

**Fourth Meeting of the Bee Health Roundtable
January 21, 2016
AAFC Headquarters, Ottawa, ON**

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

HOUSEKEEPING

- Industry Co-Chair Rod Scarlett introduced three new members from the Canadian Honey Council (CHC): André Talbot, Stan Reist and Scott Plante.
- New federal Co-Chair Andrea Johnston highlighted Prime Minister Trudeau's Mandate letter to Minister MacAulay, noting priorities such as transparency, engagement with stakeholders, and the opportunities available as a result of various trade agreements (i.e., CETA and TPP).
- All VCRT Industry Co-Chairs have been invited to attend an industry-led Social License forum in Regina to discuss the concept and what is being done in the agriculture sector to build and maintain public trust.

UPDATES

- Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) provided an overview of the recently published federal reports on the re-evaluation of neonicotinoid use. Officials from Ontario and Quebec provincial governments indicated that they would be proceeding with current policy initiatives to limit neonicotinoid use through regulations, but also emphasized the other elements of their plans related to pollinator protection.
- The Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) asked for representation from the Bee Health Roundtable (BHRT) on their Steering Committee to enhance collaboration on bee health. Co-chairs will make a recommendation to the HBHC.
- The Small Hive Beetle has been detected in Canada. Provinces are developing response plans which could have an effect on interprovincial movements and inspections of honey bee colonies. Much of the work to coordinate policies will take place between the Provincial Apiculturists and between provincial authorities. The BHRT will continue to monitor this issue.

BHRT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Progress has been made on the development of a BHRT action plan to control pesticide exposure. Members were asked to review and comment on the proposed plan, and to identify potential members for each of the five priority areas.

- New member Scott Plante from CHC has agreed to chair the Control of Varroa Mite Working Group which will continue work to develop and implement the action plan and to explore opportunities for collaboration with the United States.
- Members discussed updates and projects related to work on the national surveillance of bee health, the alignment of provincial monitoring strategies, the harmonization of Best Management Practices (BMPs), habitat and surroundings and nutrition.
- Members agreed to hold a conference call in early spring to discuss the results and next steps related to the BMPs and Habitat and Surroundings projects due to be completed by the end of March.
- A new BeeConnected app and website www.beeconnected.ca, available for free from CropLife Canada was demonstrated and created significant interest from members. The tool will be launched in Western Canada in spring 2016 with a view to inspiring communications between beekeepers and producers and helping to access advice regarding bee health issues on farms. It has been translated and could expand across Canada in 2017 should there be demand.

RESEARCH PILLAR

- Under the research pillar, the preliminary report of the Canadian Honey Bee Research gap analysis was presented as part of the Research Strategy. Members noted specific information missing from the preliminary report and agreed to work together to ensure a comprehensive project inventory is developed.
- BHRT working group chairs agreed to participate in a survey to help determine research gaps as part of the project.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER / COMMUNICATIONS PILLAR

- Significant discussion was held regarding the future communications approach of the Roundtable, particularly the “rapid response” efforts in place to make statements on behalf of the roundtable.
- While a communications working group remains relevant, the need for “rapid response” may no longer be necessary. The Communication Working Group will review and update their Terms of Reference and proposed deliverables.
- In an effort to increase open and transparent communication with industry, AAFC will investigate the possibility of adding a public face to the VCRT Webpage
- Debra Conlon announced that she would be stepping down as chair; BHRT co-chairs will be looking for a replacement.

BHRT – PROGRESS ASSESSMENT & FORWARD PLAN

- The purpose of this discussion was to ensure that all members have a common understanding of the Roundtable's purpose, goals and priorities, as well as a common vision for the future.
- There was recognition that bee health remains a long-term challenge which requires the focus of all members of the table. Despite interest by some, a consensus was not reached to expand the scope of the Roundtable's work to encompass the full honey/beekeeping value chain (i.e. packers).

CROSS-SECTORAL REPORTS

- Regulatory SubCommittee (RSC) – The final report was circulated to the BHRT to solicit feedback on the recommendations, which will be reported back to the All Chairs at their next meeting in April 2016. While the BHRT was not represented on the RSC, industry members will review and provide comments to Rod Scarlett by February 15, 2015.
- Business Data Working Group – Rod Scarlett is the BHRT representative on this cross-sectoral working group and is working with his board to gather feedback and perspectives from industry which will also be presented to the All Chairs meeting in the spring.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Members were encouraged to think about Growing Forward 2 successes and challenges with a view to developing input on sector priorities for the next Agriculture Policy Framework. VCRTs will be one of the fora used for engagement in consultations expected to begin summer 2016.

CONCLUSION

- The full BHRT will meet by webinar in April 2016.

Action Items and Recommendations

Meeting / Item #	Action Items	Responsibility
4-1	CPWG – all members are asked to review and comment on the proposed action plan, and to identify potential / recommended members for each of the 5 sub-committees.	Industry
4-2	BMPS – CLC will share the HBHC's template regarding varroa control as a possible template for use in the BMP project.	Industry
4-3	The BMP working group will think about next steps following the completion of the contractor's report in March, e.g. distribution and outreach.	Industry
4-4	Habitat and Surroundings will work with AAFC to proceed as quickly as possible to identify project elements to be concluded this fiscal year and finalize contracting process.	Industry / AAFC
4-5	The Nutrition working group is suggested to include prebiotic on its issue discussion list. RT approval to continue with directions in draft ToR.	Industry
4-6	David Feindel and Steve Pernal will work with Vicki Wojcik to develop a comprehensive list of resources for inclusion in the preliminary report towards a Research Strategy.	Industry
4-7	The BHRT WG chairs asked to respond to survey as part of research project.	Industry
4-8	The Communication WG will review and update the Terms of Reference and deliverables.	Industry
4-9	Seek a new chair for the Communications Working Group.	Co-chairs
4-10	AAFC will investigate the possibility of adding a public face to the VCRT Webpage to increase communication with Industry	AAFC
4-11	Members to submit any comments on the recommendations of the RSC to Rod by February 15, 2016.	Industry
4-12	A full BHRT webinar will be held in April 2016 to discuss the contracted working group (BMPs and Habitat and Surrounding) reports.	AAFC

PARTICIPANTS

<p><u>Co-Chairs</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rod Scarlett (Industry Co-chair), Canadian Honey Council 2. Andrea Johnston (Government Co-chair), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) <p><u>Industry Members</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Kevin Nixon, Canadian Honey Council (CHC) 4. Andre Talbot, CHC 5. Genevieve Riberdy, Grain Growers of Canada 6. Dave Carey, Canadian Seed Trade Association 7. Doug Miller, Canadian Seed Growers Association 8. Pierre Petelle, CropLife Canada 9. Maria Trainer, CropLife Canada 10. Debra Conlon, Grain Farmers of Ontario 11. Brian Innes, Canola Council of Canada 12. William Van Tassell, Fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec 13. Ashley St. hilaire, Canadian Organic Growers 14. Medhat Nasr, Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists 15. Debbie Etsell, BC Blueberry Council (webex) 16. Howard Mains, Association of Equipment Manufacturers 17. Scott Plante, Canadian Honey Council 18. Stan Reist, Canadian Honey Council 19. Jack Hamilton, Oxford Frozen Foods Ltd (webex) 20. David Jones, Canadian Horticultural Council 21. Victoria Wojcik, Pollinator Partnership (webex) 22. Cary Gates, Flowers Canada Growers 23. Brian Gilroy, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (webex) <p><u>Provincial Government</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. David Feindel, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development 25. Geoff Wilson, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture 26. Rhéal Lafrenière, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (webex) 27. Anne Leboeuf, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (webex) 28. Chris Maund, New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries (webex) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Kelly McAslan, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAFRA) 30. Debra Sikora, OMAFRA 31. Paul van Westendorp, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture (webex) 32. Chris Jordan, Federal/Territorial/Provincial – Assistant Deputy Minister – Newfoundland 33. Jason Sproule, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (webex) <p><u>Federal Government Members</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 34. Steve Pernal, AAFC 35. Connie Hart, Health Canada - Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) 36. Connie Rajzman, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) 37. Anita Gilmer, CFIA 38. Manjeet Sethi, AAFC - Pest Management Centre <p><u>Industry Observers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 39. Salah Zoghلامي, Fédération des producteurs de cultures commerciales du Québec 40. Jeff Wilson - CFA 41. Danielle Downey, Project Apis m. USA <p><u>Federal Government Support</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 42. Mark Drouin, AAFC - MISB 43. Stephen Page, AAFC - MISB 44. Farrid Makki, AAFC – MISB 45. Erin Bureau, AAFC - MISB <p><u>Federal Government Observers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 46. Ron Gerold, AAFC - Market and Industry Services Branch (MISB) 47. Sheila Jones, AAFC - MISB 48. Maxine Grier, AAFC - MISB 49. Leslie Cass, AAFC - Pest Management Centre 50. Patricia Curry, Health Canada - PMRA 51. Lindsay Hanson, Health Canada - PMRA 52. Michael Metson, AAFC - MISB (webex) 53. Émilie de La Haye Duponsel, AAFC - MISB (webex)
---	--