**Mountain Empire Beekeeper’s Association**

May 24th 2012 Meeting Minutes

First order of business that was recorded – Robyn Llull volunteered to be the new secretary.

First discussion was about the bee workshop that occurred on May 19, 2012 at Eural Clippard’s farm. An extractor was raffled off, one of the new members won. There was a slightly low turnout but the weather was great and a lot of nucs were made. One of the hives even swarmed towards the end of the workshop.

This transitioned to a discussion about the high frequency of swarming in the area. It’s suspected that the mild winter and warm spring allowed the bees to start earlier this year.

It was advised that beekeepers start mite counts and mite treatment programs with powdered sugar.

The updated member list distribution topic was revisited. Since the roster list is one of the benefits included with paying dues, it was decided that the roster list will be made available for handout. It will only include the name, cities, and phone numbers of members, no emails or physical addresses.

Topic of Grants – a member received a callback after trying to contact Keith Tigner and was told that the grants will only go to absolute new hives purchased after January. There will be a waiting list and once the $175,000 that was set aside for the program is allocated, no further grants will be issued. You must be registered and inspected by the state to be eligible. The grant allows $200 per new hive, up to 6, and receipts must be provided for supply purchases.

A form board was raffled off.

Meeting closed at 8:18 by President Peter French.