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2011 OSCIA RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 – The Bruce County Soil & Crop Improvement Association - Amendments to NMA to allow its utilization in SWP Policies

WHEREAS the 19 Source Water Protection Committees across Ontario are now developing policies to deal with the 21 Quality Threats to Drinking Water as specified in the Provincial Table of Drinking Water Threats and

WHEREAS six of the 21 threats deal with the application, storage or management of ASM (Agricultural Source Material) or NASM (Non-Agricultural Source Material) and/ or use of land as livestock grazing or pasture land

WHEREAS the Nutrient Management Act (NMA) with its requirements for Nutrient Management Strategies/Plans was created following the Walkerton Water Crisis specifically to deal with minimizing the risk of agricultural contaminants impacting on source water and

WHEREAS it is an objective of the Source Water Protection policy development process to utilize existing legislation whenever possible to minimize threats to drinking water in vulnerable areas and,

WHEREAS the present NMA under REg. 267/03 Part IV limits requirements for approved Nutrient Management Strategy/Plan to operations requiring building permit for livestock facility or/and operations over 300 NU therefore minimizing its ability to deal with these agricultural threats in vulnerable areas

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OMAFRA amend the Nutrient Management Act to allow for the requirement of an approved Nutrient Management Strategy/Plan for livestock operations with over 5 NU's in vulnerable areas with in Wellhead Protection areas and Intake Protection Zones

This resolution to be forwarded to OMAFRA Nutrient Management Branch, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Ontario Minister of the Environment.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Les Nichols, Bruce County

CARRIED

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

Thank you for forwarding the resolution passed by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) at your annual meeting in February requesting changes to the Nutrient Management Act, 2002.

Ministry staff are reviewing options for the protection of source water with their colleagues at the Ministry of the Environment to determine which approaches would work best. No regulatory changes have been made at this time, and the option supported by the OSCIA is still under active consideration.

Thank you, once again for bringing your members' views on this important issue to my attention.

**Resolution #2 – Peel SCIA – Standardized Membership Fees combined with
Resolution #13 – Niagara South SCIA -Membership Fee**

WHEREAS OSCIA is raising the fee to \$7.50 per member from \$5.00 and,

WHEREAS every club sends in a minimum of \$250 to OSCIA and,

WHEREAS locals are responsible for setting and collecting membership fees

WHEREAS there is considerable merit in establishing a common membership fee that is reasonable and fair to local Soil and Crop organizations and the membership across the Province

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all Counties across the Province implement \$30 per member for 2012 as an appropriate and fair fee

MOVED BY Marshall Davis SECONDED BY Tim Armstrong, Peel County

DEFEATED

Resolution #3 – Middlesex SCIA – Provincial Performance Trials

WHEREAS Provincial Performance trials should be the best available tool to compare varieties in an unbiased setting, and

WHEREAS many soybean varieties are not shown because of only one year of performance trial data, where one year data would be better than no data to base decision on,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA strongly urge the OOPSCC committee to present one year data, as both corn and cereals already do

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Peter Hodgins, Middlesex County

WITHDRAWN

Resolution #4 – Middlesex SCIA – Hybrid Performance Trials

WHEREAS Provincial Performance trials lose their value when all varieties are not included and reported on in the test, and

WHEREAS currently not all varieties are included in the performance trials, including some very large acreage main hybrids, and

WHEREAS in some commodities data can be removed at the companies request if it is not to their liking, as well as a concern over 2 row plots and data accuracy in the Corn performance trials,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA urge all seed companies to include all hybrids in the relevant testing areas for grower use, and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request the Ontario Corn Committee to move to 4 row tests to allow for accurate data and comparisons between hybrids

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Peter Hodgins, Middlesex County

CARRIED

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Thank you for writing to me in follow up to your association's annual meeting and the resolutions regarding crop variety performance trials.

I recognize the value of Ontario crop variety performance trials to producers. The success of these trials requires ongoing support from my ministry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, researchers at the University of Guelph, and industry.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' field crop staff will continue to support these trials by working with performance trial committees and assisting with crop evaluation. My ministry will also continue to distribute information about crop variety trials.

Again, thank you for writing.

Resolution #5 – Middlesex SCIA –Performance Trials Accountability

WHEREAS timeliness and accuracy of provincial performance trial data is critical to the value and usefulness of the data, and

WHEREAS reports are often posted after early sales discounts and company sales thrusts are over, and

WHEREAS it appears that trials are lost each year at a higher proportion than would seem reasonable in some cases,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA urge all performance trial committees to make data available more quickly, posting data for any given table as soon as it is available, and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA express the importance of these trials to trial co-operators, such that they are kept as a priority in the efforts of these research programs.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Peter Hodgins, Middlesex County

CARRIED

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Thank you for writing to me in follow up to your association's annual meeting and the resolutions regarding crop variety performance trials.

I recognize the value of Ontario crop variety performance trials to producers. The success of these trials requires ongoing support from my ministry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, researchers at the University of Guelph, and industry.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' field crop staff will continue to support these trials by working with performance trial committees and assisting with crop evaluation. My ministry will also continue to distribute information about crop variety trials.

Again, thank you for writing.

Resolution #6 – Middlesex SCIA – Pedigree Seed Inspection

WHEREAS Canada is recognized as a world leader in pedigree seed production, and

WHEREAS pedigree seed is a key foundation of our identity preserved export sectors and of many of the niche and minor crops we grow, and

WHEREAS CFIA has announced it will be getting out of its pedigree seed inspection role,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA send letters to the appropriate CFIA director and to the Canadian Minister of Agriculture stating its displeasure with this decision and requesting that the decision be reconsidered.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Peter Hodgins, Middlesex County

CARRIED

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE GERRY RITZ MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD and MINISTER FOR THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

Thank you for your letter informing me of the resolution brought forward at the 2011 annual meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association by the Middlesex Soil and Crop Improvement Association concerning pedigree seed inspection. I appreciate your communicating the concerns of the Association to me and for the opportunity to respond.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is exploring options for the delivery of the seed certification program with a view to improving the program's efficiency and effectiveness. The Agency is working closely with the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, the Canadian Seed Trade Association and the Canadian Seed Institute through a seed industry-government working group. As a result, a research pilot project involving soybean seed crop inspection is being planned for this summer.

The pilot project will be a trial expansion of the Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Program that has been in place for more than 10 years for hybrid corn in Ontario and for hybrid canola in Alberta. Under this program, the CFIA trains, evaluates and licenses individuals as seed crop inspectors who work under Agency oversight. The CFIA continues to retain overall responsibility for seed certifications, including monitoring and auditing of all seed crop inspection activities.

The CFIA is committed to continually improving service delivery and maximizing the effectiveness of all its programs. This pilot project is designed to examine opportunities for greater flexibility and streamlining of seed crop inspection while maintaining government oversight and responsibility.

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following CFIA official:

*Mr. Michael Scheffel
National Manager, Seed Section
Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Floor 2, Room 229E
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9*

I trust this information is of assistance to you and to your association. Again, thank you for writing.

Resolution #7 – Niagara North SCIA – Drainage in Agriculture

WHEREAS Drainage is a key component of agricultural production, and

WHEREAS many crop producers in Niagara Region rely on surface drainage from both municipal and private drains, and

WHEREAS The Niagara Conservation Authority does not always consider the needs of drainage in agriculture as important,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA encourage the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to be more understanding towards the needs of agriculture when restricting drainage maintenance, which leads to more soil erosion which can have negative impact on producers' income.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY John Sikkens, Niagara North

MOVED BY Les Nichols, Bruce County SECONDED BY Art Foster, Lanark County,
that this resolution be changed to include all conservation authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED

AMENDED RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA encourage all conservation authorities to be more understanding towards the needs of agriculture when restricting drainage maintenance, which leads to more soil erosion which can have negative impact on producers' income.

CARRIED, as amended

Resolution #8 – Temiskaming SCIA – Smooth Bedstraw

WHEREAS the weed called “smooth bedstraw” is spreading rapidly along many country roads, and

WHEREAS it is now invading deeply into pasture lands and hayfields, and

WHEREAS normal common practices are not able to control the rampant spread of the weed along the roadsides

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA request the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food to have “smooth bedstraw” named as a noxious weed, and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that under the Weeds Control Act, affected municipalities be given the responsibility to destroy and control this weed.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Harold Leaton

CARRIED

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Thank you for writing to share a copy of the Temiskaming Soil and Crop Improvement Association’s resolution with me.

The ministry is aware the smooth bedstraw is having a negative impact on agriculture in some areas of Ontario. This plant will be considered when reviewing the province’s noxious weed list.

Trials co-ordinated by ministry staff and both the Algoma and Temiskaming Soil and Crop Improvement Associations evaluated different management options for smooth bedstraw, particularly along roadsides. These trials provided valuable information for practical and effective management of smooth bedstraw, which will be helpful if it is designated a noxious weed in the province.

Using provisions in the Weed Control Act, municipalities can protect agricultural land from noxious weeds. The act allows a municipality to pass a bylaw that would designate smooth bedstraw a local weed, provided that it is negatively affecting agricultural land. By doing so, smooth bedstraw would be considered a noxious weed within the area where the municipal bylaw applies, and measures to control and destroy the weed could be employed.

I trust this information is helpful. Again, thank you for writing.

**Resolution #9 – Bruce County Soil & Crop Improvement Association -
Resolution Regarding Implementation of Risk Assessment Tools for Source
Water Protection.**

WHEREAS the 19 Source Water Protection Committees across Ontario are now developing policies to deal with the 21 Quality Threats to Drinking Water as specified in the Provincial Table of Drinking Water Threats, and

WHEREAS 14 of those 21 threats involve activities that are carried out on farms across Ontario, and

WHEREAS the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition has been very successful in influencing programs and policies (e.g. Environmental Farm Plan, Nutrient Management regulations) in conjunction with MOE and OMAFRA, and

WHEREAS MOE has not finalized its risk assessment tool, and

WHEREAS there is potential for overlap and duplication with their proposed 'Risk Assessment Plans', and

WHEREAS there will be some farm operations within designated vulnerable areas of Wellhead Protection Zones and Intake Protection Zones as per Clean Water Act that will be required to produce "Risk Assessment Plans", and

WHEREAS OFEC, OMAFRA and OSCIA have the technical experience to provide a "sign-off" system that would allow those operations requiring "Risk Assessment Plans", and

WHEREAS this would potentially greatly reduce the cost of creating Risk Assessment Plans developed specifically for agriculture;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA, OFEC and OMAFRA staff consult and investigate options to satisfy MOE/Source Water Protection staff for an acceptable "Assessment and Action Plan" for agricultural operations located in vulnerable areas within Wellhead Protection Areas and Intake Protection Zones.

This resolution to be forwarded to Conservation Ontario (SWP Liaison), Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario Minister of the Environment, and the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition.

MOVED BY Don Oliver

SECONDED BY Les Nichols, Bruce County

CARRIED

Resolution #10 – Hamilton - Wentworth SCIA –Roundup Ready

WHEREAS there is a large economic advantage to growers if they can save their own RoundupReady seed and

WHEREAS it appears that seed suppliers are not planning to sell any off-patent Roundup ready seed after the original patent expires on August 28th, 2011 and

WHEREAS the intent of the patent legislation is to ensure that new technology becomes widely available after the inventor enjoys a limited period of time for exclusive marketing of the invention

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA will do all in its power to ensure that a sufficient supply of off-patent Roundup Ready seed is available to all Ontario growers who want it for planting in the spring of 2012.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Andrew Spoelstra, Wentworth

CARRIED

Resolution #11 – Algoma SCIA -Damage caused by Beaver

WHEREAS the damage and cost of control due to beaver activities is becoming a major issue in Ontario and,

WHEREAS these costs/damage can be in the form of direct flooding of crops, high equipment cost to remove dams, higher municipal cost/taxes due to road repair and control measures and,

WHEREAS trapping is proving ineffective as a mechanism to control the population of beaver

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with MNR to develop alternative control mechanisms which would remove the financial burden from farmers and municipalities

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Ray Prestege, Algoma District

CARRIED

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE LINDA JEFFREY MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Thank you for your letter, which arrived in my office on April 28, 2011. I appreciate being informed about the Algoma Soil and Crop Improvement Association resolution regarding nuisance beaver that was brought forward at the Association's annual meeting in February 2011.

There is no doubt that nuisance beavers can result in significant disruption to personal and public property. In many cases, developing partnerships or more formal arrangements with partners or control agents may be necessary as open season trapping efforts may not remove or target all problem beavers. Formal agreements can be made with the Ministry of Transportation, local municipalities—for road allowances under their jurisdiction—or local

trappers' councils for the control of nuisance beaver populations. For contact information for local trappers' councils, please contact the Ontario Fur Managers Federation at (705) 254-3338.

I have sent a copy of your letter to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation. As you know, responsibility for maintenance of the provincial highway system rests with her Ministry.

In addition, I would ask that your member associations work with the Ministry office closest to them to discuss options for controlling nuisance beaver. I am copying my Ministry's regional directors on this response so they are aware of your concerns. The phone numbers and addresses of all my Ministry's offices across the province are available on our website, www.ontario.ca/mnr. Click the tab, Contact Us.

I am always interested in knowing your members' perspective. Thank you again for writing.

**REPLY BY ERIC DOIDGE
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION**

Thank you for your letter about nuisance beavers, forwarded by the Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation.

The Ministry of Transportation endeavours to control beaver dams that may pose a risk to a provincial highway. If you would like more information on how beaver dams are controlled, please contact Kevin Morphet, Area Contracts Engineer in our Sault Ste. Marie Office at (705) 945-5796.

Resolution #12 – Elgin SCIA -Provincial Performance Trials

WHEREAS Provincial Performance trials should represent typical good management practices and should be relevant to growers and,

WHEREAS trials are often planted much later than the majority of the acres planted by growers and,

WHEREAS later planting dates may disadvantage longer maturing hybrids or varieties with poor winter survival

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that performance trials be planted at timely planting dates to ensure the data is relevant

MOVED BY Don Oliver

SECONDED BY Ron Buis, Elgin County

DEFEATED

Resolution #13 (see Resolution #2)

Resolution #14 – Niagara South SCIA -OSCIA Deadline

WHEREAS projects are rarely finished by September and,

WHEREAS results of projects are not available at this time and,

WHEREAS it is necessary on a continual basis for County Secretaries to call and ask for extensions to the deadline date

WHEREAS this makes inefficient use of staff time on both the Local and Provincial levels,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA moves the deadline to December 31 when results would be available.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Rosemary Haegens, Niagara South

CARRIED

Resolution #15 - *WITHDRAWN*

Resolution #16 – Ottawa-Carleton SCIA – EFP Funding Procedures

WHEREAS the EFP Grant Program requires that a farmer complete a new application, and

WHEREAS the previous application was not processed due to funding, and

WHEREAS the same project is being submitted, and

WHEREAS the farmer has committed to a project without knowing if funding is available, and

WHEREAS the farmer runs into the risk of not getting funding for a second time if the application is not processed

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA implement a more efficient and simpler application system to allow farmers a chance to have their application re-submitted for the same project without having to complete all of the paperwork in its entirety, slowing down the application process and potentially losing out on funding.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Bruce Hudson, Ottawa-Carleton

CARRIED

Resolution #17 –Temiskaming District OSCIA - Advance Payment

WHEREAS there is a federal advance Program under the Agricultural Marketing Programs Act with guaranteed interest free loans to farmers to store grains for later sale, and

- WHEREAS** the intent of to provide cash advance loans to producers to help cover the early cash costs of harvesting and storage, and
- WHEREAS** the loan is payable in full as soon as the grain is sold, and
- WHEREAS** the program makes loans through the local banks and they are guaranteed by the government to the bank, and
- WHEREAS** The Program is not available to those producers who market their crops through livestock, and
- WHEREAS** the cost of growing, harvesting and storing the grain crop is exactly the same whether it is to be sold on the open market or marketed through livestock, and
- WHEREAS** the interest support period is from harvest time in the fall until it is sold or used and the loan is paid in full by September following, and
- WHEREAS** the governments are encouraging “ value-added” aspects of agricultural production, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA board of directors recommend to have federal Advance Payment Program be made available to producers who market their stored grain through livestock.

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Harold Leaton, Temiskaming District

CARRIED

Resolution #18 – Perth County SCIA –Membership Fee Payment

- WHEREAS** the OSCIA get set up for electronic banking for membership fee payment
- WHEREAS** this would allow the local associations members the ability to use internet and telephone banking services to pay their annual membership fees and OSCIA programs such as FarmSmart
- WHEREAS** it would also develop the capability for OSCIA to establish ID # of its membership that could include within their county and or region

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA board of directors investigate electronic banking for membership fees

MOVED BY Don Oliver SECONDED BY Ed Tollenaar, Perth County

CARRIED

Resolution #19 – Sudbury District SCIA –Distribution of Public Funds

WHEREAS more and more groups are using public funds to do promotion and education of alternative/diverse food productions and

WHEREAS some of these groups appear to undermine and put into question current commercial food production systems and

WHEREAS these groups don't always use proven science based information and

WHEREAS these limited financial resources should be directed to groups doing proper science based research and extension work

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA express to provincial and federal government our belief that public money be only available to groups demonstrating proper scientific references and proven ability to do the work

MOVED BY Don Oliver

SECONDED BY Mike Soens, Sudbury District

CARRIED