



Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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Draft - OSCIA Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

10:00AM – 3:00PM

The 2023 OSCIA annual meeting was held as a hybrid meeting due to concerns over in-person meetings coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Directors and staff were on site at the GrandWay facility in Elora, with delegates invited to attend virtually through a Zoom platform session.

Welcome and Presidents Report

- Warren Schneckenburger, 2022 OSCIA President, welcomed the delegates to the business portion of the event and relayed to attendees how to interact with the Zoom meeting virtually through chat and raising hands.
 - Warren Schneckenburger provided his 2022 President report; the full report can be found in the virtual Annual Report on the OSCIA website.
 - Highlighted that the sharing of knowledge through events has shown a true reflection of OSCIA as an organization.

Opening Remarks

- The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Executive Director's Report

- Andrew Graham provided his report; the full report can be found in the virtual Annual Report on the OSCIA website.
- Challenges over the last year include motivating volunteers, making adjustments and improvements to the organization, and external financial pressures on the investment portfolio.
- Positive experiences have included a diversification in programming with federal departments and provincial ministries, over 17 events that featured the Mobile Soil Technology Suite (MSTS) with over 2500 attendees, and the introduction of the Tru-EV electronic tractor pilot project which hopes to be launched in 2023.
- Andrew Graham will be retiring in June; Harry Stoddart has been named as the new Executive Director.
- Harry Stoddart provided an introduction to his background. Shared optimistic view on the future of OSCIA. Encouraged members to reach out to him at events to provide feedback and thoughts on OSCIA.

Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting minutes

Motion #1 – Moved by Brandon Dietrich (Grey), seconded by Jennifer Doelman (Renfrew) that the minutes of the 2022 OSCIA Annual Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Presentation and Approval of 2022 Audited Financial Statement and Appointment of Auditors for 2023

- Murray Short, a Chartered Accountant with RLB presented highlights of the audited financial statements for the 2022 fiscal year. The financial statements are a fair representation of OSCIA’s financial position. OSCIA maintains its records and controls adequately and is financially viable to deliver all projects and programs.
- OSCIA is focused on keeping administration expenses under control, which is reflected in overall expenses. Unrealized loss was indicated as the market decreased in September; market began to rebalance in October, which will be realized in the next fiscal year.

Motion #2 – Moved by Alan Lyons (Dufferin), seconded by Kaye McLagan (Perth) that the audited financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2022, be approved as presented.

Carried

Motion #3 – Moved by Cecil Patterson (Halton), seconded by Sharon Devine (Huron) to appoint the firm of RLB LLP as auditors for the fiscal year of October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

Carried

2023 Honourary President

- Steve Sickle, incoming President introduced the 2023 Honourary President, Ian McDonald.
- Ian McDonald is a Crop Innovations Specialist with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). He is involved in research, scientific review, data analysis and other functions within his role. Recently he has been exploring ag robotics with a special interest in sustainable agriculture.
- He has been involved in applied research projects and large events with OSCIA, and has been a strong advocate for the work OSCIA does across the province.

Ratification of the Board of Directors

- Steve Sickle presented the 2023 slate of Directors, each elected in their respective region, for ratification by the delegates.

The 2023 Provincial Directors are:

Eastern Valley	Alan Kruszel	Georgian Central	Andy van Niekerk
Ottawa-Rideau	Eleanor Renaud	Golden Horseshoe	Allan Thompson
East Central	Brady Jones	Heartland	John Poel
Quinte	Gord Speksnijder	Thames Valley	Phil Oegema
Northeastern Ontario	Birgit Martin	St. Clair	Chad Quinlan
Northwestern Ontario	Dave Schraa		

Motion #4 – Moved by Henry Posthumus (Frontenac), seconded by Peter Beckett (Sudbury) that the 2023 slate of Directors has been ratified

Carried

Slate of Executive Committee

- Steve Sickle presented the 2023 slate of the Executive Committee.

The 2023 OSCIA Executive Committee consists of:

Immediate Past President ... Warren Schneckenburger	
2023 President Steve Sickle	Honourary President Ian McDonald
1 st Vice President Phil Oegema	Executive Director Harry Stoddart
2 nd Vice President Eleanor Renaud	OMAFRA Ex-officio Deanna Nemeth
3 rd Vice President Andy van Niekerk	U of G Ex-officio Dr. Robert Corry

Resolutions

- The Resolution Committee is composed of John Poel, Birgit Martin, Warren Schneckenburger and the Executive Committee.
- John Poel presented and moved each resolution, then requested a representative from each local association that submitted the resolution to come forward to speak to second the motion and speak to it.

Resolution #1 – Elgin SCIA – Nitrogen Fertilizer Data for High Yields

WHEREAS Nitrogen Fertilizer costs and emissions are top of mind, and;

WHEREAS N response data does not include the high yields (220+bu/ac) that many growers now achieve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA support N research in high yield corn environments and evaluate and examine N loss potential.

Moved by John Poel, seconded by Terry Small (Elgin); modification was made to amend the resolution to identify corn specifically.

Carried

Resolution #2 – Elgin SCIA – OSCIA Website

WHEREAS the OSCIA website has been recently updated, and;

WHEREAS it is more visually appealing but more frustrating to use (however users are finding the organization of the events, workshops, and contact information harder to navigate).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that current events and workshop information be moved to the top of the page, and;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the local association contacts and field staff contact information revert back to a local/regional display.

Moved by John Poel, seconded by Terry Small (Elgin).

Carried

Resolution #3 – Middlesex SCIA – Co-ordinating On-Farm Research Results

WHEREAS a great deal of on-farm research is conducted on Ontario farms, and;

WHEREAS this research would have exponentially greater value if the protocols and results were co-ordinated at the Provincial level, and;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions have developed excellent systems for co-ordinating, compiling, and reporting the results.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA co-ordinate with Grain Farmers of Ontario to arrange a farm research network co-ordinator.

Moved by John Poel, seconded by Chris Roelands (Middlesex).

Carried

Resolution #4 – Russell SCIA – Disaster Assistance

WHEREAS the world is experiencing more severe weather events and Ontario suffered from one of these events (Derecho) this past summer in a swath across the province, some areas being hit more severely than others, and;

WHEREAS several members and other farmers and landowners that were affected have not been able to get assistance from their insurance companies, due to lack of coverage for many reasons, one being the lack of adjusters due to COVID, and a failure of Municipal and Provincial Governments to apply for or approve disaster assistance in the Ottawa area unlike Uxbridge, which was affected by the same event, and;

WHEREAS the press has reported that the city of Ottawa is getting assistance for Ottawa Hydro's increased costs, help for tree cleanup, due to the event.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA work with other agricultural groups to ensure that the Provincial Government adequately compensates everyone affected by this storm for losses not covered by insurance, and;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA work with other concerned groups to help the Provincial Government develop a clear and concise set of rules for eligibility to receive disaster assistance.

Moved by John Poel, seconded by Robert Dessaint (Russell).

Carried

Resolution #5 – Bruce SCIA – Member Value Proposition Document

WHEREAS Local Soil and Crop associations provide excellent opportunities for farmers to learn, participate in research, and socialize, and;

WHEREAS Local members help fund the operations of the OSCIA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA develop a member benefit information package that describes the value proposition of the Soil and Crop that will be posted to the OSCIA website, and be available as a stand-alone document, and;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that such an information package be available for local associations to use free of cost.

Moved by John Poel, seconded by Jonathan Zettler (Bruce).

Carried

Resolution #6 – Bruce SCIA – Enhanced Membership Communication

WHEREAS communication methods between farmers have evolved in recent years with the advent of electronic platforms, and;

WHEREAS local associations need to tap into this new era of communication in order to contact their members in an efficient and effective manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA investigate options for a “Soil and Crop” two-way member communication platform, and;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that such a platform be made available to local associations for enhanced communication with members.

Moved by John Poel, seconded by Jonathan Zettler (Bruce).

Carried

Resolution #7 – Golden Horseshoe SCIA – Compaction Day Results

WHEREAS many “compaction days” have been held in the past five years, including more recently in Hamilton and Brant, and;

WHEREAS turnout at such events has mostly been huge, showing a thirst for more knowledge, and;

WHEREAS this is a continuing and very complex segment of soil health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA, along with the Ontario Compaction Team, including the soil department of OMAFRA, jointly create (potentially with the assistance of a student) tips and tricks resource to reduce compaction that can reside on the OSCIA website and potentially be part of a report for the many sponsors of these widely supported events, and;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that if the report reveals that further study is needed, it acts as a springboard for that study.

Moved by John Poel, seconded by Dan Court (Hamilton-Wentworth).

Carried

Passing of the Paddle

- President remarks from the 2023 OSCIA President, Steve Sickle.
- Encouraged by the work that is being done by staff and volunteers to promote OSCIA across the province.
- Eager to see more events planned that are “can’t miss” opportunities for knowledge transfer, and to continue to encourage the value of membership to be shared with farmers across the province.

Retirement Acknowledgement for Andrew Graham

- Don Lobb provided remarks to acknowledge Andrew Graham’s upcoming retirement from OSCIA. Noted he has been a steady piece of OSCIA’s framework for over 30 years.
- Senator Rob Black provided a certificate thanking Andrew Graham for his years of service in the agricultural community.

Presentation of 2023 Soil Champion winners

- The 2023 Soil Champion in the Producer category is Nick Stokman from Middlesex County. He is always keen to plant plots and trials to encompass a wide variety of issues and share that data with others in Ontario Agriculture. He is a strong proponent of soil health and the use of cover crops.
- The 2023 Soil Champion in the Research and Extension category is Christine Brown, Field Crop Sustainability Specialist with OMAFRA, and also a Certified Crop Advisor. She works with Ontario producers to address issues of soil health and overall farm productivity.
- Senator Rob Black provided certificates of recognition to both Soil Champion winners. Both winners had previously received their customized baseball bats from OSCIA.

Presentation of the Don Hill Legacy Award

- The Don Hill Legacy Award recognizes a recipient who has applied on-farm innovation and ingenuity to effectively address an identified environmental risk associated with soil, water, air, or biodiversity on farm.
- The 2023 winner is Jake Kraayenbrink from Wellington County for his adaptation on his in-crop manure and cover crop tanker. The tanker has been modified to inject manure as a side-dress into standing corn at the 4-8 leaf stage, while broadcasting cover crop seeds.

Presentation of the 2022 Soil Health Graduate Scholarship Winner

- Winner of the 2022 OSCIA Soil Health Scholarship at the University of Guelph is Zachary Buchanan.
- He is investigating the combined use of 4R nitrogen management techniques and cover crops and their effect on nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural soils in an Ontario grain production system.

OMAFRA Panel Discussion on Cropping Year in Review

- Panel was composed of Colin Elgie, Soil Fertility Specialist; Laura Scott, Cropping Systems Specialist and Abigail Wiesner, Canola and Edible Bean Specialist.

- Challenges included the variability of weather across the province; the concern for insect pressure monitoring; and increase in fertilizer prices. Successes included low insect pressure over 2022; strong yields for canola and strong feed inventories for livestock.
- Publication 30 was updated with more recent information, and an electronic copy is available on the OMAFRA website, or a print copy can be ordered.
- Diagnostic Days returned to in-person in 2022. 2023 will be held in both Ridgetown and Winchester. The Ontario Ag Conference had over 2000 registrants.
- Two new pests identified to be watchful for– Pollen Beetle and Canola Flower Midge.
- Highlighted the AgriSuite and the new Greenhouse Gas tool available.

Keynote Speaker Dr. John Sulik “Delta Yield: Recent Developments and Future Prospects”

- Dr. John Sulik is a University of Guelph Assistant Professor in the Plant Agriculture Department, with research interests in Precision Agriculture.
- Discussed midseason corn N requirements, comparing yield goal with delta yield; on-farm trials and a GIS analysis; the importance of environmental data; and the outlook for decision support systems and remote sensing.

Summer Meeting Invitation

- Phil Oegema welcomed all to the 2023 Summer Meeting to be held in St. Thomas on August 18-19, 2023. Educational day on August 18, followed by a bus tour on August 19; registration will open later in the spring.

The Annual Meeting ended at 2:48PM.

Harry Stoddart, Executive Director

Steve Sickle, 2023 President