in the U.S. a national survey is justified. Of particular concern is a petition from Germany where *Nosema cerana* is known to exist and is near Spain where extensive losses to honey bee colonies has occurred.

Such a survey is also needed to help create foreign markets for U.S. honey bees and expedite exportation of honey bees.

Therefore, the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) at its annual meeting on January 10, 2007, requests USDA/APHIS/PPQ-VS to fund and implement a national survey for exotic pests as soon as possible. Such is necessary to establish a baseline on which scientific decisions can be made to allow the safe importation and exportation of honey bees.

Be it further resolved that AIA go on record thanking Wayne Wehling and Colin Stewart of USDA/APHIS/PPQ for efforts put forth in drafting and submitting a protocol and budget to be considered for such a survey. AIA also encourages all states to participate in such a survey with in-kind service and other matching funds as affordable.

Audience:

To: Secretary of Agriculture
Ric Dunkle

Copy: Regional Plant Boards
National Plant Board
American Honey Producers Association
American Beekeeping Federation
Other industry organizations
AIA member states

Dennis Barclift (AL) moved and Don Hopkins (NC) seconded

Discussion followed
Motion passed unanimously

Resolution:No. 3

New Standard definition for Africanized Honey Bees

During the last two years the African honey bee (AHB) has been detected extensively in south Florida, southern Arkansas and Louisiana and recently in the New Orleans area and as well as other parts of the United States. Stinging incidents involving humans, pets and livestock are increasing and public concern is at high levels. Legal issues, both civil and regulatory, are dictating that a legal definition of Africanization be established on which sound legal decisions can be made.

Currently, USDA standards for identification of AHB define Africanization as occurring when a 90% probability is reached using USDA-ID testing. However, phenotypic characteristics, especially aggressiveness, may be manifested at lower probability levels. Regulators especially need an official USDA-ID protocol of testing to declare a sample as Africanized at a 50% level of hybridization in order to address public safety concerns and on which regulatory programs and action plans can be based.

Therefore, the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) at its annual meeting on January 10, 2007, requests the National Plant Board through the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to request USDA-ARS to redefine Africanization to meet the needs of the regulatory and legal communities. Such request includes the study of new methods as needed for faster identification in the field and laboratory. Genome studies, volatile chemical markers, ELISA testing and other methods as technological advances are made should be considered. Methods now being used were developed some 20 years ago. With new technology, such as single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP chip), easily attainable and with public safety needs now better determined, methods of AHB identification must be updated to meet these challenges and produce results in the field or laboratory within 24 hours to meet emergency management needs.

Audience:

To: Regional Plant Boards
National Plant Board

Copy: AIA member states
David Hackett
Secretary of Agriculture

Discussion: do we name specific places or regions? Left them out.

Audiences:

National Plant Board, USDA, NASDA

John Grafton (OH) moved for acceptance and Don Hopkins (NC) seconded
Discussion followed
Motion passed with one opposed.

Resolution: No. 4

Development of a Harmonization Plan among states to allow movement and certification of honey bees being transported as European.

The spread of the Africanized honey bee, *Apis mellifera scutellata* (AHB), both naturally and man assisted, poses threats to the public safety and bee industry's ability to remain viable to pollinate agricultural crops in the United States. As such it dictates that states work in unity to develop actions plans and certification plans to facilitate interstate movement of colonies for pollination and the sale of packages honey bees and queens.

Therefore, the Apiary Inspectors of American (AIA) at its annual meeting on January 10, 2007, recommends that a harmonization plan be developed among states through AIA and/or the National Plant Board to manage the movement of honey bees under a voluntary compliance program for states in agreement. Such a plan would specify protocols necessary to certify honey bees as European and offer guidance for states to adopt laws and regulations for uniformity.

Be it further resolved that AIA ask USDA/APHIS and/or USDA/ARS to provide support of such a program by providing identification of samples after and approved FABIS protocol or other approved screening method has been done at the state level. AIA further requests that USDA adopt a policy to support the states in this endeavor. Be if further resolved that USDA/APHIS provide funds as grants to facilitate sampling and screening as needed in states not having a regulatory program budgeted.

Audience:

To: National Plant Board
Secretary of Agriculture
David Hackett
Ric Dunkle
AIA member states

Copy: National Beekeeping Organizations
Regional Plant Boards

John Grafton (OH) motioned to accept and Barry Smith seconded
Discussion followed
Motion passed with 2 opposed.

Auditing Committee Report, Patty Denke, MT

Books look fine.

Motion Don Hopkins (NC), Seconded by Mike Hansen (MI)

Passed

Sites Committee Report, Jerry Fisher, MD

With both National Groups and AAPA at Sacramento, during the second week of January.

Ed Levi moved to accept and the motion was seconded by John Grafton
Passed

Goals and Objectives, AD Hoc committee report, Ed Levi (AR)

Goals and Objectives of the Apiary Inspectors of America, January 2007

AIA's Purpose: To Improve the Conditions of the Beekeeping Industry by:
Communications between States in the Laws and Methods of its membership;
Creating understandings between the member states;
through the Dissemination of new and accurate information.

1. Africanized Honeybee
 - a. Develop an AHB harmonization plan
 - b. Develop a model action plan for the management of AHB for the public safety
 - c. States to establish a unified protocol for the certification of EHB.
 - d. AIA encourage and collaborate with USDA in establishing a workable ID method.
 - i. Establish a working group to meet annually with government policy makers in agriculture and health matters.
2. National Disease and Pest Survey
 - a. Encourage buy-in on a State & National level.
3. Protocols for the identification of known or new Apis diseases and pests.
 - a. Establish a general action plan for suppression and eradication.
 - b. Encourage a library of samples of apis problems that are known in the world.
 - c. Protocols for identification of newly introduced diseases and pests.
4. Maintenance of healthy bees
 - a. Encourage IPM and the use of recognized and approved methods for the suppression of bee maladies.
 - b. Reduce the dependence of chemicals in the suppression of diseases and pests.
 - c. Discourage the use of illegal use of chemicals.
 - i. Demonstrate how and why best management practices benefit the entire industry.
 - ii. Demonstrate why and how the misuse and overuse of chemicals is counterproductive.
5. Facilitate the communications for legal movements of honeybees between states.

- a. Add a page to the AIA website which illustrates the requirements of each state.
- b. AIA should stand as a repository for all state apiary program's laws and regulations.

Dennis vanEnglesdorp (PA) moved to accept and Harry Fulton (MS)seconded Motion unanimously passed .

Nominations Committee Report, Don Hopkins (NC)
East, Jerry Fischer (MD)
North, John Grafton (OH)

Pres, Jerry Hayes (FL)
VP, Dennis vanEnglesdorp (PA)
Sec. Ed Levi (AR)
Treasurer, Keith Tignor (VA)

There were no other nominations from the floor.
Slate was accepted by acclamation.

Other business:

Keith Tignor, suggested that the previous year's president, or their designee goes to CAPA's annual meeting.

Motion to Adjourn, Dennis Barcliff (AL) & seconded by Dennis vanEnglesdorp (PA) .