Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA)

Special meeting discussing the state apiarist position

November 28, 2023

Present: Phil Craft, Joe Taylor, Julie Steber, Mike Mabry, Scott Moore, Theresa Martin, Jim Trammel, Jessica Mayes, Duane Keehan, Phil Patterson, Tim Sheehan, Tom Ballinger.

Phil introduced the subject and explained the state apiarist is a non-merit state employee position, meaning they serve at the will of the commissioner. We have a new AG commissioner and he may choose to not even have a state apiarist and we definitely do not want that to happen.

Theresa said she thinks Tammy has been an asset to beekeepers in that state and we want to do what we can to keep her in the position.

Jessica suggested that we send in a letter on behalf of KSABA endorsing Tammy.

Scott said he would also like to send in a letter on behalf of CKHP.

Tom said it is great to have letters from KSBA and CKHP, but we really need to have letters from local beekeeping organizations. He also said that they should all write their own letters of support, because if they are all identical, he will think that someone put them up to it. Phil agreed, and said it would be great if there were letters from all parts of the state.

Tom and Phil said they would reach out to some of the local association presidents, they can be accessed through Wild Apricot as well.

Laurie suggested that we get Tammy to come up with a list of bullet points that people could use to create letters.

Theresa said she has a copy of Tammy’s resume.

Phil said Tammy has gotten a lot of grants and that is very important, because she has literally pretty much paid her own way because of the grants. This enables the commissioner to use the budget for other things.

Theresa suggested that past beekeepers of the year send letters.

Theresa asked who was going to do these things and who knows where the letters need to be mailed.

Jessica that Dorothy, from the Queen Breeder’s Association has already posted that information so she will get it from their website.

There was some discussion about the correct address, Jim said it is 105 Corporate Drive.

Theresa asked if there was any truth to the rumor that the state apiarist position could even be eliminated. Jim said that there is a possibility because it is a discretionary position so the commissioner could eliminate it, or could elevate it to a fulltime position or move it down to a lesser position than what it is already. That is the reason we should stress the fact that Tammy is in the midst of several grants which need her attention because she has brought a lot of funding to the position.

It was suggested that we try to get the state apiarist position be made a fulltime merit position, but after some discussion it was decided that this is probably not the best time to do this, but that we need to revisit the idea at a later date.

Tom said he texted the commissioner to find out exactly where the letters need to be sent and to whose attention. He said he would let KSBA know as soon as he finds out.

It was reiterated that it is best that we not create a form letter, instead individuals need to create their own letter using bullet points that Tammy and Theresa come up with.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 EST

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Eiden, interim secretary, director