



**Canadian Honey Council  
Motions and Reports from the  
Annual General Meeting  
Niagara Falls  
December 9- 10, 2008**

Board Members: Ed Nowek Retiring Chair(BC), Corey Bacon (SK), Vice-Chair /Treasurer; Tom Trueman (MR), Secretary; Ted Hancock (newly appointed for BC); Luc Desaulniers (AB); Jerry Poelman (newly appointed for AB); Lorne Peters (Beemaid); Bruce Podolsky (MB); Dan Walker (ON); Jean François Doyon (QC); Heather Clay, CEO (ex officio)

*Welcome*

*The retiring chair, Ed Nowek, welcomed all Directors and thanked them for their contribution of time to the CHC and the honey bee industry. Ed expressed his confidence that the “new” CHC is now poised to deal with the issues and challenges facing the industry. He added that there was a lot of good work done in the past, but there was a need for more strength in the organization to face the future and this goal has been achieved through the Forging a New Direction Project.*

**1. Minutes of Calgary AGM**

**Motion: That the minutes of the 67<sup>th</sup> AGM be approved.**

**Dan/Luc – Carried**

**Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of October 8th Board of Directors meeting be approved.**

**Dan/Luc – Carried**

**2. Business Arising from Minutes and Action Summary**

There was no business arising.

**3. CEO’s Report**

It has been a good year of progress. The Ottawa trip was successfully completed, addressing some issues and raising others. It is generally agreed by the directors that the Agri-Stability program is not the problem; rather, it is its inadequate administration. Officials from AAFC have said they can come to meetings to explain the program, but it is up to individual beekeepers to find out about it if they want to use it. The concern is that Agri-recovery will not be offered as long as the provinces are not on-side. Also, Agri-recovery is a “one-time deal” whereas Agri-stability is an ongoing program.

The Canadian Bee Industry Safety Quality Traceability Program continues to be developed. There will be a January 12 to 16 meeting in Banff with CFIA for technical review of the CBISQT Good Practices Manual which is now nearing completion.

The FAND (Forging A New Direction) project another current major CHC project, has been actively underway for 2 full years and finishes March 31<sup>st</sup>. The funding program that supported FAND is now over. This project has been beneficial and assisted a great deal in the restructure of the organization.

The Hive Health initiative was recently approved on November 6 and the contribution agreement is currently being refined. Rhéal will assist with this project. A stakeholder meeting is planned for January 19-20 in Winnipeg.

The CHC ad hoc Drum Standards Committee produced a report that has been accepted by the CFIA. Used drums are not acceptable. For those with old stock they may use liners.

The new websites [honeycouncil.ca](http://honeycouncil.ca), [hivelights.ca](http://hivelights.ca), [canadianhoney.ca](http://canadianhoney.ca) and [cbisqt.ca](http://cbisqt.ca) are up and running. There is tremendous interest in the new websites and the sign-up for the monthly e-newsletter off the *Hivelights* site is surprisingly high, including government and out-of-country requests. The newsletter, previously for Board members, may become more frequent as it is so popular. These newsletters will be archived on the website.

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) meeting was held in Washington, DC in October. This group is very focused on demonstrating the importance of pollinators including honey bees. They use a public/private partnership approach to focusing the attention of powerful political leaders on the importance of pollination. It was instructive in terms of revealing what Canadian students are doing in the USA on bee research projects (funding support not being available in Canada).

#### **4. Executive Committee Report**

##### **CBRF**

Ed summarized the results of the Executive Committee and provided background on the CBRF Committee for the Board. The CHC members of the CBRF Committee (Chair and Treasurer) will encourage a return to the original terms of reference as well as making proposals to address:

- Compensation for CHC administration (CHC's major role in this is not reimbursed at present)
- Confirmation of the Committee's terms of reference and membership
- The need to ensure that funds invested are not at risk

##### **RFID – Hand Held Device for Hive Management**

RFID software was created for a system developed in Beaverlodge, AB, using federal funding. When development ended, the CHC was given "ownership" of the software by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Foods. One of the original developers of the software is interested in "partnering" with CHC to make the system available to beekeepers and others at a cost

**Motion: That Executive Committee continues to investigate, with minimal investment of time, a possible agreement between the CHC and the promoter of the RFID software that would be beneficial to CHC and Canadian beekeepers.**

**Luc/Bruce – Carried**

##### **New Member Application**

The meeting in Banff confirmed that there is a place for a pollinator organization on the CHC Board. The Board would like such a group to be broader than representing one geographic location - preferably national - and its name should refer to pollination or "canola pollination" and not be for just "beekeepers. This policy will be conveyed to interested organizations.

##### **Election Process-**

Ed explained that a ballot would be used to elect the Executive and he briefly explained the important roles of these positions. The election occurred after the end of day one and Ed announced the new executive as follows:

Chair---- Corey Bacon  
Vice-Chair---- Tom Trueman  
Treasurer---- Jerry Poelman  
Secretary---- Ted Hancock

The standing committees and membership proposed are:

Finance (Jerry - Chair, Corey, Tom, Lorne - alternate)

Membership and Events (Ted - Chair, Bruce, Dan, Jean François - alternate)

The ad hoc Committees and membership proposed are:

Foreign Workers (Corey, Bruce, Luc)

There was discussion about an Issues Committee and it was agreed that this would be appointed as an ad hoc committee under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chair (Tom) for a year. Membership could vary depending upon the issues arising.

Issues Committee (Tom - Chair, Lorne, Bruce, Luc - alternate)

Other Committees:

The Chair and Treasurer (Corey and Jerry) sit on the CBRF Committee on behalf of CHC.

An Advisory Committee for Hive Health is to be appointed as part of the Hive Health Initiative project and members of the CHC Board on that Committee have yet to be determined.

It was generally agreed that the preferred committee structure is to have just a few committees that are effective in their work.

## 5. Finance Committee Report

The auditor's report was reviewed (see Appendix 1).

**Motion: That the report from the auditor be accepted as received.**

**Jerry/Corey - Carried**

**Motion: That the current auditors, Parker Quine LLP of Yorkton SK, be retained for 2008-09.**

**Corey/Bruce – Carried**

## 6. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

### Foreign Worker Committee

Rhéal made a brief report, referring to the proposal developed and forwarded to federal government officials. After the Ottawa meeting the HRSDC suggested that CHC should submit recommendations for changes wanted for the Foreign Worker Program. Corey talked with western provincial associations and he and Rhéal worked on these issues, especially the code. Another issue is that honey producers are not consulted when wages are set and this needs to be addressed. Regional administration is another issue; i.e., the regions do not talk to one another. Still another area that stuck out is regarding the Labour Market Opinion (LMOs); i.e., agriculture is not included in the expedited group. There are strong arguments to be made that it should be and worries about LMOs could then be alleviated. CHC should be able to convince the HRSDC that it should continue to be consulted on behalf of the beekeepers regarding LMOs and other foreign worker program issues.

### Drum Standards Committee

Jerry reported briefly on behalf of the committee. The ad hoc committee involving CHC and CFIA officials established standards for a transition to better levels of food safety. Liners, sealed, are acceptable. Packers are to deal with any outstanding issues they may have. Jerry emphasized that the producer's responsibility is what is inside the barrel and the new standards indicate the producers are doing their due diligence, including using liners that are accompanied by letters of compliance ensuring they are acceptable and meet the established standards (e.g. for heat resistance). It was generally agreed that there should be compliance from producers of honey coming into the country as well. Jerry noted that if an operation is CFIA inspected, they will likely be examining the plant for compliance though the drum standards are still voluntary. In conclusion, he noted that totes are becoming more popular.

**Motion: That the CHC approves the new drum standards as developed by the ad hoc Drum Standards Committee.**

**Jerry/Bruce – Carried**

## 7. Resolutions from Member Organization AGMs

**Resolution 1:**

WHEREAS CFIA has refused the CHC definition without providing any explanation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That CHC revisits the Battery Box (i.e. Queen Shipping Cage) definition issue with CFIA to determine what needs to occur to obtain approval.

Moved/Seconded: Bruce P/Luc D - CARRIED (1 abstention)

**Resolution 2:**

WHEREAS Manitoba producers have expressed appreciation for the emergency use registration of a hive health product (Apivar) in late 2008,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That CHC works with CAPA to evaluate the availability of, and possible registration of, additional resources to support Honey Bee health.

Moved: Bruce P/Jerry P - CARRIED

**Resolution 3:**

WHEREAS the manufacturer of Apivar is required to perform data requirements for re-registration of Apivar (Amitraz),

AND WHEREAS this will cost the company an estimated \$100,000 to do this work required to keep the registration current,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That CHC enters discussions with distributors and others to raise funds (to be held in a CHC account) for new miticide research (starting in 2009).

Moved: Bruce P/Luc D - CARRIED as amended (2 abstentions)

**Resolution 4:**

WHEREAS the registration for Apivar expires 27 April 2009,

AND WHEREAS it is too short a window for a full spring treatment as per the original label,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the CHC petitions PMRA and the federal ministers of agriculture and health to grant a reasonable extension of 30 days to the 27 April 2009 expiration, to accommodate possible late arrival of spring, where strips cannot be installed in a timely manner, thus preventing waste in cost and unused treatment.

Moved: Bruce P/Luc D - CARRIED as amended

**Resolution 5:**

WHEREAS it appears the December 2008 CHC AGM is only open to directors,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that CHC's Membership and Events Committee plans an open question and answer session with the Board at the next AGM; that the Action Summary of CHC Board meeting minutes be made available on the CHC website; and that the Resolutions Report from this year's AGM be made available on the CHC website as soon as possible.

Moved: Bruce P/Ted H - CARRIED as amended

**Resolution 6:**

WHEREAS the Canadian Honey Council is currently lobbying the Federal Government for funds to assist the bee industry due to high winter losses country wide in 2007 and 2008, and;

WHEREAS suggested allocations of these funds include a component to support research programs, and;  
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WHEREAS there remains a shortage of replacement bulk bees for extraordinary winter losses that are more common due to Varroa mite infestations, Nosema infestations, and viruses affecting the hives;

BE IT RESOLVED that if Canadian Honey Council is successful in lobbying the federal government for funds, including support for research programs, CHC includes in its programs a proposal to allocate an effective portion of research dollars to projects that will help identify sources of healthy bees and develop, in a timely fashion, the means and methods to secure healthy bees from the continental U.S.A. and other sources as an additional tool to help ensure industry sustainability in Canada.

Moved: Jerry P/Luc D - CARRIED as amended (2 abstentions)

**Resolution 7:**

WHEREAS the registration for CheckMite expires this year (2008) and since CheckMite + <sup>TM</sup> is still a useful mite control agent in various parts of the country; and;

WHEREAS CheckMite + <sup>TM</sup> is the only registered product for diagnosis and control of Small Hive Beetle.

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Honey Council lobbies Bayer Animal Health to continue renewal of registration for CheckMite + <sup>TM</sup> and lobby PMRA for an extension of its registration.

Moved: Jerry P/Luc D - CARRIED as amended

**Resolution 8:**

WHEREAS Formic Acid is a useful and effective Varroa and Tracheal Mite Control, but very susceptible to fluctuation in behavior under various atmosphere conditions, and;

WHEREAS Formic Acid application can be modified to make various regional climatic conditions to improve efficacy.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council lobbies Pest Management Regulatory Agency to continue CAPCO 94-05 directive to make Formic Acid available to the industry for mite control programs.

Moved: Jerry P/Corey B - CARRIED as amended

**Resolution 9:**

WHEREAS Apivar has proven to be a useful tool in the face of failure by other various mite control products, and;

WHEREAS beekeepers don't have a product with efficacy independent from climate conditions that can protect bees from mite kill, and;

WHEREAS Apivar can fit in a management program for resistance and be integrated with alternative chemical control;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council petitions PMRA and Arystra Life Science to continue the registration of Apivar and further, that PMRA include Varroa Mites in their screening tests for new pesticides, and that the CHC acknowledges the extraordinary effort that the PMRA expended in getting the EUR for Apivar.

Moved: Jerry P/Bruce P – CARRIED as amended

**8. Strategic Priorities for 2009**

Ed referred the Board to the Strategic Priorities as documented in the Board Manual and reviewed the purpose of the CHC. He also noted the four current strategic priorities: hive health, food safety, market access/share and labour/succession.

## International Trade (11)

Heather reminded Directors that the next AGM is at the 2010 major meeting in American is in Orlando, FL. At this time, the meeting includes the American Beekeeping Federation, AIA, AAPA, CHC, and CAPA, with an invitation to honey producers, as well.

## 9. Board Calendar 2009

Heather reviewed the calendar and noted the addition of AHPA meetings in Fresno January 6 & 7 as well as the stakeholder meeting in Winnipeg (invitees only – January 19 and 20 with Board meeting to follow on 21). The meeting with the Minister will be deferred to February

## 10. Other Business

### CFA (Guest Ron Bonnett at 9:30-10:30 on December 10)

Ron introduced himself as beef cow-calf producer and VP of CFA. He added that Kevin Nixon (AB) had recently made a presentation to CFA regarding the issues facing honey producers. He went on to give an overview of CFA:

- General farm organizations from each province, and commodity groups, are members.
- Initiatives come from gov't policies that need a reaction, member issues, and the committee structure that deals with Safety Net, Strategic Development, and Environment.
- There is also a best management advisory board.
- A seat at the table gives members a voice in CFA's policy development/watchdog role. CFA's lobby role works effectively as CFA can rally a large lobby.
- CFA's strength is in its multi-type, multi-region membership.
- Connectedness amongst members is recognized. The horticultural sector had problems with PMRA that have been resolved – similar problems exist here at CHC.
- For results, "You can't have different sectors putting forward different positions". The aim of CFA is to achieve a consensus and pursue an issue collectively, not to advance just one cause.

### Rathje Award

The Board considered the submitted names for the Rathje Award and acknowledged that Roger Congdon achieved some very important things in his long association with the industry. It was generally agreed that it was the right time and place to acknowledge this.

**Motion: That the 2008 Rathje Award be presented to Roger Congdon.**

**Jerry/Ted – Carried**

*The Chair thanked the Directors. He again extended a sincere welcome to Jean François Doyon and acknowledged Quebec's stated intent to participate fully in the new CHC. He expressed his appreciation to the Directors with whom he had worked on the "New Direction".*

*On behalf of the Board, Jerry thanked Ed for his hard work and expressed, in turn, his appreciation for the Chair's efforts and guidance. Heather and Corey added their thanks; she, for Ed's support in her new CEO position and he, for Ed's leadership through the transition to the new Canadian Honey Council.*

**Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.**

**Luc/Jerry – Carried**