

2010 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

For Bee News

1. Request an amendment to inter-provincial bee movement and bee importation regulations

WHEREAS the current Varroa mite threshold level of 1% applied by regulatory agencies in Canada on queens/packages/colonies for inter-provincial movement and on queens/packages being imported into the country is facing increased scrutiny within Canada and by countries exporting bee stock to Canada; and,

WHEREAS best management practices for honeybee colonies with Varroa mites are to maintain a Varroa mite level of 3% or less;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers work with the Canadian Honey Council as well as the proper regulatory agencies to create an amendment to inter-provincial regulations and bee importation regulations to accept 3% or less as the standard Varroa mite threshold level.

Carried.

2. Request PMRA extend EUR for Apivar to June 30, 2012.

WHEREAS Apivar has become a vital Varroa mite control tool for beekeepers across Canada over the past 3 years; and,

WHEREAS Arystra is working towards getting Apivar fully registered within Canada; and,

WHEREAS it is of vital importance that beekeepers in Alberta continue to have access to Apivar once the current Emergency Use Registration (EUR) expires on June 30, 2011,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers work with the Canadian Honey Council to request PMRA grant an additional Emergency Use Registration (EUR) for Apivar from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Support registration of 65% Formic Acid

WHEREAS 65% Formic acid is a proven tool for the treatment of Tracheal and Varroa mites,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers work with the Canadian Honey Council to support the registration of 65% Formic acid as a potential miticide for use by beekeepers in Canada against Tracheal and Varroa mites.

Carried.

4. Change the CHC Senior Executive title to Executive Director from CEO.

WHEREAS the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is seeking a replacement for the CEO Position due to the retirement of Heather Clay on December 31, 2010; and,

WHEREAS the title “CEO” is commonly used by “for-profit” organizations in Canada; and,

WHEREAS the title “Executive Director” is commonly used by “non-profit” organizations, and is being used by the majority of agricultural commodity organizations in Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers suggest to the Canadian Honey Council that they adopt the title “Executive Director” rather than “CEO” as the CHC is a “non-profit” agricultural commodity organization.

Carried unanimously.

5. Withdrawn.

6. Support research into the survivability and potential establishment of SHB in Canada.

WHEREAS Alberta Beekeepers need queens imported from various regions of the world; and,

WHEREAS many of these countries such as USA, Chile, and Australia are infested with pests listed in the risk assessment (Varroa, Small Hive Beetle, and Africanized honeybee); and,

WHEREAS not much is known about the survivability of Small Hive Beetle in Canada; and,

WHEREAS pests in these different regions pose a significant risk to our supply of queens;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers support research into the survivability and potential establishment of SHB in Canada

Carried.

7. Support the development of an updated SHB fact sheet.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers request the Canadian Association of Provincial Apiculturists (CAPA) develop an updated fact sheet and literature review on Small Hive Beetle (SHB) biology & life cycles observed in North America and collect impact assessments from provincial apiarists and corresponding state regulators in affected regions.

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission budget for this work.

Carried unanimously.

8. Withdrawn.

9. Withdrawn.

10. Request to review current import conditions for SHB

WHEREAS imported queens play a critical role in the production of honey and the crop pollination industry in Canada; and,

WHEREAS the early spring supply (March to May) of off shore queens is critical for replacement of Canadian winter losses and industry expansion; and,

WHEREAS the Small Hive Beetle (SHB) is now present in mainland USA, Hawaii, Australia and some parts of Canada; and,

WHEREAS off shore queen producers are developing best management practices to control SHB; and,

WHEREAS the cost of losing the symbiotic relationships with these off shore suppliers would be detrimental to the honey and crop pollination industries in Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Beekeepers ask Canadian Honey Council (CHC) to request Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) review current import conditions as they pertain to Small Hive Beetle, thus facilitating and securing the importation of healthy queens free from Small Hive Beetles into Canada for the needs of the Canadian honey and crop pollination industries.

Carried Unanimously.

11. Encourage and investigate why eligible producer establishments are not seeking CFIA registration

WHEREAS the reputation of our honey is known worldwide; and,

WHEREAS the viability of the honey industry is contingent on the constant development of new export markets; and,

WHEREAS it is illegal to export honey outside of Canada without being a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) registered establishment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission encourage all its members to become CFIA registered establishments.

And be it further resolved that Alberta Beekeepers investigate why some eligible honey producer establishments in the province of Alberta are not seeking registration.

Carried Unanimously.

12. Request CFIA to have a consistency in inspection checklist

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently has a set of guidelines and recommendations for individual inspectors to use when inspecting registered establishments; and,

WHEREAS the said guidelines and recommendations allow for deviation in interpretation by CFIA inspectors; and,

WHEREAS significant inconsistency in acceptability of registered establishments is becoming apparent,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers ask Canadian Honey Council to request Canadian Food Inspection Agency review the current inspection checklist and protocols to ensure consistency in inspections.

Carried Unanimously.

13. Tabled.

14. Support the resurrection of the Certified Beekeeping Technician Course.

WHEREAS the Alberta Beekeepers have long been attempting to resurrect a Certified Beekeeping Technician Course anywhere in Canada; and

WHEREAS it has been suggested that industry groups in the USA and Canada be contacted for partnership in this program;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission support and act with Grande Prairie Regional College to start a Certified Beekeeping Technician Course.

Carried Unanimously.