

**Canadian Honey Council
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

1. Called to Order @ 8:14 am MDT

2. Add to agenda Approval of the Minutes of the AGM as 3.b
Add CAPA discussion after Board reports
Moved by John Van Alten
Seconded by Ron Greidanus
That the agenda be approved as amended.
Carried

3. Moved by Jeremy Olthof
Seconded by Ron Greidanus
That the minutes of the January 18/19, 2023 Board meeting be approved as circulated.
Carried

Moved by Jeremy Olthof
Seconded by John Van Alten
That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting on January 19, 2023 be approved as circulated.
Carried

- Note: The discussion on Board training needs to be maintained on future agendas

4. Financials
 - a) Rodney Reid provided a financial update
Operating account -\$276,129.00
Investment account - \$456,394.00
Moved by John Van Alten
Seconded by Maggie Lamothe Boudreau
That the Financial update be approved as presented.

 - b) Moved by Jeremy Olthof
Seconded by Micheal Yaremicio
That approximately 50% of the current operating account be transferred to GIC's.
Carried

5. Business arising from the Minutes

a) Committee reports

Labour – Jake Berg reported that there has been a few issues on Visa approvals being delayed.

Stock Replacement – Ron Greidanus reported that it appears that all packages arriving into Canada have been spoken for and that there seems to be a difficulty in getting Ukrainian packages to the prairies.

Honey/Food Safety – John Van Alten submitted a written report:

The Committee has been working on several items this past two months.

We have been trying to arrange a meeting with Andrew Belmore, CFIA Science Laboratory specialist. Hoping he will be able to shed some light on how we need to approach the issue of Honey Fraud as well as our efforts to protect the word 'honey'. To date we haven't been able to nail down a mutually convenient time to have this conversation.

The CFIA was contacted regarding the use of the ingredient 'honey blend' on packaging of granola by Quaker. We received a letter back with advice on another department we should be sending that to. We are waiting for some clarification on exactly what that ingredient is.

The CFIA annual food fraud report was published. Honey was listed as 88.5 % satisfactory after targeted testing of imported and domestic sampling. As a result of this surveillance, the following amounts of adulterated honey was prevented from entering the Canadian market.

- 142 kg of imported honey was voluntarily destroyed
- 17 800 kg were removed from Canada
- 10 963 cases and 5 barrels were detained

CHC will publish the results in Hivelights. Also a letter was sent to CFIA thanking them for their work and encouraging them to continue monitoring.

Pollination/Interprovincial movement – Maggie Lamothe Boudreau reported that the pollination survey has been distributed to the provinces and responses are beginning to be tabulated. A reminder about the survey needs to be sent back out to the provincial associations. John Van Alten attended the New Brunswick Beekeepers AGM and learned that about 40,000 colonies are needed for pollination in Atlantic Canada. Another 40,000 or so will be needed in Quebec.

Hive Health – Osee Podolsky reported that Manitoba has submitted a request to PMRA for the approval of a new wax moth treatment and the CHC has submitted a letter of support for national approval.

Tech Transfer Team Liaison – Jeremy Olthof reported that Collette Mesher has provided an updated report requesting a national component for tech transfer teams support. Rodney Reid forwarded information on the Atlantic Tech Transfer teams report on blueberry pollination.

b) Bee Sustainability Working Group – the report has been finalized and will be forwarded to various Ag. Ministers

c) ABC Sustainability project – Ron Greidanus will provide the Board a better description of the deliverables.

6. New Business

- a) Apimondia Attendance – Rodney Reid and Rod Scarlett will attend. Maggie Lamothe Boudreau may be attending as a presenter and John Van Alten will be attending. Rod to send out a notice to provincial associations about participation.
- b) Tropilaelapes – Rod to lead in developing a strategy to address risks and action plans.
- c) Foster project – Peter Awram has been approached to discuss whether he could commercial the data and Stan Reist will talk to Peter next week at their semi-annual.
- d) FoodEx Report - Jake Berg reported that he felt the participation at the tradeshow was worthwhile. Honey packets and export catalogues that were not distributed were left with Mary Beth from the Alberta trade office. Jake suggested that in certain circumstances it may be preferable to have those people who are involved in exporting use the booth rather than just CHC representation. Rod to get in touch with Jennifer Minor, the CFIA employee at the Canadian Embassy in Japan with a request to help intervene on the quincolorac issue.
- e) Wax moth – discussed in Bee Health committee report
- f) AAFC new funding opportunities - Rod to look at funding opportunities and get back to the Board.

7. Board/Executive Director Reports

Rodney Reid attended the Nova Scotia Beekeepers AGM.

Maggie Lamothe Boudreau indicated that the Quebec beekeepers had a successful AGM with talks on blueberry pollination, border issues and the economic cost of profitable beekeeping.

John Van Alten – The OBA will hold its spring meeting in Burlington on March 31 to April 1. Anicet Deroches of Miel d’Anicet will be the keynote speaker. The OBA board will be rolling out the new strategic plan. The Friday meeting will wrap up with a tour of the local “backed by bee” beekeeping and mead making operation. Sunday’s meeting will concentrate on Queen and nuc production. OMAFRA and minister of Agriculture is scheduled to make some funding announcement. Winter seems to have restarted in southern Ontario. Several heavy snows in the past weeks after a spring like February. No indications on overwintering.

Osee Podolsky – the MBA had a successful AGM in late February

Ron Greidanus – some early inspections have taken place and the beekeepers were optimistic.

Jeremy Olthof - reported that the Rueppell project is continuing work on a new varroa control

Stan Reist reported that the BCHPA semi-annual is next week. Packaged bees have started to arrive. Losses on Vancouver Island seem to be higher than normal.

Jake Berg – indicated that this year is expecting to look good but is concerned about 2023-24.

Rod – See Appendix A

*Board training deferred to next meeting

CAPA

Moved by Jeremy Olthof

Seconded by Stan Reist

That Rod Scarlett become an Associate Member of CAPA.

Carried

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5 pm MDT

9. Moved by Jeremy Olthof to adjourn.

Appendix A

Since the AGM in St. John's, the Industry-Government Honey Bee Sustainability working group had one last meeting where the final comments were provided to the government and the report has subsequently been finalized. It will be sent off to the Minister and all the provincial Ministers. The CHC is providing some initiatives to AAFC to possibly gauge the willingness to act on recommendations. A Tech Transfer Team project, support rapid approval of oxalic-glycerin and support for RNAi development are three such items.

The Canadian Bee Research Fund had its meeting in early February where about \$26,000 in research funds was distributed to four projects.

1. Rueppell & Smith	Queen dehydration	\$ 4,000
2. Guarna	Amoeba prevalence	\$ 7,000
3. Pernal & Plettner	New acaricide	\$10,000

In addition, the \$5000 Atwal scholarship was awarded to Ana María Quiroga Arcila, PhD student, Department of Phytology at Laval University.

Preparations for the booth at FoodEx in Japan involved getting a Canadian and Japanese expediting companies involved to ship export catalogues and honey packets. In addition, planting guides were shipped to various Board members.

Project Pet Hive Company distributed its first cheque to the CHC in the amount of \$695 which will be used to provide seed for about 10 acres for the start of a honey bee habitat enhancement project. Locations are currently being considered in Saskatchewan and Manitoba in conjunction with the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund. The initial amount represents about 1% of two month sales of their dog food and treats in Ontario. Cheques will now be arriving at 6 month intervals.

In late February AAFC and bee importers had a meeting with Air Canada to discuss the transport of packaged bees on Air Canada planes. The meeting was quite successful as Air Canada has agreed to handle packages on both their 777 and Dreamliner aircraft. There are some standard operating procedures that need to be followed, but for the most part, importers were satisfied with the results.

There continues to be considerable lobbying efforts going on with respect to live animal transport regulations in Canada. The work involves getting the same regulations in place regarding time transport restrictions as those in place in the United States.

The issue of the possible introduction of tropilaelapes through Australian packaged bees created some controversy and resulted in the development of a statement on the issue.

Then last week, a single small hive beetle was found in a sentinel hive in Devonport, Tasmania which resulted in immediate closure for export packages. Three pallets of bees were ready for transport to Canada and some quick work by CFIA and CAPA resulted in new import terms to be agreed upon. I met with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture last Thursday and relayed the concerns and by 11:00 the pallets were on their way to Canada. Additional issues discussed with the DM included, the Working Group recommendations, CHC view on US packages, labour concerns, and support for tech transfer teams.

Last week I was in Ottawa for CAHRC meetings. CAHRC recently received a \$12 million grant to develop a National Labour Strategy. During this time I was able to confirm that our e-learning project has now been translated into Spanish and is ready to roll out as we now have a GST number.

Some initial inquiries were made with hotels in Ottawa capable of hosting our proposed national meeting. While the hotel rates seemed reasonable, catering was very expensive. Working with Shelley Hoover, we are now looking at Calgary as a possible venue with mid January and mid March being possible dates.