

AIA Business Meeting

The Meeting called to order Wednesday, December 4, 2002, by president, Anette Phibbs.
The attendance of the AIA members was low due to budget problems.

Those present included:

WI, Anette Phibbs
KY, Phil Craft
AR, Ed Levi
MD, Jerry Fischer, Bart Smith
NC, Don Hopkins
PA, Dennis van Englesdorp
FL, Laurence Cutts

ON, Doug McRory
AB, Medhat Nasr

The main address of the president is printed in the General Session elsewhere in these proceedings.

Beyond the main address the president again thanked Bart Smith for work as secretary for 18 years

It was noted that a quorum of at least 10 is necessary to have an official business meeting and some of the members were currently attending adjacent meetings. It was decided that we'd prepare the items needing a vote for the full assembly latter in the meeting.

Committee Appointment Adjustments

Due to absentees and new positions on the executive committee, the following changes were deemed necessary by the president. Committees will remain as designated except for the following adjustments:

Auditing committee

Phil Craft - chair of committee

(will conduct the audit before next meeting due to absence of treasurer)

Nominating Committee

Don Hopkins - chair

Anette Phibbs

(take Bob Reiners off due to his role as an officer)

Resolutions Committee

(take Ed Levi off due to his new position as an officer.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee

Report by Don Hopkins, as Chair nominated the following slate:

Officers:

Bob Reiners - President
Phil Craft - Vice President
Ed Levi - Secretary
Ray McDonnell - Treasurer

Directors:

At large - Dennis van Englesdorp
East - Jerry Fischer
North - Blane White

Resolutions Committee

No resolutions were proposed at this time but will be presented to the full assembly. It was decided that, whereas thank you letters are needed, resolutions for these are not necessary.

Other committee reports were put on hold in order to await the full assembly.

Other Business

Discussion regarding the USDA-APHIS proposal for importation of honey bees. It was discussed that the comment period has passed. Anette had requested an extension for the comment period. However, and extension was not granted. Therefore any comments or a resolution at this point would not be listened to. It was discussed that the federal law supercedes state laws re the importation of bees - this was not a popular concept.

Anette- will step-down at the end of this meeting. Needed are new officers including a new secretary. The association needs to come up with a meeting site for next year.

Discussed that Marion Ellis should be an honorary member. It was agreed that he should be due to his years of service to the AIA. Anette appointed Marion as an honorary member.

Anette discussed that WI (she) had requested an experimental use permit for the beekeepers to use Apilife-Var.

Laurence said he is looking at Apiguard in Florida. Will be finishing his studies next Tuesday.

Bart Smith was appointed an honorary member of the AIA.

Jerry Fischer - Local Apiary Inspectors Workshop will not be held in March 2003. Hope that the workshop will be held every other year.

Wayne Wheeling of USDA-APHIS reported on the proposal for importation of honey bees.

The Process:

Proposed changes in regulations,

Followed by a 90-day comment period. This part of process is called interim rule making.

At this point he can't discuss changes that may be made.

Process – the document will be revised based on comments, it will go to administrator for approval, it will go to the White House for approval, and then to another printing in the Federal Register.

Will be top priority through early spring.

Doesn't know when new rule will go into effect. Could be next spring but may be later.

The administrator of regulatory analysis will decide whether or not there will be another comment period based on the number of changes.

The majority of comments are against the proposal. 225 comments. About 50 are one line comments requesting an extension for the comment period. This was denied.

Comments came from organizations, large and small beekeepers, state senators, and other legislators.

New Zealand has been adamant about wanting a market for their bees in HI. They came out during the comment period saying this was no longer an issue.

Due to concern of currently regulated pest and diseases and others heretofore unknown, Ed Levi (AR) asked about the constitutionality of the federal government overriding state laws and regulations. Wayne says that the federal regulations pre-empt state regulations. He went on to explain that the states will be notified of shipments and that the state will have the option of inspecting material that will come in.

It was discussed that CAPS money pays for survey work for exotic pests not known to be present in the US. It was questioned why couldn't CAPS money fund surveys for bee diseases. There currently is no federal inspection for bee diseases. This could be a problem when other countries such as Mexico ask to import bees - they don't have inspections. Mexico and others could argue that US also doesn't have a coordinated inspection service.

It was suggested that we should have a resolution directed to APHIS regarding uniform surveys for honey bee pests. Other countries are requesting to import bees into the US. The US can't require that the bees be free of diseases and pests if there are not uniform surveys in the US that show that a particular problem doesn't exist in the US.

It is important to have a good relationship between APHIS and AIA.

At this point the remainder of the members assembled so that a quorum was present for decisions.

Resolution Committee Report - Ed Levi

Ed read resolutions. Don Hopkins moved for acceptance, Jerry Fischer second. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 1 Request for National Survey of Honeybee Diseases and Pests

World trade is increasing, and therefore the threat of the introduction of new pests and diseases of honeybees is also increasing.

At this present time, new regulations are being established for the importation of honeybees and related articles.

It is therefore important that APHIS has data of the current status and risks of honeybee diseases and pests available so that informed decisions may be made regarding future import requests.

Be it resolved that the Apiary Inspectors of America requests that APHIS provide a mechanism similar to the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) for the purpose of establishing an ongoing, coordinated, nationwide survey to document the presence and/or absence of pests and pathogens which affect honeybees.

Audience, USDA APHIS

Nominating Committee Report - Don Hopkins, Chair

Slate earlier presented was Moved by Laurence Cutts; second by Medhat Nasr. Motion carried.

Sites Committee Report - Don Hopkins

It was suggested that the group meet with a national meeting because travel by AIA members is restricted due to state budget cuts. Last year the AIA voted to meet at Baton Rouge or with the AHPA. That motion still stands.

There was discussion about an invitation to meet in Lincoln, Nebraska - from Marion Ellis. It was tentatively decided to accept the invitation. The time of year has not been determined.

Awards Committee Report - Paul Jackson, Chair

John Harbo - to receive research award.
Bob Cox and Gary Ross to receive awards.

Secretary's Report - Bart Smith

The Secretary gave an interim secretary's report. (enclosed) Ed Levi moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be accepted as written. Seconded by Doug McRory. Motion carried.

Thanks to Bob Reiners and Anette for coordinating the AIA meeting.

Ed Levi moved that the business meeting adjourn. This was seconded