

**Canadian Honey Council Annual General Meeting Summary Minutes
Orlando, Florida – Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

(8:15 AM to 5:30 PM)

Board Members: Chair, Corey Bacon; Vice-Chair, Tom Trueman; Treasurer, Jerry Poelman; Secretary, Ted Hancock; Luc Desaulniers (retiring for ABA); Gordon Marks; Bruce Podolsky; Lee Townsend (newly appointed for ABA); Dan Walker; Heather Clay, CEO (ex officio)

At 8:15 the Chair welcomed the Board members to the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Honey Council.

Motion: To approve the agenda for the 68th AGM. Ted/Bruce. Carried.

Corey introduced all the Directors.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no additions or changes to the minutes of the previous meeting held in Sackville, New Brunswick.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Dan/Ted. Carried.

2. Business Arising from Minutes

The CEO explained, in response to a question, that an information sheet would be distributed for Directors to use during their time at the CHC booth at the Trade Show.

Heather confirmed the Canada night program, with two Ottawa speakers.

CEO's Report

These are the key points from the CEO's report to the Board:

- A letter of agreement regarding the terms of the CEO's employment for the next three years has been signed.
- All the provinces except Quebec have met their commitment to belonging to CHC.

"We notice the lack of communication between our organization and theirs and I am sure they do too. They have a concern about SHB as it might spread and it continues to be an issue in border areas of their province. The lack of government action may cost their industry a lot of money for monitoring and treatment and may affect our national position regarding importation of honey bees."

- Hivelights is doing well and is now in a profit situation with revenues exceeding expenses.
- Income for the CHC is down because of the hive loss situation and lower fees. It was also harder to recruit sponsors.

"We expect that 2010 will see an increase in revenues from a higher hive count as the industry recovers from the devastation of two years in a row with 35% losses. Although sponsorship was not as good as expected we are pleased that Odem International has agreed to renew their sponsorship for a second year."

- Save our Bees has been slowly gaining momentum.

"We may have to revise our approach and work out a better way of promoting the issue."

- At the Sackville meeting the board did not approve project proposals for a Bee Resource Centre and the suggestion is that CHC will not apply for any more externally funded projects.

"We need projects in order to go forward. The reason we achieved the restructure and got to our current position is by taking a shared responsibility with the government and other partners to meet our goals. We have used project money to restructure; to determine the strategies for hive health, queen bee importation protocols, labeling; for a long term international strategy, and to develop a C-BISQT manual for on farm food safety. The only reason that we are at an international venue is because of the vision of the team in 2005 that set a goal of an international meeting in 2010 and went after the funding to achieve those aims. Forward thinking and long term planning is key to success."

- CHC operates in an open manner and an action summary has been circulated showing the status of action items. It is available online for all to see. A summary of the CHC response to last year's resolutions has been sent out and the progress on resolutions is very clear.
- Communication has been strengthened through b-TALK and *Hivelights* magazine.

"We have regular board meetings which is a big improvement on the past history. A power point presentation was also prepared by the office for all the directors for their annual meetings.

- Educational material for teachers of Grades 1-3 was prepared using project funding and the kit is online.

"We have had good feedback from teachers."

- Pierre the Bear has made appearances at several shows in SK and AB.

- The CBISQT manual is in the final stages of completion.

"There is funding within the traceability program to finish the manual but this would require staff time.... No project funding has been applied for and the project is on hold."

- On a positive note we were approved by Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP) for funding of \$59,000 which among other things is helping to pay for our trade show and helping to raise our profile in the industry.

"Although we have been invited to submit applications for further funding to complete extend the AMP project none has been submitted pending the outcome of the board's decision."

- CHC is a higher profile organization than in the past.

"We have international influence with invitations to North American meetings as demonstrated by this event. We are on the CANPOLIN board of directors and getting good press for it. Corey is a director on the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council.

This week the CHC received an invitation to join a CFIA bio-security committee to help determine policy for on-farm bio-security. CHC has been invited to participate in advisory work for control of disease on bee farms. Also, CFIA would like to meet with CHC regularly in future, preferably face-to-face. (This indicates that CHC has been heard at the Minister's level.)

Motion: That the CEO's report be accepted as presented. Bruce/Gordon. Carried.

3. Executive Committee Report was presented.

4. Finance Committee Report

The financial statements were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the financial statements for 2008/09 as received from Parker Quine. Tom/Gordon. Carried.

Motion: To approve Parker Quine as Auditor for the coming year, on the understanding that the financial statements would be completed in a timely manner; i.e., 30 days after receiving the information from the CHC national office. Jerry/Dan. Carried.

It was generally agreed that the projected budget shortfall has to be addressed and that the CHC must consider
Being cautious with costs for Director meetings.

Using project moneys or potential Ottawa agency connections to help find money for Director meetings.

Raising more sponsorship funds.

The Treasurer made a commitment that potential projects and sponsorship opportunities would be explored within a month of the AGM.

Motion: To approve the preliminary budget for 2009/2010 as presented. Jerry/Bruce. Carried.

5. Membership and Events Committee Report

Following up on the concerns expressed about CHC income, the Chair of Membership and Events Committee, Ted, reported that this Committee had proposed a notification (to go into *Hivelights*) inviting applications to other organizations for membership in CHC.

6. Ad hoc Committee Reports

Foreign Workers Committee

Corey, as Chair of Foreign Workers Committee, reported that NOC codes developed by the Foreign Workers Committee were distributed and feedback was received from some, but not all, provincial associations prior to this meeting.

ABA sent a letter to the Committee, which Lee read. The proposed NOC codes are seen as unacceptable by the ABA. Bruce and Corey explained the work done by the Foreign Workers Committee. The Board acknowledged the work done by the ad hoc Foreign Workers Committee, to date.

Issues Committee

Tom, Chair of Issues Committee, reported that a representative from Alberta would be invited to assist, as a resource person, with Issues Committee's work outstanding from last year (related to battery boxes).

Hive Health Committee

Jerry, Chair of Hive Health Committee, concluded his report by stating that priorities for the Committee are clearer, based on feedback the Committee requested from provincial associations. There are three major areas for Hive Health work:

- A "Hive Health Manual" to help beekeepers with monitoring and treating bee diseases including what to do and what not to do
The manual should be in 3 languages and should be available in a format that can be used in the truck.) The Hive Health Committee is asking the CHC Board to ask CAPA to act on this. (Corey reminded the Board that, in the past, CAPA seemed interested in handing off such "extension work" to CHC.)
- Screening programs for efficacy of treatments (like seed trials)
There could be 6 to 8 locations across the country to screen current miticides to generate data for now and the future. Funding for this may be available through the program (DIAP) that Dr. Steve Pernal has identified. This would be a large project and could also be organized as an educational tool, e.g. with a field day IPM approach. (Proposals to DIAP have to be industry driven, so would have to come from Honey Council and Dr. Pernal has offered his full assistance.)
- A coordinated bee breeding program (to follow-up existing independent programs across the country)
Stock has to be propagated to be used commercially. A single organization should exist to oversee this, with standards set in Canada for propagation of bees in the southern hemisphere.

The Chair stated that a national hive health program with the components outlined by the Committee could be pulled together.

Motion: That the Hive Health Committee Report be accepted as presented. Luc/Dan. Carried.

7. Resolutions from Member AGMs

ALBERTA High Priority

Resolution AB 1: Labeling standards for honey

Moved. Jerry/Bruce. Amended. Corey/Ted. Carried as amended.

WHEREAS there are many products using the word "honey" as a selling tool when in fact there is no or very limited honey included; and,

WHEREAS there is artificial and imitation honey (i.e. sugar syrup blends) being sold as honey;

BE IT RESOLVED that in order to protect the integrity of Canadian honey Canadian Honey Council lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to enforce labelling standards of honey.

Resolution AB 2: Request CHC to streamline importation of queens from mainland USA

Moved as amended. Luc/Jerry. Tabled until after discussion of MBA resolutions and subsequently tabled until after the proposed stakeholder meeting, where the importation of queens is to be on the agenda.

WHEREAS the Small Hive Beetle has been found in Canada, i.e. in the province of Quebec, and the federal government has not taken any action to eradicate this pest, and;

WHEREAS our main source of queens (Hawaii) may be in some jeopardy;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Honey Council recommend to CFIA to streamline the protocol for the importation of queens from mainland USA in order to increase the supply of queens to Canada, specifically to:

First: Allow queens to be imported in Battery Boxes (just as they are in the shipments from Hawaii). Putting queens in separate cages and adding bees adds considerable time and extra cost to the source beekeepers whether in California or Hawaii. (As an added precaution, a label could be put on the outside of the box advising beekeepers to destroy the attendant bees and replace them with their own.)

Second: Since beekeepers in Canada, in Hawaii, and in mainland U.S.A. all have well-established Varroa mites, Varroa testing should no longer be required from the source beekeepers, in either Hawaii or California. (Again, as an added precaution, a label could be put on the outside of the box advising beekeepers to destroy the attendant bees and replace them with their own.)

Third: Since Small Hive Beetle (SHB) is not a threat to Canadian beekeepers, the need for testing for SHB should no longer be required. However, control measures could be taken to minimize the movement of SHB via the battery boxes, such as putting control strips in the battery box (as recommended by Canadian Association of Provincial Apiculturist) to eliminate any SHBs that might be missed by a source beekeeper. Also proper storage of the battery box material will prevent exposure to SHB.

Resolution AB 3: Request PMRA to extend emergency registration of Apivar to 2011

Moved as amended. Jerry/Bruce. Carried.

WHEREAS Apivar has been an effective tool for controlling Varroa mites in Alberta, and;

WHEREAS the emergency registration of Apivar expires June 30th, 2010, and;

WHEREAS beekeepers in Alberta need several tools for controlling Varroa mites because of resistance to other treatments;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC petition the PMRA and Arystra to support an application for an emergency registration of Apivar for one additional year, to 2010-2011.

Heather reported that PMRA would probably support such a petition.

ALBERTA Moderately High Priority

Resolution AB 4: Request CHC to conduct a national survey to open the US mainland border

Moved as amended. Luc/Bruce. Tabled until after MBA resolutions and subsequently tabled until after the stakeholder meeting, for which the survey will provide information.

WHEREAS the Alberta Beekeepers Importation Committee has determined it is necessary to conduct a survey of all Canadian Beekeepers regarding their opinion on the continued closure of the continental US border to packages;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Honey Council to conduct a survey, with the assistance of the Alberta Beekeepers Importation Committee, of all Canadian beekeepers to evaluate the national opinion of Canada/USA border closure.

Resolution AB 5: Request CHC to lobby HRSDC for renewable LMO's

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Carried.

WHEREAS in each year, the Alberta beekeeping industry depends on off-shore seasonal workers to fill a well-documented shortage of Canadian sources of skilled and unskilled labour, and

WHEREAS these foreign workers have shown they are an extremely valuable resource to sustain and grow our industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Honey Council lobby HRSDC to offer a renewable Labour Market Opinion (LMO) for returning foreign workers.

MANITOBA

Resolution MB 1: MBA to work with CHC on Hive Health Priorities

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Carried.

WHEREAS MBA is a paid up member of the national Canadian Honey Council organization, and;

WHEREAS the MBA Strategic Plan distributed at the 2008 Annual Meeting described several hive health issues important to Manitoba producers, and;

WHEREAS The CHC Hive Health Committee has requested MBA and others to provide input to their deliberations

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC and the Hive Health Committee maintain a priority on Healthy Sources of Bee stocks, More Varroa Treatment Options, and Retention of Formic Acid Treatment Options.

Resolution MB 2: Request CHC to organize a Stakeholder Meeting on the importation embargo

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Carried.

WHEREAS the MBA was originally supportive of the importation embargo initiated in 1988 to prohibit the importation of packaged bees and queens from the continental USA, and;

WHEREAS in response to growing industry concerns over the supply of available queens in the Spring, the MBA surveyed its membership in 2002 to determine if support for the importation embargo of queen had changed, and;

WHEREAS the survey results revealed that the majority of the responding beekeepers supported changes to allow greater access but wanted protocols in place to minimize the risk of importing important diseases, pests, and Africanized bees, and;

WHEREAS at the request from industry, the CHC organized a Stakeholder Meeting to develop importation protocols to support importation of queen honey bees from the continental USA, and;

WHEREAS in 2004, the MBA passed a resolution to support the CFIA proposed amendment to allow the importation of queens from the continental USA under the conditions of the import permit developed with industry and other stakeholders, and;

WHEREAS there are growing industry concerns over high winter losses and the availability of replacement bees in the Spring, and;

WHEREAS in 2009, the MBA conducted a survey of its membership to determine their interest in, and views on, alternative sources for packaged bees, and;

WHEREAS the survey results revealed that the majority of responding beekeepers supported greater access to packaged bees than what is currently available.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council seek funding to organize a Stakeholder Meeting to identify risks and develop mitigating strategies and new protocols, to recommend to CFIA, to allow greater access to bees from the continental USA and other suitable countries under the conditions of an import permit developed by industry and other stakeholders, and that such a meeting be funded with funds obtained from elsewhere than the current CHC operating budget.

Resolution MB 3: Request CHC to seek federal opinion on challenging the “no comb” law

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Tabled to be reconsidered after stakeholders meeting, where the “no comb” law could be on the agenda.

WHEREAS under NAFTA rules there may be provisions where American beekeepers may be successful in challenging the standing “no comb” law, if the border is opened to package bees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC seek an opinion from Federal Government as to the probability of an American beekeeper successfully challenging the standing “no comb” law.

Discussion:

- The federal government will not “give an opinion”.
- This should be one of the issues discussed at the stakeholders meeting.

BC

Resolution BC 1 Request “open” AGMs

Be it resolved that the CHC AGM shall be open to all beekeepers who are members of CHC's member organizations so that they can observe the meetings proceedings.

Moved. Ted/Corey. Defeated with 1 abstention.

The Chair commended the format of the Saskatchewan resolutions before discussion of these resolutions began.

SASKATCHEWAN First Priority: Hive Health – Strengthened Importation Protocol

1. Request CHC to ask CAPA and CFIA to review current import protocols for queens

Moved. Corey/Ted. Defeated. [Note: Import protocol is to be addressed in proposed stakeholder meeting.]

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas the negative impact and spread of viruses and their relation to CCD is still unknown, and

Whereas Africanized honeybees and Africanized honey bee hybrids likely continue to expand their territory in the United States, and

Whereas Small Hive Beetles continues to expand its presence in the US

Therefore be it resolved that CHC requests that CAPA and CFIA review the current import protocols for queens from continental US to ensure they remain adequate to protect the Canadian honeybee industry

Resolution SK 2: Request CHC to ask CFIA to investigate non-compliance with varroa protocols and implement compliance measures

Moved. Corey/Ted. Defeated.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas current CFIA import protocols for package honey bees mandate that Varroa mite levels are less than 1%, and

Whereas much higher levels of Varroa mites have been observed in imported packages

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC approach CFIA to investigate why exporting countries are not meeting protocols and implement measures to ensure protocols are being met

Resolution SK 3 Request CHC to ask CFIA to expand import protocols

Moved as amended. Corey/Ted. Defeated.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas Varroa mites have shown great ability to adapt to control treatments, and

Whereas approved treatment products vary from one jurisdiction (country) to another and there are reports of products not registered for use in those jurisdictions being used by countries that import bees into Canada, and

Whereas it is conceivable that we are importing Varroa mites that are already developing resistance to the treatment products used in the originating jurisdiction

Therefore be it resolved that CHC ask CFIA to expand import protocols to include a four-year treatment history of the exporting operation.

Resolution SK 4: Request CHC to continue supporting the CFIA ban on packaged honey bees from continental USA

Moved. Corey/Ted. Defeated.

Whereas the current import protocols do not allow importation of package honey bees from the continental US, and

Whereas no evidence of improvement of the health of US honey bee stock has been seen, and

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Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority,

Therefore be it resolved that CHC continue to support the CFIA import ban of package honey bees from the continental US

- This resolution re-confirms CHC's current support of the CFIA ban. Defeat of this resolution does not imply CHC support for an open border.

SASKATCHEWAN Second Priority: Hive Health – Treatment Products

Resolution SK 5: Request CHC to support full registration of Apivar

Moved. Corey/Jerry. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas resistance has been found to both Checkmite+™ and Apistan®

Whereas Varroa mites continue to be a threat to the beekeeping industry

Whereas formic acid and oxalic acid have variable efficacy and still need to be adapted to prairie conditions

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC support the full registration of Apivar® and, failing the full registration of Apivar®, CHC pursue emergency use registration of Apivar® for another year

Resolution SK 6: Request CHC to work with PMRA on mite control options

Moved as amended. Corey/Bruce. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas resistance has been found to both Checkmite+™ and Apistan®

Whereas Varroa mites continue to be a threat to the beekeeping industry

Whereas formic acid and oxalic acid have variable efficacy and still need to be adapted to prairie conditions

Whereas there are limited additional approved products to control Varroa mites

Therefore be it resolved that CHC continue to work with PMRA and the industry to continue to increase the number of options for mite control (*e.g.* organic acids and essential oils)

Resolution SK 7: Request CHC to lobby PMRA to maintain status-quo with CAPCO (C94-05)

Moved. Corey/Dan. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas PMRA intends to remove CAPCO (C94-05) eliminating the ability to use liquid formic acid for mite control in bee hives, and

Whereas there is not yet enough scientifically validated research to meet full registration requirements of liquid formic acid

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC lobby PMRA and the Canadian government to maintain the status-quo with CAPCO (C94-05)

Resolution SK 8: Request CHC to encourage and support companies that could develop and register better organic treatment for mites

Moved. Corey/Bruce. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas resistance has been found to registered products Checkmite+™ and Apistan®, and

Whereas Varroa mites continue to be a threat to the beekeeping industry

Be it resolved that the CHC encourage and support companies that develop and/or have the potential to develop and register new and/or better organic treatments for the control of mites.

SASKATCHEWAN Third Priority: CHC/Industry Support

Resolution SK 9: Request CHC to initiate and maintain project funding applications

Moved as amended. Corey/Bruce. Carried.

Whereas there are multiple federal program funds available for organizations such as CHC and,

Whereas project funding has benefited the beekeeping industry and the national organization in the past

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC regularly apply for funding for relevant projects that fall within CHC's four strategic priorities, while funding is available

Resolution SK 10: Request CHC to ask federal government for more research resources

Moved. Corey/Danny. Carried.

Whereas honeybees are under threat in Canada and world wide, and

Whereas there has been a decrease in the research facilities and staff and there is a lack of research staff for performing necessary work to assist the beekeeping industry stay ahead of the current concerns, and

Whereas the government of Canada made a previous commitment to developing a research facility and increasing research personnel

Therefore be it resolved that CHC request that the federal government increase support to the beekeeping industry by funding additional research personnel and facilities

Resolution SK 11: Request CHC to seek opportunities for bee keeper training and development

Moved. Corey/Luc. Carried.

Whereas there is no industry-specific training or professional development program for beekeepers and staff in Canada

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC seek opportunities to have such programs developed and implemented

SASKATCHEWAN Fourth Priority: Food Safety/Quality

Resolution SK 12: Request CHC to implement strategy for full registration of facilities for honey sales

Moved as amended. Corey/Tom. Carried.

Whereas food safety is becoming an increasing concern in Canada, and

Whereas Canadian quality standards for honey need to be maintained and enhanced, and

Whereas national and international standards are becoming increasingly important

Therefore be it resolved that CHC develop a strategy and time line for full registration of all beekeeping facilities preparing honey destined for export and retail sales.

SASKATCHEWAN Fifth Priority: Export Protocol

Resolution SK 13: Request CHC to lobby for greater permit for shipment period

Moved as amended. Corey/Ted. Carried.

Whereas permits for shipment of honey bee queens from the US into Canada is valid for 90 days while permits from Canada to the US are valid for 10 days, and

Whereas this can create timing problems for Canadian beekeepers to meet shipping protocols, and

Whereas lengthening the time frame of permits required for Canadians to ship bees into the US from 10 days to 45 days would not increase health risks to the US beekeeping industry

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC lobby the ABF and AHPA to increase the permit period from 10 days to 45 to 90 days.

8. Long Term International Strategy (LTIS)

The Chair reminded the Board that the LTIS is a requisite for any future funding for promotional and marketing activities, from the federal Agri-Marketing program (AMP).

Future changes to the LTIS, generated by CHC, will be accepted by AMP.

Heather pointed out the key aspects of the forward plan in the LTIS would be considered for future project proposals.

It was also confirmed that there is no future commitment on CHC's part implied by the approval of the document.

Motion: To accept the Long Term International Strategy document as presented with required additions to be made before it is submitted. Gordon/Dan. Carried.

9. Strategic Priorities

The Chair asked whether the Board had any issues with CHC's stated priorities. He asked for project suggestions, related to these priorities.

It was generally agreed that there is enough work coming out of the resolutions, particularly the stakeholder meeting project (for which MBA is prepared to pay a portion).

The Chair of Hive Health Committee repeated that the Committee is seeking direction.

It was agreed that the (importation) stakeholder meeting should be the top priority.

Based on the meeting discussions, these [other] immediate priorities were identified by Board members:

- A new Hive Health Manual for Employees
- Programs for Screening for Treatment Efficacy
- A Bee Breeding Coordination Organization
- Advancing Food Safety (completing and following up on CBISQT)
- Continuation of the School Kits Project

10. Board Calendar

The CEO reviewed the calendar.

11. Other Business

Guest Peter Kevan (NSERC-CANPOLIN) who had asked for a place on the agenda did not appear.

Rathje Award

The Chair invited the nominators to speak to the Board on behalf of their nominated individuals.

After discussion and a secret ballot vote, the Chair declared the recipient of this year's award: Medhat Nasr. Dr. Nasr will be acknowledged at Canada night and will be awarded at the ABF banquet on Saturday evening.

Motion: To destroy the Rathje Award ballots. Ted/Luc. Carried.

The Chair thanked Luc Desaulniers for his contribution to CHC and adjourned the Annual General Meeting at 5:30 PM.

Addendum to Minutes of AGM

Election and Announcement of Officers

Chair - Corey was elected by acclamation.

Vice-Chair – Tom was elected by acclamation.

Treasurer – Gordon was elected by acclamation.

Secretary – Lee was elected by secret ballot.

Committee Appointments

(Note that Corey, as Chair, is an ex officio member on all CHC standing and ad hoc committees.)

Finance Committee appointees are Gordon (Chair), Jerry and Bruce.

Membership and Events Committee appointees are Lee (Chair), Gordon and Ted.

Issues Committee includes Tom (Chair), Dan, and Bruce with resource persons Dan Tegart and/or Brian Ash.

Foreign Workers Committee will include Corey (Chair), Lee and Bruce, with Dave or Tod from Alberta as resource persons.

Hive Health Committee will continue with the membership as appointed previously: Jerry (Chair), Albert Robertson, Alison van Alten, Heather Clay, Medhat Nasr, Merv Malyon, Rhéal Lafreniere and Steve Pernal.

CHC's representative on CAHRC will be Corey with Lee as alternate.

Appointees to CFIA's Bio-Security Committee will be Heather plus members of the Executive (Gordon, specifically).

CHC's representative on the CANPOLIN Board is Heather.