

Tri-County Beekeepers Meeting
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Board members Bob Cross, Deb Cross and Dennis Clark and were present.
Bob called the meeting to order at 7:09.

1 new member (Tim) was present from St. Cloud.

Nominations for elections open tonight. No additional nominations were received. The votes went as follows.

- President – Rick Koetter. Moved and approved.
- Vice President – Amy Jonas. Moved and approved.
- Executive Board – Wayne Rusch. Moved and approved.

The Finance Committee needs to meet before the December meeting for audit.

Members thank to Bob and Deb for filling in this year in Stephanie's absence.

Presentation on over-wintering. Discussed options:

- Clay moved his to Texas. He doubled the number of hives.
- Rick installed sensors for heat and humidity. His goal this year is to decrease the humidity.
- Straw quilt – changed straw in January, it was wet.
- Wood shavings – not enough air circulating.
- Styrofoam – take inner cover out. Can put newspaper down with sugar on for the bees to eat.
- Burlap on top, bees will eat through it if more ventilation is needed.
- Roger used layers including pillow of wood shavings. A layer of metal screen is below the shavings.
- Bee Cozy from Mann Lake, leaving covering 2 inches above the bottom hole so bees can get out.
- Buffalo board (Mann Lake)
- Wintering Inner Cover
- Inner Cover Pad
- Bee Cocoon -pallet wrap/insulation – aids in moisture retention
- Tar paper – with/without insulation
- Cardboard Winter Wrap Cartons – moisture can escape if installed correctly. Affordable.
- Foam and duct tape. Combination of tar paper and foam, 2 sides of each.
- Foil covered bubble wrap; spray painted black.
- Vinyl/insulation/duct tape
- Reviewed suggestions from University of MN site.
- If all else fails, buy new bees in the spring.

Secretary's October 1st minutes were read and approved.

Financial report read and approved.

Financial Report

No activity this month
Balance \$9175.92

Committee Reports

- Joe reported on bee purchasing and audit committee,
- Vern reported on Scholarship (Education Committee) saying we have 4 applicants, 2 of which are sisters.

Discussion:

- If bees die due to moisture, looks for other reasons for death before assuming moisture. Are their heads in cells looking for food? How is mite situation?
- How often do you check the inside of hive in winter? Don't ever go in on a -40 degree day.

- Do not disturb the cluster.
- Remove syrup feeders now if still in. It's too cold.
- Mites? Is it too late for acid at this time?

Budgets

Education Committee - request, higher than last year.

Fair Committee - display at Benton County Fair – 2020 theme – targeted to young children.

Demo Committee – 2 pounds of bees, etc., requests \$500.

Library Committee – leave same as last year

The December meeting will be pot-luck (bring something made with honey) along with a recipe card. Mary will bring pork for sandwiches and other dishes can complement it. The meeting will start at 6:30 with a social time prior to the meeting. Also bring samples of your honey for a tasting.

Wrapping demo hives at Clay's (3504 13th Ave SE St Cloud) on Saturday afternoon, the 9th.

Volunteers needed for each committee listed and someone to coordinate the bee orders in spring.

- Education
- Swarm
- Picnic
- Library
- Purchasing
- Finance

Motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m.