Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA)

Meeting minutes July 20,2023

The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Jessica moved to approve the June minutes and the motion was seconded by Joe Taylor. All were in favor.

Treasurers report: Marcella

Accounts ending in:

* 0777- 12,303.32
* 9165 7,740.09
* 8049 11,665.47
* 5563 69,262.28

The total of all accounts is 100,961.16

Tom Ballinger voted to approve the treasurer’s report. Mike Mabry seconded it. All were in favor.

CKHP: Scott

Membership is at 159 which is up 69 over last year which is 77% growth. He has processed 49 orders YTD.

KADF grant. We turned in all of the paperwork for the matching funds to KY Agriculture Dept. We received $950.00 in donations from 4 local Associations. We got a letter from the specialty block grant organization stating that we are going to receive the Grant, and that a portion of that grant is to be applied toward the matching funds. This allowed the remaining funds from the KY agricultural Development Funds (KADF) to be released. We received a check for the remaining grant for $12,750.00. With the specialty block grant. The KCHP should be fully funded through December of 2024.

Paleo lab update- one of the labs we sent honey to last December for pollen testing. He will need some time to go over the results, so probably in the September meeting, we will need to go into executive session to discuss the findings.

Calendar updates: Jessica and Scott have been collaborating on a honey labeling and marketing presentation that they have been getting out into the community. Scott has been to Russell County, Southeastern, & Bluegrass; Jessica has been to Clark/Powell County. Scott is going to present at Capital City next week. They are fielding a lot of questions about labeling and selling honey at the fair as well as farmers markets. People are also asking questions about other items such as lip balms, salves, and lotions.

Theresa asked Scott if he thought the KCHP was sustainable if the growth continued, or if he was going to need help. He is supposed to be working part time at it, but he doesn’t even log all of the time he is spending on the program. He said he cannot really answer that right now. He is working on the compliance report, which is due this Friday. No one expected 77% growth, and if that should even out things will be much easier. Right now, he is overwhelmed with membership, orders, the state fair and the compliance report. Duane asked if we could make it a full-time position and Jessica said we would need another 50,000.00. right now, it is part time 20 hours a week at 20.00 an hour. She said that we have two more years of it. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture wanted it to be self-sustaining, but they also wanted the KY Proud program to be self-sustaining and it isn’t either.

We are going to revisit this during the September meeting and see if the membership plateaus or not.

State Fair: Scott

Booth rentals. The state fair board has instituted a new internal portal system. They have rolled out the AG-Land contracts and that has been secured. That is comped for us so there is no charge. We are waiting for them to roll out the system for the West wing contracts. We have to pay for that.

The volunteer associations are all filled, Mike Mabry went over the list.

Thursday & Fri-Bluegrass Saturday-Hardin & Grayson

Sunda- Green Valley Monday-Allen County

Tuesday a.m. Capital City, pm. Shelbyville Wed. am-Northern KY, pm. Southeast

Thurs. am-Ft. Harrod, pm. Shelby County Fri- Kentucky-Anna

Saturday-Green River Sun.-Bullet County

There have been changes to the pricing guide, and booth guidelines. Julie has posted both to the website.

Jessica asked if we were going to have special parking in the livestock area again this year. She said it made it extra nice for people dropping off honey and picking it up. Scott said he would look into it.

Honey jar donations are at 274 out of 300, he will probably get more at Capital City, he plans to take some jars with him.

Scott took inventory on the storage unit and has ordered some items, hard candy, tasting spoons, gloves. Shopping bags need to be ordered through Kentucky Proud, but that needs to be done in person. He also ordered another table skirt. He plans to purchase some sheets of plywood to reinforce a couple of the tables that were sagging last year.

Rental on the storage unit is due in September.

The golf cart is secured, hotel rooms are secured.

Electric will be secured when the contract is signed for the West wing booth.

Tom talked to the Honey Princess and she would like to attend the Championship horse show, we are still trying to secure those tickets. She said she was not very comfortable with the cooking show, she is not very good at it. Tom said he could do the cooking if she would talk. She would be fine with that. If there is not a lot of interest in the cooking show, they may just scrap it.

Joe suggested a waggle dance, Tom ordered 36 foot- prints, so several times a day there will be a waggle dance demonstration.

Leonard Davis, the president of the Bullet County Beekeepers Association asked if he could sell honey from the bullet County Demonstration hives. They have four hives and extracted 16 gallons of honey from them. There was a lot of discussion back and forth. Several people were in favor of it but Duane said that our Fair guidelines state that in order for a person to sell honey at the State Fair they have to be a member of KSBA in good standing. As of now there is no way for an organization to join KSBA. Duane said that Leonard could sell the honey under his name, but he thought we would be opening a can of worms if we started letting organizations sell their honey at the KSBA booth. Phil made a motion to send the question to the fair committee to examine the KSBA by-laws and the KY State Fair Guidelines and report back to the board. The motion was seconded by Mike Mabry. Phil called for a vote on the motion. It passed,

Tom Ballinger talked about shirts for the KY State Fair.. He was hoping to have a proof so us tonight but that didn’t happen. The cost would be between 4-5 hundred dollars. Scott said it could come out of the State Fair Budget. Mike made a motion for Tom to follow up on that, Phillip Craft seconded it. All were in favor.

Google Workspace-Julie Steber

Julie said that no one on the board is very familiar with the Google .Workspace platform that we use for our meetings. It is a struggle to get into meetings, record meetings, let people into the meetings, etc. She suggested that someone is the organization probably has experience with it and could be encouraged to join the board.

Duane asked if KSBA was interested in doing the Clarkson Honey Fest. Scott, Jessica, and Tom all have other commitments. Duane said he would do a booth and tout Certified Ky Honey Program. He doesn’t think they charge if you are not selling honey.

Duane talked about the meet and greet and he said some people reported that they were unable to get in. Theresa reminded him that that has to do with the previous issue Julie brought up about Google Workspace. Duane said on the positive side we got our name out there.

Theresa emphasized that if we want KSBA to go to the next level, the Google Workspace is the missing piece. We really need to get someone who has some expertise to help us with this. It is all interconnected.

October Meeting: Phil Craft

Phil said he doesn’t have the authority to plan the October because that is under the responsibility of the Vice-president Vice President and we do not currently have a vice-president. He currently has a rough draft of a schedule based on one he drew up a couple of years ago. It runs from 9:00-4:00. The only speaker he has lined up for sure is Theresa Martin and her presentation titled, “Dead Bees Don’t Make Honey”. He would like to ask Jay Evans, head of the USDA. He was supposed to present for us before Covid hit and had to cancel. Another person is Jeff Williams from Auburn University. They are both fairly close. Then he would like to fill out the rest of the schedule with people from Kentucky, like Theresa and Neil Hunt from Pikeville who did a talk at Bluegrass. There is also Tom Henry from Franklin County Beekeepers, he did a talk on swarm catching at Bluegrass. Duane said Kent Williams and Tammy are also going to present. Phil said he would step down from the planning of the meeting, and Duane said that was fine he would take over. Jessica said that she didn’t think Phil should step down because he has such great contacts. Phil said he would do it if he was given the authority and Tom Ballinger made a motion that we give Phil the authority to plan the meeting and Mike Mabry seconded it. The vote was unanimous in favor. Phil will send out his schedule as is, it is going to have some blanks and if anyone has some suggestions for speakers, they can send them to him.

The final order of business was that Duane let everyone know that I am requesting to step down from the secretary position. I have a lot going on in my life right now, with my aging parents and building a new addition to my home so I can move them in with me if and when the need should arise. I have agreed to stay on until you find someone, hopefully with Google meets experience.

We had a motion to adjourn at 8:28 by Duane, Marcella Seconded.