

Canadian Honey Council
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 27, 2023

Regrets
Maggie Lamothe Boudreau

1. Called to Order @ 9:02 am MDT
2. Moved by Albert Devries
Seconded by Stan Reist
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
Carried
3. Moved by Stan Reist
Seconded by Jeremy Olthof
That the minutes of the October 18, 2023 Board meeting be accepted as circulated.
Carried
4. Financials
Rodney Reid reported that the account balances were:

Operating - \$97,935.34
GIC's \$325,000
Investment - \$272,186.06
Budget deficits were explained (See Appendix A)

Moved by Stan Reist
Seconded by Albert Devries
That the financial report be accepted as presented.
Carried

Rod to sent 2022-23 profit loss statement to Board members. 2023-24 Budget will be forwarded to the Board for approval.
5. Business arising from the Minutes
 - a) Committee reports
Labour – Jake Berg reported that under the new responsible employer program only one name change is allowed for LMIA's over the three year period.
Stock Replacement – Ron Greidanus provided a written report (Appendix B)

Moved by Ron Greidanus
Seconded by Stan Reist

That the CHC urge CFIA to delay issuing export permits for Ukrainian queens and packaged honey bees until such time as import protocols including mitigating risks of Tropilaelaps are implemented to the satisfaction of the Canadian industry.

Carried

Ron reported that Air Canada will terminate direct flights from Santiago to Toronto effective March 31, 2024.

Moved by Ron Greidanus
Seconded by Stan Reist

That the CHC draft a letter to CFIA thanking them for their work and requesting a policy change that would allow for continued transport of packaged bees already in transit be permitted to enter Canada if a small hive beetle incursion were to occur.

Carried

- Honey/Food Safety – Albert Devries will take over Chair. Simon Lalonde is interested in joining the committee.
- Pollination/Interprovincial movement – No report
- Hive Health – Nothing to report
- Tech Transfer Team Liaison – Rodney Reid will be meeting with Andrew Byers later this week.
- b) National meeting – Rod reported that registrations have begun to trickle in, trade show booths are over half sold, and sponsorships are still available. The agenda should be confirmed by December 1, 2023
- c) FPC Research check-off – Jeremy reported that a follow up meeting with the FDC is happening tomorrow and a meeting with the National Honey Board needs to set up.
- d) Manitoba concerns – Osee Podolsky indicated that previous discussions addressed the issue.

6. New Business

- a) North American Strategy - Jeremy Olthof has indicated he has spoken with Matt Mullica of the Honeybee Health Coalition about facilitating.

Moved by Jeremy Olthof
Seconded by Osee Podolsky
That the CHC support the initial development of a comprehensive North American Strategy.
Carried with Stan Reist abstaining.

- b) Food and Hotel Asia
Moved by Stan Reist
Seconded by Osee Podolsky
That the CHC purchase booth space at the Food and Beverage show in Singapore, April 23-26, 2024.
Carried
Rod to distribute information to the Board of additional shows.
- c) Awards – One nomination for the Rathe award has been received. Further nominations must be received prior to the next Board meeting.
- d) Honey Fraud update - Rod met with Leonard Foster and Peter Awram about commercializing their data and testing. An initial report is to be received in the near future.
Questions were raised about using Ag Stability data to determine a cost of production for honey and using it to set tariffs. Rod to contact the law firm about extending the time frame for answers until such time as all potential revenue streams are explored.
Potentially have questionnaires on the topic at BeeTech.

7. Board/Executive Director Reports

Albert Devries reported that the OBA AGM was held in Peterborough last weekend. A resolution to increase the number of colonies the defines a commercial operation to 300 from 50 was defeated. The tech transfer team is in the process of rebuilding.

Osee Podolsky indicated that the bees look good going into winter. Concerns about increased cheap honey imports.

Jeremy Olthof reported that the ABC's AGM is on Wednesday and then will be attending the AHPA meeting in San Diego.

Stan Reist said there have been some moderate losses already as a result of high varroa counts. Honey prices are low and sales are slow. Planning for the spring semi-annual is under way. He indicated that he is working on a road closure initiative.

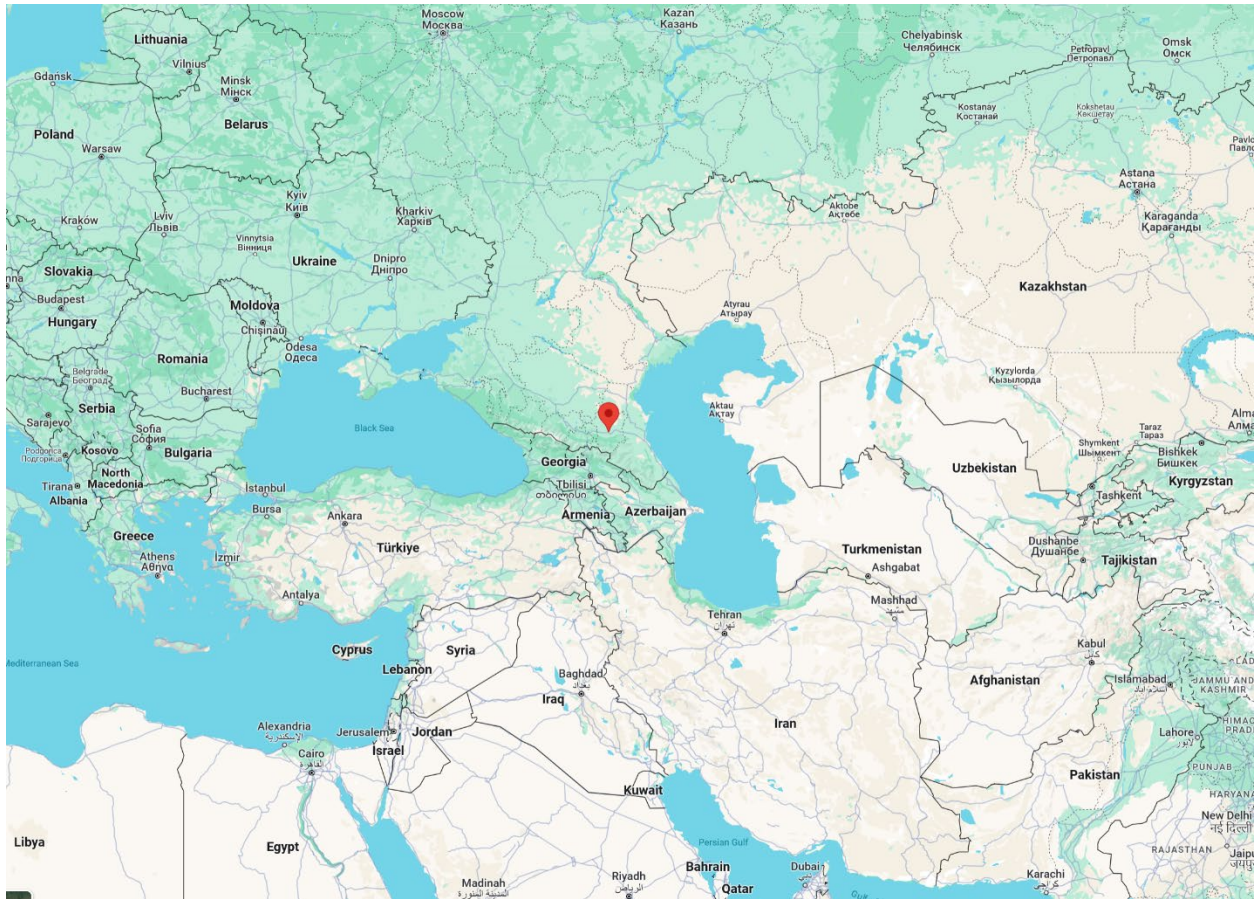
Jake Berg reported that the SBDC AGM was last week and that resolutions will be brought forward at the next meeting. One new Board member and Simon Lalonde was appointed a member-at-large.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 20 at 9:00am MST

9. Adjournment

Moved by Stan Reist to adjourn.



Appendix A

Three areas of concern regarding stock replacement:

Tropilealapse mites Tropilealapse Mites reported to be approximately 100 miles from Ukrainian border. Below is a map showing the location of Ukraine and the suspected area where tropilealapse mites are allegedly to be.

Documentation attached reports that A. Meliferra was rendered extinct in Pakistan due to T. Mites. Bees coming from Ukraine would allegedly come from western Ukraine. Due to the conflict in the area bees are not expected to be transported between areas that could be used to produce packages and areas where T. Mites are alleged to exist. Our opportunity today is to be proactive on the issue. Knee jerk reactions in the past tend to cause more injury to industry than they prevent.

e need to come up with a recommendation to CFIA regarding packages from Ukraine. I don't know if Russia has declared that they have T. mites or if reports are being corroborated by the World organization for animal health.

Currently, only George Scott, Niagra Beeway (and Barry Haughton – Hiveworld) is requesting import permits for packages from Ukraine.

Dancing bee is bringing in Carpathian Queens from Ukraine.

Chris Bartel also may be bringing in queens from Ukraine.

To be proactive, requesting CFIA to put a freeze or pause issuance of import permits now would allow for importers to make other arrangements.

I would ask for a temporary freeze or a one or two year pause so that

- 1) More detailed information can be found to confirm/refute reported findings.
- 2) Mitigation procedures can be looked at and implemented.
- 3) We can consult with the US to discuss what our combined future looks like. If Canada has t-mites, they will cross the border into the states and have a significantly more severe impact on their industry.

Flights from Chile

Air Canada has reported that they will no longer be consistently flying from Santiago Chile to Canada with equipment that can carry package bees. Approximately 6000 plus packages make it to Canada from Chile in the past. Chile is the most unreliable provider of packages of the 3 source countries.

In recent years other routings have worked to get packages to Canada from Chile ie via KLM Santiago, Amsterdam Toronto/Calgary/Vancouver. These routings might be available again.

Queens from Northern California

I sent a email to Connie Rajman regarding the import protocol for queens coming from Northern California. Please see below:

From Ron Greidanus, November 12, 2023

Connie, in the spring of 2023, a queen producer who exports queens to Canada was found to have genetics consistent with Africanized bees. This finding restricted a number of other queen producers from providing necessary queens to the Canadian market. CFIA revised the import protocols by reducing the AHB free zone from a 50 mile radius to a 30 mile radius.

I recently received a phone call from one Dave Stoffel in California. As queen producers are preparing for the 2024 season, the question has arisen, "is the change in radius from 50 miles to 30 miles a one time change to respond to the 2023 finding or is this change a permanent change and going forward CFIA only now requires queen producers to operate within a 30 mile radius?"

Those in California who provide significant support to the Canadian industry are requesting clarity on this issue. Could you please provide an update on the Queen Bee import protocol to our partners in the USA - specifically Northern California?

Thanks in advance. If you could include me in on this update, I will forward your update to all interested parties.

Hi Ron,

The change from 50 to 30 miles for AHB was made after a science-based risk review. This change was relayed to the USDA and has also been changed in our Automated Import Reference System (AIRS). I will reiterate this to my USDA colleague and ask that they inform California.

Kind regards,

Connie

Dr. Connie Rajzman (she/her)

Senior Veterinary Officer / Vétérinaire principal

Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Connie.Rajzman@inspection.gc.ca

Status of Tasmania as no longer a Small Hive beetle Free area

Last spring two pallets of bees were held up because a small hive beetle was found in a sentinel hive in the port of Devonport in Tasmania. As a result 1/3 of the bees in the two pallets resulted in \$80 000 worth of losses by the importer. CFIA amended the requirements to inspect hives used to make packages for SHB. The importer is requesting that these provisions be kept in place. The reality is that Small Hive beetle make their way to Tasmania from time to time, hitching rides on cars on ferries from the mainland and on fruit shipments to the island from the mainland. At this time, no beekeepers on the island are reporting finding any Small Hive Beetle in any of their colonies. It is costing beekeepers in Tasmania to get the inspections done and this cost is passed on to the consumer, reflected in the price of a package of bees from Tasmania. Expect a <10% price increase for 2024 deliveries.

One request that would have significant implications on stock availability is if CFIA reclassified SHB as a reportable pest that poses insignificant risk to Canadian Agriculture.

SHB might be an WOAHP reportable pest that can only survive in a limited geographic parts of Canada.

Reclassifying SHB could potentially open the door to packages from Queensland and NSW.

NSW and Queensland now have varroa. Chile has Varroa, NZ has varroa, Italy has Varroa. Canada imports packages from Chile, NZ, and Italy. There are enough flights from Australia (Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth) to triple the amount of packages from Australia.

There is a request from Chris Brown in Australia for an export permit for queens from New South Wales (NSW) to Canada for the 2024 season on a similar protocol as New Zealand

I make a motion that the CHC board approve a letter be sent to CFIA

- 1) Thanking them for maintaining the amended protocols for queen imports from northern California
- 2) Advising CFIA that if any findings of SHB or Varroa should jeopardize import permits for packages from Australia, that those permits that are not already in transit ie left tasmania or western Australia be affected. Bees already in transit should be omitted.
- 3) Request CFIA to provide up to date information on where Tropilaelaps mites have been found and the timeline of reports.

I make a motion that CHC should approach CAPA to formulate a well thought out proactive strategy regarding Tropilaelaps mites and Ukrainian packages and present this plan to CFIA prior to the 2024 season.