

The Alberta Beekeepers Association

Annual General Meeting

2005 Passed Resolutions.

1. WHEREAS the beekeepers of Alberta have voted to initiate a refundable commission, and;

WHEREAS the maintaining of the Alberta Beekeepers Association could cause some confusion within government, and;

WHEREAS the Association's bylaws are not conducive to maintaining it as a silent entity;

BE IT RESOLVED that we take the necessary steps to address the above concerns.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers seek legal council up to a cost of \$1000 on the matter of the GST Notice of Reassessment.

3. WHEREAS the Alberta Beekeepers are currently working on legislative changes and the development of mead production in Alberta;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers support a market feasibility study of mead production using Alberta honey.

4. Deafeated.

5. WHEREAS the risk assessment has shown low risk of the Small Hive Beetle in the Canadian beekeeping industry and;

WHEREAS the Small Hive Beetle is a tropical pest and it will not survive in the Canadian climate or become detrimental to the beekeeping industry, and;

WHEREAS some safety measures can be taken to reduce the risk associated with the attendant workers in queen batteries, and;

WHEREAS bringing queens in batteries will facilitate the use of current conditions for queen imports to a fuller extent;

BE IT RESOLVED that current conditions for queen importations be revised to allow importing queens in battery cages.

6. WHEREAS the Canadian/US border has been closed for the free movement of bees;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian beekeeping industry does a feasibility study on the economical benefits we could have if free movement of bees north and south of the international border occurred. The study should include benefits from pollination, packaged bees and nucs, and queens as well as possible bee diseases. This information should be obtained from Canadian and United States government bureaucrats as well as the beekeepers from both countries.

7. WHEREAS with the release by Health Canada and the Veterinary Drug Directorate of the Working Residue Limits of antibiotic residues in honey;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers respond to the report and participate in any further discussions about the Working Residue Limits with the associated groups.

8. WHEREAS some hive products, such as Manuka Honey, have components proven to have significant value for medicinal purposes;

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Beekeepers seek funding from the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) to ascertain the component parts of hive products and the possible uses of these components for applied purposes which would enhance the value of Alberta hive products.

9. WHEREAS the contribution of honey bees to Canadian agriculture surpassed one billion dollars through pollination of crops and fruits, and;

WHEREAS the beekeeping industry is facing challenges from Varroa mites and American Foul Brood resistant to antibiotics that could kill bee colonies, and;

WHEREAS the number of bee colonies is declining in North America which has affected the quality of crop pollination and increased the cost of production for crops sold, and;

WHEREAS Agriculture Canada has historically provided a pollination ecologist at Lethbridge Agriculture Research Center that used to serve needs for crop pollination and this position had been vacant for several years, and;

WHEREAS hybrid canola seed production industry is the fastest growing industry in Canada which supplies in excess of 50% of the current North American canola seed demand and represents an investment business for Canadian farmers and beekeepers, and;

WHEREAS there are demands for a steady supply of a substantial number of beehives to the hybrid canola seed industry for pollination and there continues to be an increasing demand for a sustainable supply of pollinators including honeybees for this pollination work in the future:

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Beekeepers lobby Agriculture Canada to immediately hire a Pollination Ecologist with the specific emphasis on placing this person at the Lethbridge Agriculture Research Center to assist the growing hybrid canola seed industry and the beekeepers involved in pollination in the challenges affecting pollination of crops.

10. WHEREAS the provincial government has historically provided funding for various positions to support the beekeeping industry (specifically one full-time provincial apiarist, one full-time provincial beehive inspector, and other part-time help as required on a regular basis) and;

WHEREAS at present, the full-time provincial beehive inspector position remains unfilled due to lack of provincial funding, and;

WHEREAS there continues to be an increasing development of hybrid canola seed production programs in Southern Alberta, which supply in excess of 50% of the current North American canola seed demand and represent a combined market value in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and;

WHEREAS there are a substantial number of beehives supplied to the hybrid canola seed industry for and there continues to be an increasing demand for a sustainable supply of honeybees for this pollination work, and;

WHEREAS with the increasing challenges in maintaining a sustainable supply of high quality beehives due to the various diseases and pests that beekeepers must contend with, it is imperative that there be sufficient apiary extension personnel to assist beekeepers in ensuring a sustainable beehive supply for pollination, and;

WHEREAS at present, with only a single apiary extension resource in place for the entire province, it is physically impossible for one person to provide the extension support necessary to adequately ensure a healthy and sustainable beekeeping industry;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers lobby the Province of Alberta to act immediately to hire one or more additional apiary extension personnel with the specific emphasis on placing one of these personnel in southern Alberta to assist beekeepers involved in hybrid canola seed pollination.

11. WHEREAS the Beaverlodge Research Station is providing important research into the control of American Foul Brood, and;

WHEREAS this research is very important to the beekeeping industry of Alberta;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers continue to support AFB research under the direction of Dr. Steve Pernal at Beaverlodge in the amount of \$2000 for the year 2006.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers continue to support AFB research under the direction of Dr. Steve Pernal at Beaverlodge in the amount of \$5000 for the year 2006.

12. WHEREAS TET-resistant American Foul Brood is a concern to Alberta beekeepers and other antibiotics are not a long-term solution;

BE IT RESOLVED that research aimed at improving the management of American Foul Brood with an emphasis on innovative strategies to control the disease be considered for funding by the Alberta Beekeepers.

13. WHEREAS resistant Varroa is of major concern to Alberta beekeepers;

BE IT RESOLVED that research investigating novel control strategies for Varroa mites, particularly those that offer control for Acaricide-resistant populations of this pest be considered for funding by the Alberta Beekeepers.

14. WHEREAS canola is of very significant value to Alberta beekeepers for honey production, and;

WHEREAS Alberta beekeepers feel they provide significant value to the Canola industry by influencing the volume, weight, oil content and maturity of canola crops;

BE IT RESOLVED that research to ascertain the value of honey bee pollination to the Canola Seed industry be considered for funding by the Alberta Beekeepers.

15. BE IT RESOLVED that the development of a RFID-based (Radio Frequency Identification) management system which incorporates the honey traceability standards of the Canadian On-Farm Food Safety Program for honey bee operations be considered for funding by the Alberta Beekeepers.

16. WHEREAS research investigating sources of antibiotics and foreign chemicals in honey showed that the environment could be a source, and;

WHEREAS some apiaries are located close to animal feed lots that could be the source for low levels of honey contamination;

BE IT RESOLVED that research investigating the possible sources of environmental contamination of honey through the foraging activities of honey bee colonies be considered for funding by the Alberta Beekeepers.

17. BE IT RESOLVED that the President of the Alberta Beekeepers put together a working group to explore ways in which the beekeeping industry of Alberta might positively impact the marketability of Alberta honey.

18. WHEREAS there have been some problems and confusion with obtaining foreign workers, and;

WHEREAS we have little representation in the federal negotiations for foreign worker, and;

WHEREAS other industry groups have the same problems;

BE IT RESOLVED the Alberta Beekeepers remain in contact with these other groups and support initiatives to form a task force, which will represent Agricultural employers in negotiations, which will lead to better service from Human Resources Development Council "HRDC".

19. Withdrawn.

20. WHEREAS the Canadian Honey Council is working towards implementing a national honey promotion program for Canadian honey;

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Beekeepers strongly support this program with up to \$20,000 and make all efforts to have these funds matched.

Carried.

21. BE IT RESOLVED Alberta Beekeepers take the necessary steps to clarify section 12 (1) c) of the Alberta Beekeepers Plan Regulation Discussion Draft.

Carried Unanimously.

22. WHEREAS the Alberta beekeeping industry is in the process of moving to representation by a refundable commission and;

WHEREAS the commission is expected to be a legal entity in the very near future and;

WHEREAS the membership of the Alberta Beekeepers Association wish to provide some direction to the commission when it is actually formed;

BE IT RESOLVED that resolutions 3 to 21 be considered to be directed to the leadership of the new commission once it is formed.