

Le Conseil canadien du miel (CCM) est membre du Comité de direction de la *Coalition pour sauver les abeilles*, crée par l'organisme Keystone Policy Center. Voici une mise à jour des dossiers en cours (en anglais).

Honey Bee Health Coalition Steering Committee call - updates

Cross Sector Dialogues

The cross sector dialogues subcommittees have been populated with members from across all sectors of the Coalition. We have launched the first of these on Forage & Nutrition: Habitat Design, Seasonality, and Climate Change and begun the interview process. We will soon begin work on Hive Management: Integrated Pest and Disease Management.

Bianca's Bees

We are continuing to work on appropriately utilizing the funds provided by the Bianca's Bees fundraiser (see attached for more info). This includes an online component that provides information on bees to children and curriculum for teachers. We have also begun conversations with the University of Maryland on a physical space that includes an apiary and a pollinator garden as a learning space for children and a tribute to Bianca. More to come as we approach decision points and can provide you with more specifics.

Bee Integrated Demonstration Project

The Bee Integrated Demonstration Project is nearing the end of the initial 3-year project in North Dakota. We've begun launching projects in Iowa, Michigan, and Oregon once again focusing on landowners, farmers and beekeepers that are implementing pollinator stewardship practices for creating habitat for native and managed pollinators, managing crop pesticides, and managing hive pests and diseases like varroa mites and foulbrood.. In Michigan and Oregon we will be developing a series of video case studies that showcase specialty crop growers and the beekeepers that provide pollination services to them. In Iowa we will highlight existing initiatives and demonstration sites and plan to hold a field tour.

Varroacide Resistance and Testing Team (VRTT)

The VRTT has finished the third year of trials. We have moved many compounds through the testing pipeline from lab to field and are finding a handful of very promising compounds. We will continue to move new compounds into the pipeline and work to formulate promising compounds. We have put in a pre-proposal for an SCRI grant that will hopefully fund the project over the next four years. Thanks to the many organizations that wrote letters of support for this grant. We are also having discussion with I-R4 on ways that can best support the work.

Sustainable Varroa Mite Controls for Commercial Beekeeping Operations

As a reminder, we are working to showcase commercial beekeepers that are financially viable without consistent off-label use of amitraz. After about a year in development, the document is out for external review. The reviews we've received thus far have been very positive and constructive. We will incorporate the suggestions and edits from reviewers and move to graphic design and formatting. Next steps will be to develop communications collateral that apiary inspectors, tech transfer teams and others can use when out in the field interacting with commercial beekeepers.

Coalition website

We have developed the logic model for our new website and are under contract with a designer. Our previous site had become difficult for a user to navigate as we added more and more content over the past 7 years. We will engage a subgroup to review wire frames and provide feedback before getting too far down the road. Please let me know if you'd like to help review. The new site will not be launched until we have this Committee's sign-off.

Outreach

We continue to work with ag and beekeeper media to develop guest articles, advertisements, podcasts, and webinars. We are also active on social media channels and are putting out bi-monthly newsletters. Our networks of subscribers and website hits continue to grow steadily. We are hopeful that we will soon be able to resume in-person shows and conferences and highlight the work of the Coalition. For now we will continue to operate in the virtual world in which we've all adapted. Please let me know if you have an idea to highlight our work in your media channels. Happy to be creative and work to get the word out to your networks.

Outreach to the Biden Administration

As we discussed on a previous call, we are beginning the process of writing a letter to the incoming administrators of the USDA and EPA under the Biden Administration. On our next call we will discuss what specific requests we have in addition to introducing our Coalition.

In-person meeting

We are hopeful that we will still be able to plan an in-person Coalition meeting in the late summer or fall of 2021. Fingers crossed!

ICYMI - Bees on public lands

In the final half of 2020, in response to a Xerces and Center for Biological Diversity petition to the Forest Service, the HBHC developed a [briefing paper](#) and [sign-on letter](#) urging the Forest Service not to remove managed bees from list of allowed categorical exclusions when beekeepers seek to place bees on public lands. The Forest

Service decided not to change the status quo and bees will continue to be allowed on public lands without needing to go through a lengthy environmental review on a case-by-case basis.