

Canadian Honey Council
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

1. Called to Order @ 9:01 am MDT

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Osee Podolsky
Seconded by Jeremy Olthof
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 27, 2023 Board meeting

Moved by Maggie Lamothe Boudreau
Seconded by Osee Podolsky
That the minutes of the November 27, 2023 Board of Director's meeting be approved as circulated.
Carried

4. Financials

a) Rodney Reid reported the following:

The current CHC account balances:

Operating account - \$201,802.02

Investment - \$272,955.99 (Gain of \$8469.29 since April 18th)

GIC – \$325,000.00

- Director's fees have been paid by BeeMaid, BC, AB and MB
- Hive assessments paid by BC, AB and MB

b) Budget

Moved by Rodney Reid
Seconded by Maggie Lamothe Boudreau
That the proposed budget be approved.
Carried

5. Business arising from the Minutes

a) Committee reports

Labour – Jake Berg questioned why Mexico City doesn't follow the dates employers request on work visas. Rod see if there is a contact at IRCC and see if there is a way the CHC can get involved in the initial discussions with the embassy at the beginning of the year.

Stock Replacement –

Moved by Ron Greidanus

Seconded by Oss Podolsky

That the CHC write a letter to CFIA expressing concern over package and queen imports from Ukraine.

Carried

Ron will draft the letter

Honey/Food Safety – nothing to report

Pollination/Interprovincial movement – Maggie Lamothe Boudreau reported that the committee met and suggested a national pollination conference. It was also suggested that a website could be used to share information.

Hive Health – Oss Podolsky reported that the Manitoba PA has put out notification that wax moth may survive this winter because of mild temperatures. Albert Devries indicated that he will get an update on the oxalic-glycerin file.

Tech Transfer Team Liaison – Rodney Reid and Jeremy Olthof indicated that dealings with the federal government are at a standstill.

- b) National meeting – Rod gave an update on the trade show and sponsorship. He requested that Board members encourage registrations. Ron Greidanus, Rodney Reid and Albert Devries indicated that they will help out on Thursday.
- c) FPC Research check-off – Jeremy Olthof
- d) North American Strategy - Jeremy Olthof reported the following:
 - So we just met with the National Honey Board and learned a few things. My opinion would be a penny a pound on all domestic production over 100000 lbs (no reason for this number the NHB uses 250000 but that may be too high for Canada) and all exported and imported honey (maybe anything over 50000 lbs about a truckload of honey) I would see the board as having Beemaid and CHC as permanent members with 2 more packer/importer members and 2 more Beekeeper members. To reply to some of your questions Simon this has to be a separate board from CHC according to the Legislation. This would have government oversight. The NHB has a return on investment analysis done I think she said yearly? And out of the 7 mil collected 5 goes to marketing, 1 to research and the remaining goes to operations.
 - One question I would have is even though this would be a separate board could there possibly be a paid position that could also be a CHC employee? If everyone is on board so far I think the next step would be to draft an outline of what the organization and then begin a list of Packers and importers that we would need to contact.
- e) Food and Hotel Asia – Rod reported that we have been accepted to participate in the Canadian Pavilion. He will find out the dates for the show in the middle East.
- f) Awards Tim Wendell was selected as the Fred Rathje recipient and Dr. Rob Currie for the Willie Baumbartner
- g) honey fraud update – Rod to send out to the Board law suit info, Awram/Foster proposal and some funding options.

6. New Business

a) Resolutions – Jake Berg presented the Saskatchewan resolutions:

Resolution #1

Whereas import data of honey entering Canada is showing a significant amount of imported honey entering Canada at a lower price than paid to Canadian beekeepers,
And whereas the amount of honey imported into Canada has doubled from 2018 to 2022 to approximately 10,500,000 kilograms,

And whereas the volume of honey being imported from countries which are traditionally suspected of shipping adulterated honey to the North American honey market is increasing

Therefore be it resolved that SBDC lobby CHC to work with CFIA and CBSA to develop protocols, thresholds and regulations for analysis of all imported honey to Canada.

Moved by: Simon Lalonde

Seconded by: Neil Specht

Carried

Resolution #2

Whereas there is evidence that Tropilaelaps mites are moving towards Ukraine,
And whereas introduction of this mite to the Canadian honeybee population would have a significant impact to the Canadian beekeeping industry,

And whereas the number of queen bees imported to Canada from Ukraine is approximately only 3% of total queen bee imports,

Therefore, be it resolved that SBDC ask Canadian Honey Council and CFIA to immediately stop importation of all honeybee packages and queen bees from Ukraine.

Moved by: Lee Genereux

Seconded by: Christopher Warriner

Carried

Resolution #3

Whereas honey is being reduced to a sweetener or a spread,

Therefore be it resolved that SBDC support research through the CHC to prove honey as a nutraceutical for the biggest return to the industry.

Moved by: Neil Specht

Seconded by: Calvin Parsons

Carried

Resolution #4

Whereas imports of foreign honey into Canada have greatly increased, and
Whereas Canada could be viewed as transshipping foreign honey;

Therefore, be it resolved that CHC present this concern to CFIA to demonstrate clarity that this behavior is trade related and not an antidumping issue.

Moved by: Murray Hannigan

Second by: Simon Lalonde

Carried

Moved by Stan Reist

Seconded by Maggie Lamothe Boudreau

That the Saskatchewan resolutions be accepted as presented and a written response be provided.

Carried

Jeremy Olthof presented the Alberta resolutions that require a response:

Honey Council Become a Member of Canadian Federation of Agriculture

- *The Alberta Beekeepers Commission (ABC) suggest that Canadian Honey Council become a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.*

Development of a National Collaborative Stock Replacement Strategy

- *The Alberta Beekeepers Commission (ABC) request Provincial beekeeping boards, Provincial Apiculturists, the Canadian Association of Provincial Apiculturists and Canadian Honey Council work together (perhaps hiring a consultant to lead the discussions and develop the framework) on the development and implementation of a Collaborative Stock Replacement Strategy*

New Risk Assessment for the importation of bee packages from pre-determined/identified areas in the USA

- *The Alberta Beekeepers Commission (ABC) request that Canadian Honey Council and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists support/endorse ABC's request for a new risk assessment*

Miticides

- *Alberta Beekeepers Commission request the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) prioritize ongoing and new research proposals for new synthetic miticides for producers*

Jeremy Olthof presented the new Alberta Resolutions

TITLE OF RESOLUTION:

Change the Status of Small Hive Beetle from a Reportable Pest to a Non-Reportable Pest

RATIONALE / PURPOSE FOR RESOLUTION:

Whereas... Small Hive Beetle is no longer a reportable pest in both the United States and Australia

Whereas... it is well known that Small Hive Beetle does not cause harm in Alberta

Whereas... the limited ability of Small Hive Beetle to cause harm in other parts of Canada is well known

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Be it resolved that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission request Canadian Honey Council work with Provincial Apiculturists and Chief Provincial Vets to develop a recommendation for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to change the status of Small Hive Beetle from a reportable pest to a non-reportable pest.

TITLE OF RESOLUTION:

Gaining a more comprehensive understanding of Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists role and relationship with the Canadian Commercial Beekeeping Industry and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

RATIONALE / PURPOSE FOR RESOLUTION:

Whereas... CAPA's consultative role with CFIA and lack of transparency is very concerning to commercial beekeepers

Whereas... The contribution of knowledge and experience related to commercial beekeeping management practices combined with scientific/academic knowledge would be greatly beneficial in the development of mitigating strategies.

Whereas... Requests for increased transparency and cooperation with the beekeeping industry have been rejected by CAPA.

Whereas... Transparency and cooperation in the commercial beekeeping industry is a key factor in ensuring its long-term viability

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Be it resolved that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission request Canadian Honey Council work with CAPA and report back to Alberta Beekeepers Commission in regard to CAPA's role as a consultative body to clearly define roles and responsibilities, governance and processes used by CAPA to develop recommendations which are provided to CFIA. As well as CAPA's role as a volunteer organization, its impact on commercial beekeeping and work to increase transparency across the commercial beekeeping industry.

TITLE OF RESOLUTION:

Establishing a Canadian Honey Promotion and Research Agency

RATIONALE / PURPOSE FOR RESOLUTION:

- **Whereas** Farm Products Council of Canada approached the Canadian Honey Council to discuss establishing a Honey Promotion and Research Agency (PRA)
 - **Whereas** A Honey PRA could provide stable funding source for its activities through the collection of levies on both domestic and imported honey, the Agency will help honey producers and packers expand their markets and increase sales.
 - **Whereas** Consumers will benefit also from increased access to information on honey and other products which utilize honey, including their quality, medicinal benefits and their nutritional value
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TITLE OF RESOLUTION:

Return to Battery Box Shipping

RATIONALE / PURPOSE FOR RESOLUTION:

Whereas more than 350,000 queens are imported in Canada every year

Whereas queen importation protocols require cages along with attendants as opposed to previously accepted battery boxes to allow for easier inspection for small hive beetles

Whereas the economic damage caused from small hive beetle in northern climates is well documented and known to be minimal

Whereas sperm viability has been proven to be negatively affected when queens are transported with attendants alone

Whereas Poor queens are consistently listed as a top reason for overwintering loss in CAPA overwintering reports. Whereas the cost to Queen breeders to manually add attendants results in an increased cost of imported queens

Whereas the queen importation protocol is clearly costing the industry vastly more economic damage than the economic risk it is intended to prevent

Whereas A new battery box design developed by University of Alberta allows for queen inspection without risk to Border Services Inspection staff

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Be it resolved that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission request that the Canadian Honey Council request that Canadian Food Inspection Agency reconsider and reexamine the queen importation protocols and return to battery box style shipping

Moved by Jeremy Olthof

Seconded by Ron Greidanus

That the Alberta resolutions be accepted as presented and a written response be provided.

Carried

7. Board/Executive Director Reports

Deferred. Discussion on written reports to replace oral reports.

7. Date of Next Meeting

January 22, 2024 at 9:00 am MST

9. Adjournment

Moved by Ron Greidanus to adjourn.

