Research Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

7/23/21

Attendees: Katie Buckley, Michael O’Loughlin, Lincoln Best, Billy Olesen, Ed Lisowski, Sarah Gardner, Tim Hiatt, David Jennings, Brandon Hopkins

Katie mentioned the education subcommittee is thinking about what they’d like their group to morph into in the future. Suggested that this group should also think about that too. Monthly seminars on pollinator research in the state?

Lincoln and Sarah talked about the understory initiative – the SW Oregon Pollinator Initiative. It’s a monthly/bimonthly call to get a bunch of people on the same page. It’s working very well for them. We may want to do something similar. At the very least a working network among people accessing public funds.

We could make this into a recommendation. WSDA could establish a Pollinator Research Advisory Committee similar to the Apiary Advisory Committee. We’d only need to go so formal if funding was involved. If it more a seminar/project update thing, that could be arranged more informally.

Research Priorities

We need to make these clear in our annual report. WA relies heavily on honey bees for ag pollination. Varroa needs to be a priority. Brandon would like Katie to look into permitting for testing on honey bees. He says its basically impossible to get permission for field trials.

5.1 Katie has requested a quarterly update for this project. Chris Looney (WSDA) and Elizabeth Murray (WSU) are already working on this project and will sort out who is doing what amongst themselves. Suggestion that we get in touch with John Ascher, who has done a lot of digitization. This is the historic data project, and is funded for two years. If the work is not complete, then we’d have to ask for more funding later.

5.2 Any suggestions? Katie will be asking for funding (full time taxonomist, part time technician, $50,000 for genetic testing.) Michael wants to be on the list of surveyors.