

OCBA Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president set up OCBA's virtual meeting for May using zoom video conferencing. At least 39 participants tuned in.

Celeste opened the meeting by welcoming everyone then turned the meeting over to Carrie. The agenda followed the same order as last month with the speaker presenting first followed by the business meeting. Carrie reviewed zoom features with the participants then introduced our speaker for the evening, Patrick Jones whose presentation was about, "Pollinator Protection During Wide Area Spray Events after Hurricanes and Backyard Mosquito Sprays. Patrick is Deputy Director for Pesticide Programs at the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division. He has worked for the department for over 36 years in various positions including work as a pesticide inspector, field supervisor and enforcement manager. His focus items are outreach and education efforts to inform growers on the Pollinator Protection and FieldWatch Programs. Any participant at this meeting who has a private applicator's license can email their name and license # to Patrick and he will give 1-hour credit for the presentation.

At <http://www.ncagr.gov/pollinators/NCPollinatorProtection.htm>, you can learn about North Carolina's strategy to promote pollinator protection efforts and to mitigate pesticide exposure of bees to pesticides. There is also information on how to protect honeybees during wide-area mosquito applications. "FieldWatch is a software program that supports communication, collaboration, and cooperation between crop growers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators to help minimize any accidental exposure to pesticides. Beekeepers use the part of the program known as BeeCheck. Once beekeepers have registered the locations of their hives in BeeCheck, registered pesticide applicators are able to log on and see the location of all beehives registered in their area of interest." "The BeeCheck program is by far the most accurate and inclusive method for beekeepers to become notified of pending applications whether they be by ground for routine spraying, or aerial equipment before making wide area mosquito applications following a hurricane. NCD&CS can also download the GPS locations of hives within a certain county and provide this data to aerial applicators to download for use within their spraying systems. BeeCheck and all the FieldWatch platforms are free, voluntary, and non-regulatory programs that have been a great resource for beekeepers and pesticide applicators across our state." Here is the link to register your hives on BeeCheck. <https://beecheck.org/>

Bee kills are time critical. Call the office as soon as you suspect a pesticide bee kill because evidence could be gone in hours. An inspector will be there that day if possible. Patrick reminded us that "The label is the Law." Read the label on the pesticide or miticide. Everything you need to know is usually there. Also call if you suspect an off-label violation or any incident you see that you do not think is safe. NCD&CS Pesticide Program: 919 733-3556

A couple of years ago, Patrick presented with Louis Cauble, North Carolina apiary inspector, "The Anatomy of a Bee Kill" on Louis's podcast "Two Bees in a Pod". He said that the podcast gives excellent presentations on a variety of beekeeper topics of interest and encouraged everyone to tune in. Also, helpful is an article published July 2016, "Save the Bees Starting with Yours" on the Bailey Bee Supply educational resources page. For more details from Patrick's highly informative talk, go to the OCBA website. Carrie will post a link to the video recording so that those unable to attend can see and hear this talk. The link is on the home page of the OCBA website (www.theocba.org). Enjoy!

Celeste reported that we have held 23 zoom meetings in recent weeks with the study group, clusters, collaboratives, and Q & A sessions that have all worked out well. She asked the participants present to email her any content ideas for other meetings.

Celeste also reported that the web design committee continues to meet. They have gathered all their content and will run a trial to see how it displays on a test web site.

Celeste reminded everyone that extracting season approaches. Be sure to contact the secretary, Cynthia Speed if you would like to reserve it. She will confirm that you are a current member in good standing having renewed your membership no later than March 31st of this year. She will then relay your request to Ryan. See OCBA web site at Policies and Guidelines.