

## MINUTES

## PINEYWOODS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MEETING

January 9, 2020 Lufkin Chamber of Commerce Office

I. PBA President Karen Mitchell called meeting to order 6:30 PM. Welcomed members and guests. Opened meeting with Pledge of Allegiance, led by Jordyn Stoehr. 20 people signed the meeting register, and guests Walter & Linda McLendon and Jason & Deana Yankie introduced themselves

II. Treasurer's Report: Terry McFall, PBA Treasurer, reported bank balance of \$7992.50 at end of year. Announced dues are due, \$15., and was prepared to collect at this meeting. .

III. Apiary Report: No apiary report available.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. February Meeting: February 13, 2020, at Chamber of Commerce Office, 6:30 PM Time change was not voted on at this meeting, but will be discussed at next meeting.

B. Volunteers for February Snacks: Jordyn Stoehr/Joe Moran; Linda McLendon. Drinks: Robert Jones.

Robert Jones led prayer for the meal.

C. Robert announced that he is interim Program Coordinator as this office became vacant. Anyone interested in this position should contact one of the officers.

PROGRAM: Robert Jones led a Roundtable Discussion and Q&A session. Many of the newer members had questions and wanted advice on various topics. Some of the items covered were:

Robert stated the important factors for winter care are hive cluster size and amount of resources available. Work ahead of your bees. Lift back of hives periodically to see how they lighten as a gauge to monitor resources inside.

Feeding. Should be feeding your bees now. Various types of feeding discussed, all of which work: open barrel feeding, in-hive feeding, dry sugar, syrup ratios. Pollen feeding discussed – loose dry pollen vs. pollen patties. Said beware of pollen patties as they attract and feed hive beetles. Robert stated he only feeds pollen from about late December – third week in January, when natural pollen becomes available.

Discussed queen rearing. Timing is critical and normally this process is started around the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Robert will be conducting a queen rearing class for the Kirbyville club. Will schedule another one for PBA if enough are interested. Robert may also try some new queen rearing methods this year.

Splits discussed briefly. Depends on population, queen cells, and weather. Must have drones. Reversing hives in February was suggested as a way to build up hive. Check hives regularly for queen cells.

Making comb honey was another subject delved into. Labor intensive, but good seller. Robert can line up a program on this topic later if members wish. Strong hive and good honey flow necessary to succeed.

Ever present hive beetle problems discussed. Try to keep hive strong. Use multiple methods: dryer sheets, traps, small roach traps.

Robert Jones announced we will hold the PBA Bee School in Lufkin in late April. Three classes: 2 classroom, and last class is a hands on experience in a bee yard. Details to be announced. Proposed dates: 4/18, 4/25, and 5/2/2020.

V. Door Prizes and Adjournment: Several door prizes awarded. Adjourned 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary