

Canadian Honey Council
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2023

1. Called to Order @ 9:02 am MDT
2. Moved by Micheal Yaremicio
Seconded by Osee Podolsky
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
Carried
3. Moved by Micheal Yaremicio
Seconded by Osee Podolsky
That the Minutes of the September 26, 2023 Board meeting be approved as circulated.
Carried
4. Financials
Rodney Reid reported that CHC year-end is October 31. All expense claims should be submitted. Awaiting \$15,000 deposit from Bayer. Stripe payment on Oct 3rd was the first payments for online training for apiary workers and Stripe payment on Oct 16 was for national meeting registrations.

GIC's \$325,000
Investment Account \$270,891.00
Operating Account Balance as of Oct. 16 - \$91,244.
5. Business arising from the Minutes
 - a) Committee reports
Labour – Jake Berg reported that the trusted employer program has been launched.
Stock Replacement – Ron Greidanus is working on “what if” strategy that will be distributed to the Board upon completion.
Honey/Food Safety – Nothing to report.
Pollination/Interprovincial movement – Maggie Lamothe Boudreau reported that in Quebec blueberry and cranberry producers are looking for bees with cranberry pollination contract at \$200 and blueberries at \$225. Prices in New Brunswick are higher. It was also reported that BC was short about 10,000 colonies but the prices for blueberry pollination was \$265.00.
Hive Health – Nothing to report.
Tech Transfer Team Liaison – Rodney Reid/Jeremy Olthof reported that no response has been received to the CHC TTT submission. Rodney Reid will see if he can meet with the Minister to bring the matter to his attention.
 - b) National meeting – Rod indicated that everything is up to date on the website and that registration, booths and sponsorships are being addressed.

- c) Risk assessment – Jeremy Olthof will try to come up with the groundwork for the development of a what if strategy when the results of the risk assessment are announced. Rod will email CFIA and request that the CHC be given notice as to when the announcement is made.
- d) Sugar policy – A letter supporting a domestic sugar policy as been sent to Minister Ng. Rod to check to see if there is someone to speak on this topic at BeeTech.
- e) FPC Research check-off – Maggie Lamothe Boudreau indicated that Quebec is doing something similar provincially. Rod will follow up on that initiative and write clear outline as to what the proposal entails so that Board members can bring it to their provincial associations.
- f) MRL's – Quinclorac - Rod reported that the OEDC is working on Estimation of level of residues in pollen and nectar by calculation based on the application rate of the pesticide, herbicide or fungicide. (See Appendix 1)

6. New Business

- a) Manitoba concerns – The Board discussed the letter from the Manitoba Beekeepers Association and Osee Podolsky will take a look at the written response as well as report on the discussion at their next Board meeting.
- b) Presentation by Michael Milne of Cassidy Levy Kent LLP on antidumping
The Board discussed the matter and will take information back to the Provincial Associations.
- c) SHB – Stan Reist reported that there has been an official incursion of SHB in the lower mainland and that the Provincial Apiculturist has issued some notifications.

7. Board/Executive Director Reports

Rodney Reid reported that honey yields seem to be good and regional connections continue to be made.

Maggie Lamothe Boudreau continues to work on queen breeding projects such as a traceability app. Honey is being sold at \$2.65 lbs. The weather is cooling off and people are busy finishing up.

John Van Alten indicated that the honey crop was variable but probably below average. There is resistance to the lower prices being offered. The bees generally look good going into winter. The Ontario TTT lost another member, and they are now down to one employee.

Albert Devries is trying an experimental wintering trailer to handle 600 nucs.

Ron Greidanus indicated that most people are finished. Honey sales are slow, but there is some sales to Japan. Sugar pricing has beekeepers concerned.

There are some operations that are reporting varroa problems.

Jeremy Olthof reported that there may be funding mechanisms for the TTT and that the last board meeting focussed on the role of the TTT. He has heard there have been quite a few mite bombs.

Micheal Yaremicio indicated that the optimism beekeepers had in the summer never materialized in terms of honey production.

Jake Berg thanked John Van Alten and Micheal Yaremco for their work on the CHC Board as they are stepping down.

8. Date of Next Meeting
Monday, November 27 at 9:00 am MST

9. Adjournment
Jeremy Olthof moved to adjourn.

Appendix 1

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

[OECD Work Related to Bees/Pollinators - OECD](#)

Current and planned OECD activities

Testing Requirements and Risk Assessment Priorities have been ranked based on the analysis of need and feasibility. Need is determined by the policy and (current and future) regulatory requirements.

Feasibility is determined by a number of elements like: can the proposed test be easily conducted? Is there already someone working on this test method? Are there available data obtained by using the proposed test method? Will adequate methodology be available soon? Is there a need for further research before envisaging such a test?

The following activities have been given high priority for both need and feasibility:

- Laboratory toxicity test on developmental stages of honeybee: larvae, pupae and adult emergence;
- Honeybee tunnel test under semi-field conditions;
- **Estimation of level of residues in pollen and nectar by calculation based on the application rate;**
- Risk assessment schemes for adult and larvae honeybee, bumble bees and solitary bees, for sprayed products, soil and seed treatments;
- Uncertainties in the risk assessment; and
- Laboratory acute contact toxicity test on adults of solitary non-Apis bee species.

These priorities are in line with the work undertaken under the auspices of the [International Commission for Pollinator Plant Relationship](#) (ICPPR) and in particular its [Bee Protection Group](#).