

**Canadian Honey Council**  
**Board of Director's Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

1. Called to Order @ 5:06 pm MDT
2. Moved by Jeremy Olthof  
Seconded by Stan Reist  
That the agenda be approved as circulated.  
Carried
3. Moved by Stan Reist  
Seconded by Rodney Reid  
That the Minutes of the March 15, 2023, Board meeting be approved as circulated.  
Carried
4. Financials
  - a) Rodney Reid presented the update on the CHC bank accounts.  
Operating account balance - \$161,961.00  
Three GIC's  
One 1 year non-redeemable attached to investment acc't - \$264,486.70  
One 1 year redeemable attached to investment acc't.- \$200,000  
One 1 year non-redeemable attached to operating acc't - \$125,000  
  
Moved by Stan Reist  
Seconded by John Van Alten  
That the financial report be accepted as presented.  
Carried
5. Business arising from the Minutes  
Committee reports  
Labour – Jake Berg reported that there seems to be lag in Nicaraguans receiving their passports back from Mexico City. Jeremy Olthof requested information as to whether CBSA is notified when international flights come in and whether Vacation World contacts them to ensure enough staff is in place.  
Stock Replacement – Ron Greidanus provided a written report.  
(see Appendix 1)  
A lengthy discussion then took place regarding the positive test for africanized bees at Pope Canyon Queens. The CHC has sent the following message to CFIA:

*There is concern in the industry as to the impacts of the positive test for "Africanized" queens found in Pope Canyon. As we see it, there are a few issues that need to be dealt with, some more important than others. Firstly, it is our*

*understanding that the 50 mile quarantine zone that surrounds Pope Canyon impacts other queen producers. Those producers have submitted samples that were free from the Africanized gene and, as was done previously, we would suggest a 20 mile quarantine zone be imposed immediately. This would in turn allow the uninterrupted export of California queens to Canada. It is important to note that queen imports will begin in earnest in about two weeks from now so the timing is critical.*

*As for Pope Canyon queens, the CHC would suggest you talk to the inspector who took samples. Although by no means a scientific evaluation, it may provide some degree of confidence in the explanations Caroline Yelle, owner of Pope Canyon is providing to the industry. A second array of testing should be done on the queens Pope Canyon is using and if all those tested do not exhibit an "Africanized" gene, exports permits could be issued.*

*Lastly, CFIA, CAPA and industry need to agree on a better way to handle a similar situation or at least have a plan in place. There are a number of options that could be discussed but it would seem obvious that a second set of tests confirming the initial results would be required. It should be pointed out that the NBDC can do genetic testing and perhaps this could be a viable option. The one thing the industry does not want is to impose more costly tests on all queen producers especially if it is not necessary.*

Moved by Ron Greidanus

Seconded by Osee Podolsky

That the CHC encourages officials to adopt a suggested 25 mile quarantine zone for any Africanized bee incursions in California's Queen breeding area.  
Carried

Honey/Food Safety – Nothing new to report

Pollination/Interprovincial movement – Maggie Lamothe Boudreau reported that Quebec beekeepers are looking for \$225 a colony for pollination.

Hive Health – Osee Podolsky reported that the Oxalic/glycerin application is going through the process at PMRA.

Tech Transfer Team Liaison - Rodney Reid and Jeremy Olthof reported that they hope to have a meeting next week.

Organics committee discontinued\*

b) ABC Sustainability project – deferred to next meeting

c) Tropilaelapse – initial contact has been made with Sam Muirhead and a small working group will be formed to outline the issues.

d) Foster project – Rod has not yet contacted Peter Awram

e) Quinclorac update - In cooperation with the Tech Transfer Team in Alberta a grant request was finalized requesting funding to test 70 samples from Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan for Quinclorac. The results will be forwarded to the Japan Honey Fair Trade Council and the CFIA technician at the Canadian

Embassy in Tokyo. In addition, test results from 600 or so samples that Beemaid provided have already been forwarded.

f) Board training deferred to next meeting

## 6. New Business

a) National meeting - **February 8-10, 2024, Deerfoot Inn and Casino**

Looking for suggestions from Provincial Associations and Board members on:

-Name and branding (BeeCon? BeeTech? looking for ideas here, but I think we need a catchy name)

-Meeting format (breakouts, receptions, speakers, sessions, timing, etc).

-Collaboration with ABC has been discussed with Curtis Meidema

-Website for information, registration (Do we want this to be a permanent website that we just update annually moving forward?)

-Program (invited speakers? Who do beekeepers want to hear? student talks?)

-Tradeshow (recruit vendors, set - up contract? what will they need? How much revenue will this bring)

-Registration fee

-Catering

-CAPA / CHC arrangements (do you want us to include our catering in CHC order then reimburse CHC?)

-AV

-Communicate to provincial associations, ABF, etc

-Advertising

b) Ag Committee appearance – Jake Berg presenting on behalf of CHC, Maggie Lamothe Boudreau, Jeremy Olthof, Ron Greidanus and Jake Hamilton also confirmed presenters.

If there are meetings that could be set up while people are in Ottawa, it may be beneficial.

## 7. Board/Executive Director Reports

Rodney Reid – reported that the overwintering reports from Atlantic Canada sound good.

Maggie Lamothe Boudreau – reported that there haven't been any disasters reported yet.

John Van Alten – indicated that one large beekeeper suffered high losses. The Ontario over wintering survey goes out to beekeepers in a couple weeks.

Osee Podolsky – reported that people seem relatively happy thus far but until the weather warms up no one know for sure what the losses may be.

Jeremy Olthof – It appears anyone who did good last year hasn't done so well this year.

Ron Greidanus – reported that it looks like 20 to 25% losses on initial inspection. Clusters are not as strong as what was hoped. Ag-Recovery grants are awaiting federal government approval.

Micheal Yaremco – BeeMaid expansion projects are progressing.

Stan Reist – reported that poor weather has hampered progress on the island.

Jake Berg – indicated that initial overwintering results are variable. Those that wintered outside seem to be fairly happy with the results.

8. Date of Next Meeting – May 16, 2023 at 5:00 pm MDT

8. Adjournment

Moved by Stan Reist to adjourn.

#### Appendix 1

I tried to organize a meeting with the dominant importers of packages but they are all too busy travelling the country, importing packages.

I did speak with each of them individually asking how things were progressing, what problems were arising and what, if anything, needs to change regulatory wise for next year.

Rough estimates at present are that 105 pallets (approximately 700 kg per pallet - 1 kg and 1 queen are required to repopulate one hive) will enter Canada this spring from all sources.

No significant losses have been reported at any port of entry at this time.

Australia - Martin Regan.

There are two pallets of bees that were affected by the finding of a small hive beetle in Tasmania. These two pallets caused a loss for Martin. The two pallets were held in Australia and not permitted to continue to Canada. The delay resulted in the loss of the 2 pallets estimated to be worth \$300 000. CFIA needs to be more responsive to reportings, especially when cargo is in transit.

No more findings of small hive beetle have been found in Tasmania since the initial finding. It is strongly suspected that a beetle piggy backed to Davensport on a shipment of mangos and made its way to a sentinel hive in Davensport. Packages are sourced from hives more than 130 km from the port in the interior and extensive inspections has not resulted in any further findings either in hives in the interior of Tasmania or in the sentinel hives. At this time there is no further evidence to suggest that Tasmania has small hive beetle.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Have a discussion with CFIA to either declare Tasmania SHB free or to create some other designation for the island. A 'what do we do if there is another finding' plan should be discussed. Further discussions should be had about what risk/threat SHB poses to Canada. This finding has translated into greater losses to the exporter and importer than what would have been realized if an actual beetle had been imported into Canada.

New Zealand - Mike Paradis, Reece Chandler and Chris Bartel

Bringing in pallets all week long. The waiting lists have been filled. New Zealand is fully committed and could potentially provide several additional pallets if orders existed in early May.

The only issue that the importers is that the cargo needs to be cleared at the initial port of entry. Rules had been changed to streamline the process by being able to move the product to a bonded storage facility and paper work could follow - product could be cleared in three hours. However, problems in Toronto caused CBSA to revert to old rules regarding inspection release and transferring product. now its taking more than twice as long. The importers are lobbying hard to have CBSA revert back to the new rules. They are optimistic that changes will be made.

**ACTION REQUIRED.** Assist in creating Package bee import clearance and release protocol - less than three hours. The risk is that a pallet is imported left on the tarmac and cooks waiting to be transfered.

Chile - Chris Bartel

Bees are only coming into Toronto. There are a number of pallets coming in - don't know how many - didn't ask. problem is they only land in Toronto and it is difficult to get them flown out to Winnipeg. There are no flights from Toronto to Winnipeg that have the capacity to carry the pallet of bees, so they need to be trucked. and trucking from Toronto to Manitoba is a long road and a difficult to road to transport packages on.

**ACTION REQUIRED** - a solution to air freighting package bees to Winnipeg needs to be negotiated. This is a tough one because a business model needs to exist to fly hardware that can carry bees into Winnipeg.

Ukraine - Todd Dancing bee, Mike Paradis, George Scott Barry Haughton

At this time no packages are coming to Canada from Ukraine.

Todd - Dancing Bee is bringing in Carpathian and Russian bee stocks from Ukraine. Reece is distributing for Todd in Alberta

Italy - Chris Bartel

Unknown untested source of Package bees. Seems to be on track to bring approximately 10 pallets of bees into Canada from Italy 1.3 kg packages with one

queen Price is 288 per package - Buckfast bees. Pallets will arrive in Late April Early May.