



ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

2007 OSCIA RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 - Middlesex – Ontario Clean Water Act

WHEREAS significant, and even severe restrictions may be imposed on landowners and agriculture stakeholders because of the Clean Water Act, and

WHEREAS these restrictions could potentially make it economically impossible to farm some land.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA direct the Ministry of Environment to provide full remuneration for landowners following normal farm practices who are adversely affected by the Ontario Clean Water Act (OCWA), and furthermore, that an independent appeal process be established for landowners affected by the OCWA.

SENT TO MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

COPY TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

COPY TO ONTARIO FARM ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE LAUREL C. BROTEN, MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2007 informing me about the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's resolution with regard to the Clean Water Act, 2006 (CWA).

As Minister of the Environment, I recognize that there is concern among some stakeholders relating to the costs associated with the CWA. Stakeholders have emphasized the need for sustainable funding to implement source protection plans and we have listened to them. We also know how important education and outreach will be to ensure stakeholders are fully informed.

The Ontario Government has committed to fully funding source protection planning - this includes approximately \$120 million from 2004 to 2008. We are enabling municipalities and conservation authorities to gather the necessary scientific and technical information to support their efforts to protect drinking water sources.

In addition, we have enshrined a financial assistance program in the CWA to provide support to rural Ontarians (i.e. farmers and small businesses) for activities they undertake to better protect drinking water sources. Assistance will also be provided for source water protection education and outreach initiatives.

To ensure that funding gets to those who need it the most, we established an advisory panel, comprised of agricultural, municipal and conservation authority representatives to provide expert advice on how funding under the financial assistance program should be administered and allocated in future years.

Initially, \$7 million will be available in 2007/08 for early action to protect drinking water in rural Ontario, including:

- *\$5 million to support early action to protect land and water surrounding water wells and close to municipal water intakes; and,*

- \$2 million to support local education and outreach related to source protection planning.

Further details on the \$7 million for early action will be available this spring. This initial funding is only the first stage of our commitment to rural Ontario.

In addition, in this year's budget, the government announced that as part of the new Drinking Water Stewardship Program under the CWA, it will invest a further \$21 million over the next three years, for a total of \$28 million to allow for outreach, education and early action to protect drinking water sources across the province.

We will know more about the costs of source protection implementation once technical studies and risk assessments for source protection plans are complete and local watershed characteristics and implementation needs can be determined.

With respect to your concerns regarding an independent appeal process for landowners affected by the Act, the source protection framework allows for extensive consultation at all stages throughout the process. Where disputes do arise, dispute resolution techniques will be available throughout the process. For example, if a risk management official and a person fail to reach agreement on a risk management plan related to a specified activity, the official may by order impose a risk management plan with respect to that activity. That order could be appealed by the landowner to the Environmental Review Tribunal.

I trust this information is helpful in addressing your association's concerns.

Resolution #2 - Middlesex – Publicly Funded Production Based Research

WHEREAS public funding of primary production research in Ontario has been vitally important to crop production, and

WHEREAS public funding has provided for research on varieties, pesticides, cover crops, drainage, compaction, tillage, fertility, crop rotation and much more, and

WHEREAS public production funding is imperative to the future competitiveness of Ontario agriculture.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA indicate to the Federal and Provincial Governments the importance of publicly funded production based research at a stable or increased level.

**SENT TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA
SENT TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
COPY TO MINISTER OF FINANCE
COPY TO PREMIER OF ONTARIO
COPY TO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO
COPY TO V-P OF RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CHUCK STRAHL
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD AND MINISTER FOR THE CANADIAN WHEAT
BOARD**

Thank you for your letter regarding the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's resolution in support of publicly funded production based research. I appreciate being advised of the Association's views on this matter.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) maintains a very active research and development program which generates information and technology to support crop production across Canada. AAFC's direct commitment to crop production research in 2006 was approximately \$6.6 million, \$1.12 million of which

was spent in Ontario. In addition, our genomics studies, Pesticide Risk Reduction Program, and Minor Use Program continue to contribute to crop production research. Last year, 21 professional and 63 technicians and support staff were directly engaged in crop breeding production research in Ontario.

This past year, AAFC developed and adopted a new peer review system for all research proposals submitted by our research scientists. A panel examined the review comments and recommended funding for projects in seven different areas of established national priorities. The results of the review were announced on March 2, 2007, and I am pleased to note that \$22.1 million has been invested in 233 research projects. Please be assured that due consideration was given to crop production research across Canada, including Ontario. More information about the review can a list of approved projects are available at www.agr.gc.ca/index_e.php?s1=sci&s2=proj07.

I trust that this information confirms our strong support for Canadian research. Again, thank you for writing.

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE LEONA DOMBROWSKY
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 2007, informing me of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's Resolution #2 - Middlesex - Publicly Funded Production Based Research. I share your members' view that research and innovation are essential for the agri-food sector to overcome challenges and remain a vital economic sector in Ontario, and welcome the opportunity to address this issue.

The Ontario government views its support of research and development as a tool to improve the long term viability of Ontario's agricultural sector. To remain competitive, however, governments and the private sector need to work collaboratively to fund the research needed.

With this philosophy in mind, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs invests over \$40 million annually in agri-food research through the University of Guelph and competitive research programs. My ministry also continues to support MaRS Landing, Bioenterprise, Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, Soy 20/20, and other initiatives to help commercialize agri-food research.

As you may know, our government created the Ministry of Research and Innovation to position the province as a leader in research and innovation across all sectors of the economy - including agriculture. The Ontario government has committed \$1.7 billion over five years to support research, commercialization and outreach programs through the Ministry of Research and Innovation. More information with regard to this commitment is available on that ministry's website at www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/programs/MRI.asp.

Thank you, once again, for taking the time to share your association's view with me.

Resolution #3 - Dundas - Grain & Oilseed Safety Net Program

WHEREAS Ontario farmers do not have a grain and oilseed safety net program that has flexibility to work for Ontario farmers, and

WHEREAS Ontario farmers are still lobbying both provincial and federal politicians for a long-term sustainable program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA support Grain and Oilseed groups and General Farm Organizations (GFOs) in their efforts to get a Grain & Oilseed safety net program that is flexible and sustainable for Ontario farmers.

**SENT TO ONTARIO GRAIN & OILSEED SAFETY NET COMMITTEE
COPY TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

COPY TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

Resolution 4# - Bruce - Representation on Source Water Protection Committees

WHEREAS the Clean Water Act and resulting Source Water Protection Plans will have a major impact on agriculture and related business practices, and

WHEREAS the members selection process for the Source Water Protection Committees across Ontario will begin shortly, and

WHEREAS it is extremely important that crop and livestock agriculture sectors have strong representation on these committees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA make it an immediate priority to inform all Soil and Crop county organizations and their members of the importance of this issue and to encourage them to solicit appropriate interested agricultural producers to apply for positions on these Source Water Protection Committees.

SENT TO OSCIA EXECUTIVE

Resolution 5 - Dundas - Ag Radio Network Format

WHEREAS the Ag Radio Network is changing its format from primary agriculture and farm markets to small farm/environmental agriculture commentary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with other farm organizations to ask the Ag Radio Network to continue its previous format in conjunction with its proposed new format.

SENT TO AG RADIO NETWORK (response appears below)
COPY TO ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE
COPY TO CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

**REPLY BY DENNIS GUY, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER,
THE ONTARIO AGRADIO NETWORK INC.**

I read with some interest in your letter of April 4th that the AgRadio Network was the subject of a Resolution at OSCIA's Annual Meeting.

Overview

After 14 years of continuous service, and effective January 2007, the AgRadio Network restructured all of its daily broadcast content to contracted radio stations across Ontario. Several discontinued programs included the Midday and the Closing editions of Foodland Forum's Commodity Markets Update, and Agri-News Update.

Note: *It should be clarified that AgRadio was not compensated financially by the radio stations. AgRadio was allowed to sell and collect revenues from specified commercial air time segments, in conjunction with each Foodland Forum program delivered to stations. As such, when AgRadio was not successful in attracting daily advertiser/sponsors, those markets and agrinews programs were provided to the stations entirely at AgRadio's expense. In fact, AgRadio was contractually bound to provide the daily programs to stations.*

Analysis

Discontinuation of our commodity-oriented farm programming was in response to several market realities, coupled with an ongoing population decline in the traditional farm community.

That decline has resulted in a lack of interest from radio stations to continue to serve 'an eroding audience-market segment' (Station Manager quote).

Jointly, traditional farm-program sponsor/advertisers have moved away from traditional mass media vehicles - including radio and television - due to this audience decline. And massive amalgamation within the agri-business sector over the past decade has taken a very heavy toll on traditional advertising budgets and agri-business spending practices.

As such, AgRadio's longstanding farm service business model was no longer sustainable.

In response to Resolution #5 as addressed by OSCIA delegates:

The Ontario AgRadio Network is prepared to create a daily, comprehensive farm markets/news service for Ontario's farm community - but this service can only be provided and sustained through a fee-for-service or on a user-pay basis.

AgRadio has the experience and the expertise to provide this specialty news service to Ontario's farm community. We can provide a daily, comprehensive service via radio, Internet, e-mail, fax, telephone (include cell phone) and/or other voice and text media.

In summary, the Ontario AgRadio Network has had a longstanding belief that relevant and concerned farm organizations should take a strong leadership role to provide their membership with an independent Ontario farm information service.

We would be happy to meet with those interested board members prior to June 30th at AgRadio's offices in Chatham to discuss potentials for daily service implementation.

Thank you for your attention.

Resolution #6 - York - Major and Regional Grants

WHEREAS the OSCIA Mission Statement is to communicate and facilitate responsible economic management of soil, air, water and crops.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA place more emphasis on the economic aspects when reporting the agronomic aspects of Major and Regional Grants.

SENT TO OSCIA EXECUTIVE

Resolution #7 - Temiskaming - Financial Programs

WHEREAS the farm population finds a huge lack of clear guidelines and understanding about what is being delivered in the CAIS and supplementary, emergency financial programs, and

WHEREAS the long delays in administering the programs are unacceptable and have failed to support the farmers at their critical time of need.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA appeal to the farm policy makers to consult with the farm commodity groups to get the programs clarified and the financial support delivered more expediently.

SENT TO ONTARIO GRAIN & OILSEED SAFETY NET COMMITTEE

**COPY TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
COPY TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA**

Resolution #8 - Oxford - Data on Corn Hybrid Susceptibility

- WHEREAS** toxin levels in corn caused significant impact to all corn producers in 2006, and
- WHEREAS** the Ontario Corn Performance Trials could provide an impartial, scientifically valid source of data on corn hybrid susceptibility to Gibberella (Fusarium), and
- WHEREAS** this opportunity was lost in 2006 due to reluctance of industry players to collect and release this data.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA express the essential need for this information to the Ontario Corn Committee, and the parties this committee represents.

**SENT TO ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE
COPY TO ONTARIO CORN PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION
ONTARIO PORK
ONTARIO FIELD CROPS RESEARCH COALITION**

Resolution #9 - Prince Edward - Merger Proposal of the Corn, Soybean, & Wheat Boards

- WHEREAS** a proposal of the corn, soybean, and wheat board merger moves that Prince Edward and Lennox & Addington Counties be removed from their traditional region to our West, and
- WHEREAS** our climate and crop production, particularly winter wheat, are more similar with that of counties to our West, and
- WHEREAS** combining us with the Ottawa Valley area seems an area too large to be properly represented.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the merger committee reinstate Prince Edward and Lennox & Addington Counties to Region 12 in the proposed merger district.

SENT TO MERGER COMMITTEE FOR CORN, SOYBEAN & WHEAT BOARDS