

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY BEEKEEPERS

BOARD MEETING January 7, 2014

ATTENDANCE: Board Members in attendance were Bob Combs, Anne Mahoney, Roger Ledbetter, Nathan Rausch, Charles Schaffer, Kate Flack, Mark Bowen, Mike Skripek, Ken Reid, and Ed Blechen.

1. 12-7-13 General Meeting Minutes: Ken made a motion for the minutes to be approved by email vote the following week. Anne seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The minutes are posted on line.

Discussion: The members of the board want the inner workings and finances SVB transparent, and the minutes will be posted on line. As everyone may not have internet access, a hard copy of the minutes will be brought in a notebook to all meetings for members to review. A copy of the Budget will also be placed in the notebook, but not posted on the website. Look for the notebook at the membership table near the door.

2. SVB is a volunteer organization: Kate made a request of the Board members to begin thinking of members who would be good at helping with the various club functions and committees. She asked each board member to find one person to help out over the next year.

3. Budget: Anne presented the 2014 budget, which was compared to the 2013 budget. Honey sales again were SVB's main source of income. Untreated honey was very popular and completely sold out. This year's budget is very similar to last year's, with one notable difference: For 2014, the Board has budgeted \$1500 to bring in guest speakers. Nathan explained that he would offer paying mileage expenses, and \$100 to speakers. He may try to "fly in" a couple of the better known speakers. It appears there maybe be some people attending meetings that are not SVB members. The numbers of non-members is not clear, and generally this is not a problem, and may very well be a way to increase membership. However, members should feel they are getting something for their membership, and it was generally agreed it would be ok to charge a few dollars at the door to non-members when SVB is providing a good speaker. Bob said that nucs from the apiary would be sold in September. There may also be a few queens. Bob made a motion to adopt the budget as proposed, and Ken seconded it. The budget was adopted. The club begins the new year with about \$4000 in the bank.

4. Outreach: Mike said he thought participation in a parade would be a good way to get out information about the club to the public. He offered to drive his forklift and hand out candy or honey sticks to children. Mike asked for a \$300 budget line. Several members were concerned that participation in a parade could detract from honey sales as it has been difficult to find people to mind the booths. The suggestion was made that Mike find a parade at a festival at which we do not sell honey, sign up and petition Kate for ≤ \$100 which she can approve. This activity will give us more exposure in the SnoValley. Community outreach and the club website were the top ways reported in the survey that members found SVB.

5. Woodenware sales: Bob has offered to cover this again this coming season. He said orders should be finalized and checks written by the last week of February. Prices are not known yet, but will be similar [to those in 2013].

6. Bee Packages: Charles and Mike will be offering packages for sale again. They do not have prices yet, but will be again donating \$5 to the club for each package bought by a club member. They hope to pick up and deliver packages by the last week of April. However, weather is a factor and that date is approximate. Poor weather could also result in lower quality queens if they are not able to get out to mate. Charles will offer members-only pricing. They will start taking orders in February.

7. PayPal: Mark suggested that the club offer PayPal on the website to make it easy for members to be able to pay their dues. PayPal charges 2.5%, and is easy to set up and use. Dues, then, would be \$20.50 when bought through PayPal. Roger made a motion and Kate seconded it, to add PayPal to the website. The motion carried.

8. Washington State Beekeepers Association (WSBA): It was suggested that we invite someone from WSBA, like Mark Emmeric, to come and speak to SVB. WSBA helps SVB by lobbying to protect beekeepers interests. They also can help set standards for honey. For instance, what is raw honey? And what is treatment free honey? These standards have not been codified. However, on the SVB web page, raw honey is defined as honey that is not heated above 110 degrees, and is not pressure filtered. Treatment free is defined as not having any chemicals, antibiotics, or mite treatments used in the hive. Even grease patties count as a treatment. Having a consistent definition is important at festivals where SVB is selling honey.

9. Where is the club going? Kate explained that one of her goals as president was to be able to leave her position as president knowing that SVB has a direction it is moving in. Since the club started, most members were new to beekeeping. The educational focus has been on the new beekeepers, and the apprenticeship level. The mentorship program and introductory lesson has been a valuable asset to help new beekeepers get started. The “Questions and Answers” sessions, at the beginning of meetings, is also helpful. While these elements should be retained, as the club moves forward more members are becoming intermediate beekeepers. To retain the interest of intermediate beekeepers, we need to start providing intermediate programming. Suggested topics were: queen raising, and pesticides work.

10. Meeting adjourned: At 9:08 p.m. Anne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Kate, and the meeting was adjourned.