

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
CALIFORNIA STATE APIARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**California Farm Bureau Federation
Centennial Room
2600 River Plaza Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95833**

**August 29, 2019
1:00 PM**

The meeting of the California State Apiary Board was called to order at approximately 1:45 pm, on August 29, 2019, in Sacramento, California by Board Chair Roger Everett. Note: The meeting was scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm; however, the start was delayed by a previous meeting group occupying the meeting room.

Board Members Present

Roger Everett, Chair
Brent Ashurst
David Bradshaw
Harold "Buzz" Landon
Larry Lima (via phone as non-voting member)

CDFA Staff Present

Nick Condos, Director Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
Andy Cline, Assistant Director Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
Michelle Dennis, Environmental Program Manager, Integrated Pest Control
Patricia Bohls, Environmental Scientist, Bee Safe Program
Gary Leslie, Special Assistant, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

Presenters and Members of the Industry and Public

Ruben Arroyo, Agricultural Commissioner, Riverside County
Bryan Ashurst, California State Beekeepers Association
Carly Ashurst, California State Beekeepers Association
Peggy Byerly, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Department of Pesticide Regulation
Sandy Elles, Executive Director California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association
Holly Fraumeni, Lighthouse Public Affairs
Rick Gurrola, Agricultural Commissioner, Tehama County (via phone)
Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner, Placer County (via phone)
Sosan Madanat, Lighthouse Public Affairs
John Miller, California State Beekeepers Association
Eric Mussen, Emeritus Extension Apiculturist, UC Davis
Jackie Park-Burris, California State Beekeepers Association
Karli Quinn, Ag Association Management Services, Inc

Robert Roma, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, San Diego County (via phone)
David Stoffel, Agricultural Biologist, Tehama County
Robert Sugar, Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association
Brody Tomazin, Idaho Honey Industry Association (via phone)
Chris Zanobini, Ag Association Management Services, Inc

Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act

Gary Leslie acknowledged compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, pursuant to Government Code Section 11120-11132. Mr. Leslie also distributed a CDFA drafted guide to the Bagley-Keene Act to all board members.

Welcome and Introductions

Roger Everett welcomed all the attendees participating in the meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Everett asked for public comment and received none.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Everett asked for board approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2019 and June 6, 2019 Apiary Board meetings. Harold "Buzz" Landon motioned the minutes from both meetings be approved as drafted. Brent Ashurst seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by all voting board members.

Bee Safe Program Update

Patricia Bohls reported \$827,137 has been invoiced for the FY 18/19 and 9 counties have not yet submitted any invoices. Data submitted to the program by counties show 533,837 honey bee colonies and over 2770 apiaries are registered for 2019. For the FY 19/20, 43 counties have submitted completed workplans totaling \$1.5 million in contract proposals. CDFA is currently processing these workplans. County staff Bee Safe Program training sessions are being planned for October 2019.

Ms. Bohls reported she has been involved in several recent apiary events including the Western Apiculture Society Conference in Ashland, Oregon; the International Pollinator Conference in Davis, CA; and staffing a booth at the California State Fair and Harvest Day where she conducted outreach about bees and the Bee Safe Program.

Ms. Bohls also attended the Puerto Rico Honey Bees and Evolution of Invasive Organisms on Islands Conference where evidence was presented showing the Puerto Rican bee is different from both the European and Africanized subspecies. Many environmental factors could be part of the reason for the behavioral differences: management is highly different, little migration of colonies, little pesticides on the island, miticides are not used, and there tends to be both high quantity and diversity of pollen sources

Bee Where Program Update

Sandy Elles reported the BeeWhere program continues to gain users. The latest reports show 1,000 beekeepers registered (903 In-County and 97 Out-of-County) and 250,000 colonies located on the GIS mapping system. In-County statistics reflect the number of beekeepers registered in their home county and Out-of-County tracks the number of beekeepers from other counties with locations in another county(ies). The BeeCheck function launched on July 12, 2019. Improvements to the system are being prioritized and implemented, as more users provide feedback on the functionality.

A wide diversity of stakeholders met on July 31, 2019 and engaged in constructive discussions. The program designer, Calico Solutions, provided a live demo and answered questions. Industry members agreed to establish a nonprofit support group, BeeWhere Inc., which will support education, outreach and also fund the Fieldwatch interface for out-of-state beekeepers and brokers. Elles thanked the CSBA and other stakeholders for their ongoing collaboration.

North Dakota/Idaho Pre-Inspection Program Update

Gary Leslie provided an update regarding the continuation and expansion of the Apiary Pre-Inspection Program. He reminded the board this program began in 2018 was limited to North Dakota. In 2018, an approximately 35,000 hives were pre-cleared last year. Mr. Leslie informed the board that, due to the success of the 2018 program, CDFA plans on continuing the program in North Dakota and expanding it to Idaho for the upcoming shipping season. CDFA anticipates an approximate doubling of participants in North Dakota and is currently working with Idaho to determine how many hives will be able to be pre-cleared there. John Miller estimated that Idaho may have as many as 80,000 hives eligible for pre-clearance. Brody Tomazin offered assistance in getting the word out to Idaho bee keepers. Rube Arroyo requested BeeWhere Program information be distributed to Pre-inspection Program participants.

Re-establishment of State Apiary Program

As requested by the board, Nick Condos presented an outline of potential duties for the proposed State Apiarist position, discussed at the June 6, 2019 meeting. He reminded the Board of CDFA's desire to contract with a county having a staff person with extensive apiary inspection expertise (specifically Dave Stoffel of Tehama County) with the intent of having a central point of contact to provide county apiary training and resolve apiary regulatory issues statewide. Mr. Condos reiterated CDFA's belief that re-establishing the State Apiarist would greatly benefit the apiary industry by providing statewide regulatory uniformity. Mr. Condos asked for Board support in re-establishing the State Apiarist position.

Mr. Everett expressed a desire for additional details regarding the potential State Apiarist duties and proposed the board further address this issue at the next meeting. After extensive floor conversation, on the need for a State Apiarist to oversee training, however the board opted to postpone action until the next meeting. Mr. Condos agreed CDFA would provide a more detailed duty statement for the proposed position.

Review of State Apiary Laws and Regulations

Roger Everett reported the Board is looking to the California State Beekeepers Association for guidance on potential code changes. Jackie-Park Burris said the CSBA had formed a ad hoc committee to evaluate current code and determine what changes would be best for the industry. American Foul Brood disease was cited as an example of one area the Food and Agricultural Code should be evaluated.

Next meeting

It was decided the next Board meeting would be scheduled in conjunction with the next meeting of the California State Beekeepers Association annual meeting to be held November 19 – 21, 2019.

Adjourn

Roger Everett adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:10 PM.