

Agenda Item: 6.

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
8901 S 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

RE: Nebraska Beekeeping Industry and Colony Collapse Disorder

A Resolution: Submitted by Patrick Bonnett, Director, Sub-District 9

Whereas, Agriculture in Nebraska and specifically in the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District is a critical component to the overall Economy of the State and to the District.

Whereas, the honey bee is an integral part of the natural pollination process of plant life in Nebraska including crop, tree, and flowering plant species and thusly an important Natural Resource to the District.

Whereas, a robust honey bee population is critical to agricultural growth and vitality in the State of Nebraska but said population is endangered by Colony Collapse Disorder.

Whereas, Habitat Destruction, Varroa Mite, Small Hive Beetle, Pesticides, Herbicides and Matricides are all contributing factors to Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder.

Whereas, the State of Nebraska Department of Agriculture was forced to reduce budget expenditures nine years ago by eliminating the position of State Apiarist which inspected bee colonies and gathered data pertaining to bee population, colony condition, disease, mites and related issues.

Whereas, no public entity is currently gathering data on Nebraska's honey bee population, bee colonies or related issues pertaining to colony collapse disorder.

Therefore, the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District determines that it has an interest in examining the issues related to bee keeping, colony management and colony collapse disorder.

Be it Resolved, the General Manager of the Papio Natural Resources District will identify himself or staff to begin familiarization of issues pertaining to Bee Keeping, Colony Management and Colony Collapse Disorder.

Be it Resolved, the Papio Missouri Natural Resources District through its staff will initiate communication and develop a familiar relationship with personalities in the bee keeping industry in Nebraska, e.g. Nebraska Beekeepers Assoc., Omaha Bee Club.

Be it Resolved, The Papio Missouri Natural Resources District staff will identify potential sites to locate future colonies, plant life beneficial to a healthy honey bee population, outdoor classrooms and locations from which to distribute information on beekeeping for farmers and other private citizens.

Be it Resolved, the Papio Missouri Natural Resources District will make information about beekeeping available at all office locations and through its website including hyper links to local, state and national organizations that provide supplies, information, study courses and farm certification.

Be it Resolved, the Papio Missouri Natural resources District staff will research potential grant opportunities pertaining to beekeeping.