

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
 APIARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (AAB)
 October 26, 2023
 1220 N Street, Room 133
 Sacramento, CA 95814

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>CDFA Personnel</u>
Trevor Tauzer, Chair Brad Pankratz Valerie Severson	None	Adriaan Gilis Robert James Jennifer Berger Melissa Amaya

Guest Speakers and Subject Matter Experts

Rick Gurrola, Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner, California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) Apiary Subcommittee
 Deputy Jay Freeman, Rural Crimes Task Force, Butte County Sheriff’s Department

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Trevor Tauzer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

The meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, pursuant to Government Code Sections 11120-11132.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

BRIEF CDFA UPDATES

- Registration fee update - comment period closes on November 21, 2023. The apiary registration fee is in the process of moving forward. Updates will come from the Office of Administrative Law.
- National Honey Bee Survey - will begin soon with longitudinal surveys. Training will be provided to interested counties where hives are inspected.
- Public meeting for hobbyists - a facilitator is assigned and CDFA will post details online for this meeting.
- Apiary Pre-Inspection Program (APIP) - CDFA will travel to Idaho, Montana, and Utah for pre-inspection of hives prior to transport into California. Shipments of bees into California have started coming through the Border Stations.

APIARY BOARD VACANCY

Open Board positions from Industry and Public member nominations have been submitted to the Secretary by Board motions.

APIARY SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rick Gurrola, Chair, Apiary Subcommittee, reported on BeeWhere enhancements. The software developer will be contacted for information concerning payment portal for electronic registration fee collection, goal is to be online by January 1, 2024.

RURAL CRIMES TASK FORCE UPDATE

Deputy Freeman provided the Rural Crimes Task Force update. Stolen and vandalized hive count is up to approximately 1,300 for 2023 calendar year compared to approximately 640 hives in 2022. The loss equals approximately \$500,000 in monetary loss to beekeepers and nearly \$800,000 in total value loss to the beekeeping industry. CACASA representative for the Rural Crimes Task Force is Jimmy Hook, County Agricultural Commissioner, Kings County.

YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET

CDFA's State Primary Entomologist is gathering information from other states and entomologists to make a pest risk proposal for the yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*). Information will be provided to the Apiary Board when available. If detected prior to the official pest risk proposal, *V. velutina* would be classified a Q-rated pest.

PACKAGE BEES TO CANADA

CDFA submitted a letter in response to Canada for risk assessment.

APIARY BRAND PROGRAM

CDFA is currently working to update the Apiary Brand Program.

COUNTY CONTRACTS

CDFA provided information on three items to be considered for county reimbursement contracts based on historic county apiary expenses: registration, pest control, and theft prevention. The Board discussed the items listed and would like more time to discuss. Mr. Tauzer will chair a task force with Marcie Skelton, David Stoffel, and other industry members. The Board will advise what work is a priority so CDFA may develop a standard scope of work. Counties can decide if they want to participate and are able to project what apiary activities may be eligible for reimbursement and submit a workplan to CDFA.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Tauzer asked for public comment.

Public asked for information on apiary ordinances in the state for propagating or breeding Africanized honey bees. There are no state ordinances on this matter, however some counties specifically prohibit this.

NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

Monthly Board meetings are planned to be held at 10:00 a.m., on the third Thursday of each month in 2023. The scheduled meeting on November 23, 2023, will be held Thursday, November 30, 2023, due to the holiday on the original date.

Future Agenda Items

- County contracts
- Board member vacancies
- Canadian border/ package bees
- Bear damage/ depredation permit
- 008/ incoming hive notification

Adjourn

Chairman Tauzer adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.
Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Berger
Secretary to the Apiary Advisory Board
California Department of Food & Agriculture