

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association

Annual General Meeting

March 6, 2026

Victoria Inn

Call to order at 11:51am

Motion to approve the agenda as presented;

Moved by Mike Clark, seconded by Sheldon Reimer; All in Favor; CARRIED

Minutes from last AGM and Secretary report read out by Shaun Kendrick

Motion to accept the minutes as read;

Moved by Paul Gregory, Seconded Mike Grysiuk; All in Favor; CARRIED

Shaun Confirmed Quorum was met with 25% of good standing voting members in attendance

1st Call for Nominations

There are 3 three-year seats up for nomination this year

Mark Friesen nominated Nathan Wendell; Nathan respectively declined to let his name stand

Mike Clark nominated Brennen Richmond; Brennen accepted

Mike Grusyick nominated Nazariy Dyakiv; Nazariy accepted

Sheldon Riemer nominated Paul Gregory; Paull accepted

Meeting paused at 12:06p,

Meeting brought back to order at 3:10pm

Greetings from MLA Diljeet Brar from the NDP

2nd call for nominations; no nominations

Chair report by Ian Stepler

The Chairman commended the Board's near-perfect attendance and introduced directors: Paul Gregory (Vice Chairman), Osee Podolsky (CHC), Michael Clark (KAP), Tom Lockhart (Stock Replacement), Brad Hogg (Convention/Communications), Sheldon Reimer (Research), Mike Grysiuk (Labour), Nadine Lecocq (Treasurer), Shaun Kendrick. Praised Shaun, Nadine, and Matthew for KRTP management; and noted for there extremely hard work to keep this program moving forward.

Three terms expire: Brad Hogg (9 years, communications), Osee Podolsky (8 years, commercial advocacy), Paul Gregory (continuity, MASC role)—thanks extended.

KRTP in year 4 of \$1.02M funding (\$200K+/year); \$250K more from partnerships; MBA bridges via separate account.

Safety Net: OBM enrollment up 30%, 100% coverage; lobbying for incentives, honey claims, bear fences. Paul Gregory acknowledged.

CFIA denied US package bees permanently; future action needs resolution.

Tropilaelaps prep: Met Manitoba Ag/CFIA; varying provincial import stances; Chairman urges European pause; resolution pending.

Motion to accept the Chairs report by Mike Clark; Seconded by Art Bergman; All in favour; Passed

Discussion and questions, comment on amazing job the board is doing

Mike Clark presented Sustainable Habitat committee report

Sustainability Committee Report

Pollinator Habitat Initiative

Initiative began with a resolution to enhance roadside ditch management for better biodiversity and pollinator forage without compromising road safety. It progressed to a meeting with Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, exploring a working group and pilot project. Recent departmental restructuring (new Deputy and Assistant Deputy Ministers) and topi mite emergence paused progress, but follow-up discussions are planned; thanks to Derek for his contributions.

Manitoba HoneyBee Day 2025

Event shifted to school-focused field trips at Brandon University, featuring rotating exhibits on honey bee lifecycle, queen rearing, honey extraction, smoker lighting, disease awareness, honey authenticity, and tasting. Each student received a pollinator seed packet. Success drew ~180 students and 20-30 public visitors, supported by sponsors (McKenzie Seeds, Dancing Bee), volunteers (Brandon Area Beekeepers Association, Bee U, BeeMaid Honey), KRTP, and provincial Apiarist.

Upcoming 2026 Event

Relocating to Winnipeg with space donated by BeeMaid, maintaining the school field trip format. Volunteers from the Winnipeg area are urgently needed to sustain success.

Sheldon Reported on Research committee report

Research Committee Report

The November 28, 2025, Research Committee meeting focused on updates from current research programs and setting 2026 priorities.

Key points:

- KRTP report covered three main trials: final year Greenlight efficacy trial with a fall treatment window, a Dylan Animal Health deformed wing virus vaccine project with a local beekeeper and U of M, and continued U of S “varoxann” work on optimizing winter mite treatments.
- Additional KRTP work included expanding freeze-kill brood testing to 10 beekeepers using UbeeO and sending 50 mite samples for miticide efficacy and mutation testing.
- U of M reported on first-year projects: marker-assisted selection for varroa growth, sampling for AFB/EFB wing form virus, development of a deformed wing vaccine, studies on colony disruption

from varroa and potential health treatments, a fall micronutrient study for winter detoxification and survivability, and microdose neurotoxic insecticide effects on bee brains.

- Committee discussed the need for clearer guidance on optimal oxalic acid dosage and timing for mite control.
- The committee set 2025 research priorities:
 1. Acaricide efficacy (including combinations),
 2. Bee health (including emerging pathogen surveillance with potential KRTP–U of M–AGMB collaboration),
 3. Brood diseases (AFB, EFB, chalkbrood),
 4. Sustainability (hygienic breeding, queen longevity/fertility),
 5. Climate resilience,
 6. Wintering methods,
 7. Nosema ceranae control,
 8. Nutrient benefits,
 9. Treatment methods in general (fogging, strips, timing, climate effects, dosage).

Motion to accept Committee reports as presented; Moved by Sheldon Reimer; Seconded Osee Podolski; All in Favor; Carried

Discussion; wondering if with the ditch management effort could be worked on from the grass roots or just from the government down. “We are working on both ways”

Nadine reported the Financials

Highlights – higher income due to a well attended convention last year and lower expenses which resulted in a profit of \$5,000 for the year

Discussion; Thanks for a precise easy to read clear financial statements, Confirmation that we are forecasting a deficit this year in the budget “Yes due to unforeseen circumstances of changing venue for the convention as well as dropping membership dollars we are predicting a loss in funds this year.” It is my understanding that the CHC is charging us as a association for total number of hives reported by the Manitoba Agriculture department not the total number of hives registered as members. Request to see the comparison in these two numbers to understand the gap between membership dues collected and paid for to CHC.

Motion to approve the Financials as reported by Art Bergman with thanks; seconded by Nathan Wendell

All in favor; Carried

Ian handed the Chairman’s role to Osee Podolsky for the Resolution reading and voting

Resolution 1:**Letter of Appreciation (1)**

Whereas the head of the Department of Entomology, Dr. Nuria Morfin and her post-graduate students carry out many research projects that relate to the beekeeping community and the health of honey bees;

Therefore, be it resolved: That the Manitoba Beekeepers Association (MBA) send a letter to the Dean of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba Dr. Nazim Cicek, expressing our sincere appreciation and thanks for there efforts and continued support of our industry.

Moved By: Sheldon Reimer

Seconded By: Mike Clark

Amended Resolution 1:**Letter of Appreciation (1)**

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Therefore, be it resolved: That the Manitoba Beekeepers Association (MBA) send a letter to the Dean of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba Dr. Nazim Cicek, expressing our sincere appreciation and thanks for there efforts and continued support of our industry.

Moved By Sheldon Reimer

Seconded By Mike Clark

All in favour; Carried

Resolution 2:**Letter of Appreciation (2)**

Whereas: all beekeepers within the province of Manitoba have benefitted from the knowledge and support from the Provincial Apiarist, Derek Micholson;

Therefore, be it resolved: that a letter be sent from the Board of the MBA, on behalf of all MB beekeepers, to the Minister of Agriculture, expressing our sincere appreciation for such support, and the wish that such support continue.

Moved By: Paul Gregory Seconded By: Mike Grysiuk

All in favor; Carried

Resolution 3:

WHEREAS the structure and dynamics of farm and beekeeping businesses have evolved, and many operations are now owned and managed by more than one principal;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that each ownership group has the ability to ensure that at least one authorized person may exercise the organization's voting rights, even when the originally designated representative is not present;

AND WHEREAS the current bylaws state that only one representative may be named at any given time, and that any change in designated representative must be submitted in writing not less than 30 days prior to any meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, where a member organization can demonstrate that it has more than one owner, and that a second owner holds at least a ten percent (10%) ownership interest, that organization may register an alternate voting designate in addition to its primary representative;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, notwithstanding the above, each member organization shall be entitled to only one vote on any question before the Association, and where both the primary and alternate designates are present at a meeting, the organization shall exercise a single vote only;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bylaws be amended accordingly to allow the registration of an alternate voting designate for qualifying multi-owner organizations, while maintaining the requirement that designations and changes thereto be submitted in writing at least 30 days prior to any meeting.

Moved by Ian Stepler Seconded by Jonathan Hofer

Discussion: Stated that this is being put forward to remove some of the paperwork to allow organizations to have their vote at the table if their primary voter isn't available to attend. Ask if there could be an amendment to remove the 10% ownership and allow a proxy voter to be allowed. Concern that by opening this up it will be hard to ensure that only one vote is allowed per entity.

Amended Resolution 3:

WHEREAS the structure and dynamics of farm and beekeeping businesses have evolved, and many operations are now owned and managed by more than one principal;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that each ownership group has the ability to ensure that an authorized person may exercise the organization's voting rights, even when the originally designated representative is not present;

AND WHEREAS the current bylaws state that only one representative may be named at any given time, and that any change in designated representative must be submitted in writing not less than 30 days prior to any meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that member organizations may register an alternate voting designate and may also appoint a proxy voter in accordance with the Association's bylaws and policies;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, notwithstanding the above, each member organization shall be entitled to only one vote on any question before the Association, and appropriate verification procedures shall be implemented to ensure that no more than one vote is cast per member organization, whether by primary designate, alternate designate, or proxy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bylaws be amended accordingly to provide for alternate designates and proxy voting for member organizations, while maintaining the requirement that designations, proxies, and any changes thereto be submitted in writing at least 30 days prior to any meeting.

Moved by Mike C Seconded by Jonathon H

Vote on expecting the Amendment; All in favour; Carried

Discussion; Friendly Amendment to remove organization and use the word entity, agreed by Mover. The current way of wording it doesn't stipulate that the proxy must be of relation to that entity and allowing someone to have multiple proxy votes in their pocket is probably not beneficial to the association. "Proxy voter listed would be policed that they'd have an association to the entity." Friendly amendment to change proxy to being a family member, agreed by Mover.

The resolution remains pending

Resolution 4:

WHEREAS the Manitoba Beekeepers Association is experiencing rising operational costs, making it increasingly challenging to maintain financial sustainability;

WHEREAS the Association acknowledges the importance of providing equitable and competitive compensation to its management team in recognition of their ongoing efforts and dedication;

WHEREAS the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) has implemented annual membership fee increases of 4% over the next four years;

WHEREAS the Manitoba Beekeepers Association's current levy rates remain the lowest among the western provinces;

WHEREAS additional revenue will enhance the Association's ability to pursue research initiatives, strengthen advocacy efforts, and provide greater support to the beekeeping industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba Beekeepers Association discontinue the existing two-tier levy structure;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association establish a uniform levy rate of \$1.00 per hive, effective January 2027.

Moved By Nathan Wendell Seconded by Paul Gregory

Discussion; Does this not open the issue that someone with over say 5000 hives still only has one vote and that vote is no more powerful than the small beekeeper with 60 hives? Osee went on to explain a graphic supplied comparing the current pay structure to the purposed and other provinces in Western Canada. What is classed as a hive as in is a NUC a payable hive number? Should this increase be phased in over a couple of years?

12 for, 1 against, 3 abstained; Passed

Resolution 5:

Whereas The Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is intended to represent and support the Canadian Beekeeping and Honey industry at a national level.

Whereas Provincial associations, including the Manitoba Beekeepers Association (MBA), provide significant financial contributions to the CHC.

Whereas regarding the proposed increase (Doubling of current hive levies) the Manitoba Beekeepers Association (MBA) requires detail on how additional funds would be allocated, specifically whether they would:

- o Be allocated to general operating expenses
- o Be used for the CHC's financial contribution to the grant-funded project titled "Finding a Better Path Forward – Cultivating solutions to Challenges Facing the Canadian Beekeeping Industry"
- o Be used to further advance in the creation of Promotional Research Agency (PRA) under the Farm Products Agencies Act. (would be required to operate as a separate entity to the CHC)

Whereas Manitoba beekeepers and the MBA require a clear plan of the intended use for these additional funds.

Therefore, be it resolved that the CHC provides detailed breakdown of how the additional funds would be allocated in each respective category.

Moved by Mike Grysiuk ; Seconded by Paul Gregory

5 for, 4 against, 2 abstained; Passed

Resolution 6:

WHEREAS the Manitoba Beekeepers Association has several off-side members who perceive membership as optional;

WHEREAS the Manitoba Beekeepers Association has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful projects that benefit all beekeepers across the province;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba Beekeepers Association Board of Directors and Provincial Apiarist undertake a comprehensive review and research into pursuing designation as a Commission, similar to those established in Saskatchewan and Alberta, which would thereby require beekeepers operating more than 50 hives to remit dues.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board

provide a progress report on this initiative at the next Annual General Meeting.

Moved By Mark Friesen Seconded by Jonathan Hofer

Discussion; the purposed purpose of this motion is to have more teeth to go after those no complying members. It must be noted that as a commission the board of directors would be appointed not voted in, there are some other options that could be explored rather than going down the commission route. Suggestion to watch the wording for implications of offside members to entice them to be apart not enforce their involvement. This issue of noncompliant members has been brought up many times before and the question to the board are letters being sent out to the membership to get them to pay. Shaun answered, “ As stated in my secretary’s report, follow up letters were missed last year in the transition of secretary roles, Associated members were given a pass on dues, and all unpaid full members were sent their 25 and 26 dues sheets this year.”

Friendly Amendment to open the research to any such designation which allows us to pursue these off-side members. Agreed by the mover

8 for, 2 against, 5 abstained; Passed

Resolution 7:

Whereas the Tropilaelaps mite is not present in Canada and would be a serious threat to honey bees and the Canadian beekeeping industry;

Whereas the spread of Tropi has been documented into Georgia, reported in Turkey and in Ukraine

Whereas importing live bees, including queens and packages, is a known pathway for introducing new pests into Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that the Manitoba Beekeepers’ Association ask the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to pause imports of live honey bees from Europe, prior to the upcoming import season, due to the risk of introducing the Tropilaelaps mite and the difficulty of ensuring consistent surveillance, traceability, and verification across multiple countries;

And be it further resolved that the Manitoba Beekeepers’ Association ask the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to assess other bee-exporting countries and regions for

Tropilaelaps risk and take timely, risk-based action where surveillance, traceability, or verification is not sufficient to ensure imports are free of this pest.

Moved By Ian Stepler Seconded by Mike Clark

16 For, 1 Against; Passed

Resolution 8:

Whereas MBA the ABC and CHC and the CBF have jointly developed proposed mitigation strategies in response to the CFIA border measures;

Whereas there has been no consultation with CFIA on evidence based risk management;

Whereas CFIA considers advice and recommendations from Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) in regulatory decision making;

Be it resolved that the Manitoba Beekeepers Association formally request that the appropriate CAPA committee or members, review the proposed mitigation strategies and convene a discussion to refine recommendations that can be submitted to CFIA;

Be it further resolved that MBA advocate for a structured meeting between CAPA, Canadian Honey Council, Canadian Beekeepers Federation and CFIA to collaboratively develop evidence-based risk mitigated solutions regarding border policy.

Moved by Mike Clark Seconded by Brent Ash

Discussion; this was brought forward to try to get all Canadian beekeeper parties involved in discussion making and make a more unified message. It was stated that and was publicised before that CAPA has not participated in and mitigation strategies consultation with the CFIA in the past.

9 For, 2 Against, 6 abstained; Passed

3rd call for nominations, no nominations put forward

Motion to close nominations by Sheldon Reiemer, seconded by Mike Clark, All in favour

By acclimation Paul Gregory, Nazariy Dyakiv and Brennen Richmond are elected as directors

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 5:05pm Mark Friesen