Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes of Meeting April 25, 2013

President Peter French called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. in room 118, Carroll Hall, Wytheville Community College. Peter asked all to silence their cell phones.

Secretary's minutes had been posted to the website. Minutes approved as on website without corrections.

Treasurer's report:

Beginning balance: $ 4,667.87

Expenses for the month: 536.69

Receipts for the month: 797.00

Ending balance: $ 4,927.08

New Business:

Spring Bee Workshop: motion presented and passed that the association would provide sandwich platters and drinks; members and guests would bring potluck-desserts, chips, and salads.

Further, discussed supply support for members attending the workshop. Peter asked for a motion for the association to provide a 4-Frame manual extractor as a raffle item. Motion presented, seconded, passed, and approved. Motion changed by friendly amended to read raffle tickets would be sold at $5 per ticket. Motion and amendment passed. Treasurer agreed to purchase extractor.

Treasurer Mick stated that the deposit on NUCs the association purchased for the 2013 Bee Class and a $50 reduction in cost of bees set on account at Brushy Mountain. Mickey moved that the $75 be offered at the workshop as a raffle at cost of $2 per ticket. Motion seconded and passed. Members verbally agreed that winners of raffles must be present to win. Peter offered to arrange for porter-johns, and asked for volunteers to mow, trim weeds, set up, clean up. Several persons volunteered.

Final action for workshop, President Peter asked treasurer to have the secretary send out workshop notice and map to Mr. Clippard's Farm. He restated that workshop would be from 10-2, May 18, 2013.

Second item of new business: Managing bees, problem: Winter losses. When re-starting hives in previously used frames with wax, frames must be frozen before reuse to kill wax moth eggs, and larvae.

Secondly, check for mice which over-wintered in hives, remove and clean out the debris. Also, continue with hive inspection by checking for brood, and brood pattern. When weak v\hives found, move brood from strong hives to the weak hive. Then check for swarm cells and drone cells--and are drones flying?

Keep check on food stores, continue to feed NUCs, and if weather turns cold, feed established hives with sugar water 1 to 1 ratio. If the queen has laid eggs in the upper chamber and not the bottom hive body, reverse the hive bodies. After a week has passed, check hives again. If the weak hive has not shown strong signs of recovery, merge the weak hive with a strong hive. Major natural food supply for nectar for April comes from dandelions, Maples Trees, and other early bloomers.

Thirdly, re-queening. Shortage of queens exists in our area because of cold snap in weather. We located a couple suppliers-Tate Apiary, Winston-Salem, NC as reported by Carroll Hill; Ken Cole, Princeton, WV-tel-304-425-7077 had four breed queens as reported by Duane Myers; and WT Kelley Co, Clarkson, KY 42726 had queens as reported by Vernon Steep. The membership decided that we should have listed on our website as many suppliers of queens as possible. Association Secretary and webmaster to be asked to do this task.

Librarian asked for floor and announced that the library had many new materials and would be open for business immediately after meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MRC

Mickey Cunningham

Recording Secretary