

**AIAC Meeting**  
**August 1, 2016**  
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

**Members in Attendance:** Daniel Winter, Roberta Glatz, Chuck Kutik, Chris Cripps, Sam Hall, Ronald Tweedie, Emma Mullen, Pat Bono, Earl Villecco, Mark Berninghausen. New York State Agriculture and Markets: Commissioner Ball, Jackie Czub, Paul Cappy, Tim Sweeney, Chris Logue, Kathleen Close. Guests: Stephen Wilson, Karen Kutik, Matt Rolph.

Not attending: Richard Linck, Tom Tyrell, Jerry Howell, John Hand

**Business Section:**

**Commissioner Ball-** called the meeting to order at 10:13am

**Commissioner Ball** -welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and asked for introductions of the group.

**Jackie Czub-** went over the official list of members of the AIAC Committee.

**Commissioner Ball-**thanked those involved and for their comments on Pollinator Protection Plan input was appreciated.

**Paul Cappy-** Discussed the National Honey Bee Survey and that it has just been completed. The survey is a composite sample of 8 hives for 24 beekeepers. The composite sample tests for Nosema and Varroa mite levels. The bees are also examined for viruses along with pollen samples being taken to test for pesticides. Over the last four years some samples submitted from New York State have had European Foulbrood that presents itself like American Foulbrood making the beekeepers rely on Beltsville lab to make the final determination. Beekeepers that find Foulbrood really need to send samples to be tested to be sure that the identification is correct and to allow the state and USDA to document resistance to the anti-biotics used to manage foulbrood

**Pat Bono-** Asked if there was a bulletin that the general beekeeping population could get which explains what is going on with European and American Foulbrood. Also asked about getting samples processed faster.

**Emma Mullen-** Paul and Emma worked together to put out a news piece on AFB and EFB looking alike on the Cornell website on front page of Pollinator Network website.

**Commissioner-** Asked what the chances of getting the testing into Dyce lab

**Emma Mullen** - Not there yet, need more technicians, and equipment. Even Cornell is sending samples to Beltsville for their research.

**Paul Cappy-** Beltsville is no cost and have relied on them for a long time.

**Pat Bono-** Mention using Vita test kits to for testing for AFB and EFB cost about \$10 a piece.

**Commissioner Ball-** suggests Emma, Paul and Chris to put a protocol together if you suspect you have one of the Foulbroods. Possibly look into other places that may be able to do the tests.

**Chris Cripps-** makes the suggestion of Quality Milk Lab or Cornell Diagnostic Lab, we should use the labs already set up

**Emma Mullen-** brings up the question if things are going to change when the FDA regulation is put in place where you need a prescription to get antibiotics for the bees?

**Paul Cappy-**is directing that question to Dr.Smith or Chris Cripps.

**Emma Mullen-** discussed the 3 research projects going on. Discussed current research findings of Scott McArt's research, The NY Tech Team and Extension activities, Master beekeeper program. Research is based on assessing pesticide, pathogens detected, surrounding landscape, diet; the major stressors. Research is based off 120 experimental hives split into 30 orchards, with 4 hives in each orchard. Hives are mostly located in the Finger Lakes area and techs are looking at the hives every 3 weeks. Even though the hives are directly in the orchards they found the bees are going after alternative pollen instead of apple pollen. Cornell has a new pesticide detection facility and it is the first facility in the northeast where they are able to quantify pesticides. To determine the harm of the pesticides they are using a hazard quotient, which takes the parts per billion and puts it into a LD50. Started doing a controlled experiment of Thiamethoxam( highest hazard quotient ) and Captan (most commonly sprayed fungicide) to see the impacts on honeybees. Emma and Scott will be starting a research project together at the end of summer that will focus on pathogens, pesticides, parasites and management practices on honeybees. This project will look at a combination of 68 commercial and hobby beekeepers hives.

Extension- NYS Tech team will be field technicians that take bee and wax samples gather info about beekeepers operation and concerns, sitting down with beekeepers and giving them individual technical support. Do follow ups to see what did or didn't work. Created website, <http://pollinator.cals.cornell.edu/> .Working on a workshops for beekeepers and a Master Beekeeper course. All of the workshop portion of the Master Beekeepers course will be done online but they must come to Cornell for the final exam.

Lunch at 12

Back at 12:56

Phone call at 1:00 with Dr.Fell, Researcher from Virginia Tech University

Little over 3 Years ago requested by the Virginia Pesticide Boards to conduct research on pesticides and potential problems. Samples from 3 or 4 hives in apiaries are pulled from various locations all across the state. Collect bees, pollen, wax samples and samples of individual bees. Only analyzing 18 insecticides. Low amounts of residues of insecticides, mostly in wax. Findings from agriculture pesticides are low at this point. The pesticide office has not had a serious bee kill reported due to pesticides in a number of years. Also looking at relationship of surrounding landscape



**Earl Villecco-** asked if honey was being tested too along with the pollen and wax. Dr.Fell not looking at honey because most pesticides are not really water soluble.

**Earl Villecco-** What about Coumaphos?

**Dr.Fell-** not Finding it, if it is there parts per billion levels. During a previous study levels of Coumaphos that were found were below the concern of the EPA, they were right at the limit of detection. What Dr.Fell believes is that problems could be coming from the treatment of bees by beekeepers with miticides. Finding very high levels of Coumaphos. Coumaphos stays in the wax, even finding it in the feral hives. A lot of the foundations are contaminated with Fluvalenate and Coumaphos.

**Commissioner Ball-** Question for Dr. Fell how did they go about the sampling, how did they get all the access for all the hives.

**Paul Cappy-** The state apiculturist Keith Tignor, he inspects in the state and they have an inspection program.

**Mark Berninghausen-** The history of beekeeper inspection might be different in Virginia than it is here in the state.

**Commissioner Ball-** EPF Funding update

**Chris Logue-** In the process of wrapping it up within the next week or so. Pushing it along as quickly as possible. Research projects to be funded out of there and the apiary tech team as well.

**Steve Wilson-** asked if there is restoration of NYS honeybee inspector program

**Chris Logue-** No

**Commissioner Ball-** Need for information on location and condition of managed hives.

**Mark Berninghausen-** Thinks the development of Emma's beekeeper registry are going to have to be sold along the lines of this is what we do this is what we can do for you, if you were to join this is what we can do for you.

**Commissioner Ball-** Would like a lot of input from AIAC because there a lot of things happening that we don't have access to because of things happening under the radar throughout all of agriculture. How do we solve the problems of the past?

**Pat Bono-** It is going to take several years because there is a lot of distrust between beekeepers and Ag & Markets. The question was brought up to Southern Adirondack Beekeepers club if they wanted mandatory registration and the answer was no.

**Chuck Kutik-** Is that true Steve?

**Chris Cripps-** I am the one who posed the question and pretty much it is.

**Dan Winters-** Did anybody explain to them why the industry is moving in that direction?

**Chris Cripps-** The letter that Emma had written was provided.

**Dan Winters-** At first many beekeepers don't want registration but then once you starting talking to them and explain why we need these things they warm up to the idea of registration. Someone is going to have to explain to them why we need it.

**Chuck Kutik-** Other states we have to pay money to go into, Maine we pay a couple hundred dollars. When this tech team starts and someone is not registered with the state these people don't come to see you. If you're not registered then the Tech Team will not come to see you.

**Commissioner Ball -**If you would like to have the Tech Team and the use of the diagnostic labs we need to know who you are and where you are.

**Chuck Kutik-** We want what is best for this industry not just individual beekeepers.

**Emma Mullen-** Showed what South Dakota does for a Registration program. It is the most detailed map for registration shows individual apiaries, where it is and different types of ag land around it.

**Jackie Czub:** Handed out hard copies of Pollinator Protection Plan

Some questions were raised in regards to some of the plants on the invasive species part 575 listing. There was discussion on the process to add and remove plants from the listing and it is something the Commissioner advised members to look over for the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm**

**Summary of documents provided:**

1. Paul Cappy: Draft of registration Form
2. Paul Cappy: The Justification for registration
3. Paul Cappy: Registration topics
1. Jackie Czub: Pollinator Protection Plan  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/nyspollinatorplan.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/nyspollinatorplan.pdf)