

**MINUTES
CALIFORNIA STATE APIARY BOARD
Harrah's Lake Tahoe Hotel - Marla's Bay Room
15 Highway 50, Stateline, NV 89449
November 19, 2013**

Board Members Present

Jackie Park-Burris, Chair
Steve Godlin, Vice Chair
Roger Everett
Bryan Ashurst
Bob Brandi
Duane Schnabel, Board Secretary

Public

Jennifer Gordon
Holly Fraument
Fred Michaelis
Harold Lauden

Welcome from Ms. Jackie Park-Burris, Chair of the Apiary Board.

Ms. Park-Burris brought the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. followed by introductions.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT AND CALIFORNIA STATE APIARY BOARD COMPLIANCE

Mr. Duane Schnabel and the Board acknowledged the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and Apiary Board Compliance Pursuant to Government Code Section 11120-11132.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Steve Godlin moved that the Board approve the minutes of the November 13, 2012 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Roger Everett and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Board positions of Ms. Jackie Park-Burris (Chair) and Mr. Steve Godlin are set to expire on June 30, 2014. Mr. Harold Lauden was recommended as a new Board Member due to his experience as a queen bee breeder. Mr. David Bradshaw was recommended as another possible Board Member replacement.

Discussion followed

Motion: Bob Brandi moved that the Board recommend to the Secretary the appointment of new Board Members, Mr. Harold Lauden and Mr. David Bradshaw. The appointments to occur upon the expiration of the terms of Ms. Jackie Park-Burris (Chair) and Mr. Steve Godlin. The motion was seconded by Steve Godlin and passed unanimously.

Motion: Bob Brandi moved that the Board approve the appointment of Roger Everett as the new Apiary Board Chair. The motion was seconded by Bryan Ashurst and passed unanimously.

APIARY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports were presented by the Board members.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA) REPORT

Border Station Update

Mr. Schnabel presented the CDFA Border Stations update to the Board. Overall apiary shipments have increased by 17% over the past five years with apiary pest detections increasing by 72% over the same time. Whereas apiary pest detection shipment holds at the Border Stations have generally decreased over time with 70% of shipments released within 4 hours during 2012 and 2013. The improvement in processing times is attributed to improved pest identification technology including digital imagery and wireless connectivity to the internet. Ms. Park-Burris asked what causes delays and rejections of shipments. Mr. Schnabel stated overall dirty trucks and pests found on pallets and hives in shipments cause delays and shipment rejections. Delay times can vary based on if they are simply cleaning the truck, pallets, and hives or the delay can be longer simply because the intercepted pest cannot be identified. Shipments that are not inspected at the Border Station are issued a forwarding 008 Inspection form. The destination County Agricultural Commissioner's office is notified of the 008 Inspection and they inspect the truck once it reaches the final delivery destination.

Mr. Schnabel stated Border stations are used for many services in addition to apiary shipment inspections. Services include commodity shipments, nursery stock shipments, household goods inspection, recycled materials, watercraft inspections, firewood inspections, the stations also assist federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with other issues as well.

Discussion followed

Mr. Schnabel reported that most Border Stations were built during the 1960's and are outdated and in need of upgrading or replacement. Some stations are overwhelmed due to high traffic volumes and station size which can delay shipments. Mr. Schnabel presented data that show which states presented the highest risk of apiary pest introduction. The highest risks are from Florida, North Dakota, and Texas.

Mr. Schnabel stated General Fund reductions in the Border Station budget will cause more apiary loads to pass through without inspection at the station and more shipments to be inspected under the 008 County inspections at final destination. This could also result in an increase in Quarantined areas for red imported fire ants.

Outreach and Education

CDFA conducted a Pollinator Community webinar on June 24, 2013, to provide a forum for industry, government, and the public about policies, new research, and to gather topics of interest to the pollinator community. The future of the apiary industry was also discussed during the webinar. Existing research on native pollinators and honeybees were touched on.

Discussion followed

Pollinator Community Initiatives

The next CDFA Pollinator Community call will take place the first or second week of January 2014.

CURRENT APIARY ISSUES

Ms. Park-Burriss referred to the Farm Bureau pollinator meeting of November 6th, 2013. The focus of the meeting was collaboration on improving access to private land for bee keepers and providing better access to pollinator crops. Follow up meeting on this issue will be coordinated with the Farm Bureau and the industry.

Mr. Godlin asked if there was a way to put out the word to help with socialized bee keeping and equitable distribution of bee keepers on public lands. The need for more forage is a growing concern. Mr. Schnabel stated that the Nature Conservancy had those same concerns regarding which bee keepers would be chosen to access their lands.

Ms. Park-Burriss suggested creating a letter to thank the Secretary for assisting the organization with apiary issues.

Discussion followed

General guidelines for bee keeping practices on public and private lands were discussed. The need for uniform Best Management Practices documentation for distribution to land managers who have responsibility for land use decisions was mentioned by several Board members. The Board discussed working with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and other public agencies to provide access to productive bee keeping lands. Participation during the land use planning stages for public land acquisition to include bee keeping as a beneficial activity was also discussed.

Mr. Godlin stated that rent on private and public lands as well as liability insurance for bee keeping activities are increasing. Coverage for loss of hives is necessary to cover damages to hives or land. Ms. Park-Burris recommended drafting a letter from the Board to the CDFW requesting access to Department managed lands and create a working relationship with CDFW on the planning process for Department land acquisitions to include bee keeping as a beneficial use of public lands.

Discussion followed

Motion: Roger Everett moved the CA Beekeepers Association write a letter to the Secretary of CDFA to thank her for her support and providing professional staff for the Apiary Board. The motion was seconded by Steve Godlin and passed unanimously.

Motion: Roger Everett moved the Board recommend to the Secretary of CDFA a request to support the development of guidelines and protocols for beekeepers to access public lands. The motion was seconded by Bob Brandi and passed unanimously.

Discussion followed

Mr. Schnabel stated CDFA could help facilitate a meeting with Apiary Industry representatives and a representative from the CDFW Office of Land Planning to figure out the best course of action to include beekeeping under the land acquisition planning process. The Board will need to provide representatives who have the subject matter expertise for beekeeping practices.

The issue of grant funding to carry out objectives and projects of interest to the Board and Apiary Industry was discussed. Ms. Park-Burris informed the Board, from her discussion with Mr. Schnabel, that the Board has no authority to accept or expend funds as there is no Legislative authority to do so. Mr. Schnabel suggested the industry or an associated non-profit organization could apply for and receive grant funds.

Mr. Everett expressed his concern with pesticide label changes recently proposed by California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). He stated the labels should be further clarified for pollinator protection when pesticides are used during bee foraging. Mr. Schnabel stated the Board has no legislative or regulatory authority to make changes to DPR labels. He stated that CDFA has a Memorandum of Understanding with DPR to provide consultation on pesticide issues. CDFA regularly provides comments and consultation to DPR on pollination issues. A representative from DPR stated that they could send their suggestions for label improvements to DPR, but the United States Environmental Protection Agency has final say in all label matters.

Discussion followed.

The Board discussed the issue of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS), bee lab in Shafter, California. ARS previously had a bee lab located in Shafter, with ARS scientists devoted to pollinator research. Having an ARS lab in California would be beneficial to the Industry.

Discussion followed.

Motion: Roger Everett moved the Board recommend to the Secretary of CDFA a request to support the continued consultation with DPR on the issue of pollinator protection through improved pesticide labeling and recommend to USDA the need for pollinator research facilities and staff in California. The motion was seconded by Bryan Ashurst and passed unanimously.

Closed Executive Session of the Apiary Board Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126 (If deemed necessary)

Next Meeting Schedule

The next Board Meeting will be held during the California Beekeepers' Association Annual Convention in 2014, unless interim concerns to the Board occur.

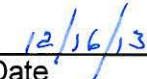
Motion: Bryan Ashurst moved that the Board meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bob Brandi and passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourn

5:14pm



Duane Schnabel – Secretary



Date



CLEARANCE ROUTE SLIP

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Reviewer's Names			Reviewer's Signature		
Date Received	Date Due To Next Reviewer	Reviewer's Name	Reviewer's Approval*	Date Released	Comments Requiring Response
		Duane Schnabel	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/16/13	
		Nick Condos	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/18/13	share DPR motion w/Houston
		Bob Wynn	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/20/13	
		Sandra Schubert	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/20/13	
		Karen Ross	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/23/13	

*Signifies that document has been independently and thoroughly reviewed for form and content and is recommended for signature or other intended use, subject to comments as indicated.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Approval Sign off
- Hand carry or Call for Pick-up
- Signature
- Release When Signed
- Information/Review
- Do Not Release

- Originating Division/Office: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services/Administration
- Subject: California State Apiary Board Minutes
- Author: Duane Schnabel Phone: 916.262.1102 Date Prepared: 12/12/13
- Contact for Pick-up or changes: Jennifer Gordon Phone: 916.262.1102
- Comments: _____

Clearance Package Preparation:

- * Please staple a Clearance Route Slip on the front cover of a transmittal folder.
- * Place the original documents for signature on the right side of the transmittal folder.
- * Place informational or other background materials on the left side of the transmittal folder.
- * The final approving signatory will return the completed package to the author for distribution.