



# 2020 OSCIA *Resolution Package*



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**Resolution #1 – Algoma SCIA – Sandhill Cranes crop damage prevention through seed treatment**

WHEREAS Sandhill Cranes cause a significant amount of damage to field crops in Algoma District, and;

WHEREAS there is not an effective means of nonlethal control, and;

WHEREAS licensed seed treatments to prevent damage are in use in the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Ontario Soil and Crop should support licensing of seed treatment to protect field crops from Sandhill Cranes.

MOVED BY: Warren Schneckenburger      SECONDED BY: Ray Prestedge (Algoma SCIA)  
CARRIED

SEND TO: Arkion Life Sciences

COPY TO: Peter Jeffery, Senior Farm Policy Analyst, Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
Christopher Sharp, Population Management Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Services,  
ECCC  
Crosby Devitt, Vice President and Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, Grain  
Farmers of Ontario

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #2 – Algoma SCIA – Legacy Soil Mapping Upgrades**

WHEREAS, soil maps are an important tool for identifying soil resources and potential soil health problems, and;

WHEREAS new technologies and techniques are available to improve legacy soil map detail and accuracy, and;

WHEREAS OMAFRA's environmental management branch is working to upgrade legacy soil maps, and;

WHEREAS physical soil sampling and soil data collection improve accuracy but are labour intensive and limit the speed that new mapping can be developed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil and Crop work with OMAFRA's mapping team to identify ways that members and partners can support a more rapid upgrade of the legacy soil maps.

MOVED BY: Warren Schneckenburger

SECONDED BY: Ray Prestedge (Algoma SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Ross Kelly, Manager, Resource Information and Business Services, Environmental Management Branch, OMAFRA

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #3 – Algoma & Cochrane SCIA – Forage Production Insurance**

WHEREAS Agricorp delivers a variety of programs and payments on behalf of the federal and provincial governments to protect Ontario producers against many of the business and agricultural risks they face every day, and;

WHEREAS Production Insurance covers production losses and yield reductions caused by insured perils, and;

WHEREAS Agricorp’s Forage Production Insurance has failed to protect farmers from weather related risks resulting in low forage (hay) yields, and;

WHEREAS many farms have the ability to record and document on farm hay yields.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA encourage Agricorp to modify hay insurance so that it is yield & quality based rather than relying on a rainfall only model.

MOVED BY: Warren Schneckenburger

SECONDED BY: Ray Prestedge (Algoma SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Doug LaRose, CEO and Debbie Brander, Manager, Product Management and Industry Relations, Agricorp

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #4 – Halton SCIA – FarmSmart**

WHEREAS, knowledge transfer and communications are key objectives the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, and;

WHEREAS county and regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, with OMAFRA and OSCIA, are involved in delivering great programs such as SWAC, (South West Ag Conference), FarmSmart and the East Central Farm Show to thousands of farmers, and;

WHEREAS FarmSmart delivers great programs but is lacking in proper governance structure and accountability as an organization and is struggling to establish as its own entity, and;

WHEREAS Golden Horseshoe and Heartland regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations have attempted to assist FarmSmart to operate responsibly and effectively but have not been successful in achieving such..

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA take direct, short-term action to assist FarmSmart in becoming a viable stand-alone entity with appropriate governance.

MOVED BY: Warren Schneckenburger

SECONDED BY: Mark Eastman (Halton SCIA)

CARRIED

ACTION: Continue discussion with OSCIA Executive and reach out to FarmSmart organization for further information.

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #5 – Huron SCIA – Dissemination of knowledge from Huronview Drainage Demonstration Site**

WHEREAS, HCSCA and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) have a vision to share the knowledge generated at the Huronview Drainage Demonstration Project within and beyond the farming community and;

WHEREAS other Soil & Crop Associations and educational institutions of all levels can benefit from these learning opportunities, and;

WHEREAS educators have indicated an interest in using the Drainage Demonstration Site as a living classroom, and;

WHEREAS HCSCA and ABCA require resources and support to disseminate the knowledge provincially.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA collaborates with HCSCA and ABCA in disseminating the knowledge gleaned from the Huronview Drainage Demonstration Project and in promoting learning opportunities at the Site for this project to serve as an educational prototype for other regions.

MOVED BY: Warren Schneckenburger

SECONDED BY: Allan Wiltis (Huron SCIA)

CARRIED

ACTION: Put article in upcoming E-News to help spread the word.

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**Resolution #6 – Lambton SCIA – Carbon Tax**

WHEREAS, farmers pay carbon tax directly and indirectly in Ontario, and;

WHEREAS there is currently no financial recognition for the carbon that farmers sequester, and;

WHEREAS there is no argument that one of the many benefits to society that woodlots and wetlands provide is carbon sequestering.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association encourage various levels of government to support getting public recognition of the value that farmers provide to society by sequestering carbon, in the form of some financial compensation for this service.

MOVED BY: Paul Hagey

SECONDED BY: Mike Cornelison (Lambton SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Send support letter to Crosby Devitt, Vice President, and Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, Grain Farmers of Ontario

COPY TO: Ducks Unlimited,  
Paul Robertson, President, Ontario Woodlot Association,

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #7 – Oxford SCIA – Credit Card payments for local SCIA's**

WHEREAS, members are showing increasing interest in using credit cards for membership renewals and event registrations, and;

WHEREAS it is not widely known across the province that OSCIA can receive credit cards as a payment option, and;

WHEREAS Ag industry reps are frequently requesting the acceptance of credit cards for sponsorship opportunities, and;

WHEREAS Ag industry reps are finding it more and more difficult to get reimbursements for cash expenditures, and;

WHEREAS accepting and processing credit card payments at the local level currently is a time-consuming process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA investigate a more streamlined and secure method of accepting credit cards for payments at the local and regional level.

MOVED BY: Paul Hagey

SECONDED BY: Darren Scholton (Oxford SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Local SCIA's a notice on online payments available – perhaps through newsletter

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #8 – Renfrew SCIA – Engaging Landowners as Stakeholders in Soil Health and Agricultural Best Management Practices**

WHEREAS, the Ontario Government’s Soil Health and Conservation Strategy recognizes a priority to “Invest in and reward soil care”, and;

WHEREAS implementing BMPs can be costly and have long timelines for returns on investment & current practices places the majority of the fiscal burden on the farmer, and;

WHEREAS a great deal of farmland is rented rather than owned by farmers, limiting the adoption of this investment, and;

WHEREAS non-farming landowners may have limited knowledge and appreciation for the complexity of sustainable agriculture, including the importance of soil health practices, environmental stewardship & rural investment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association encourage the provincial government to promote Agricultural Best Management Strategies as an engagement tool for all levels of stakeholders of agricultural lands, including landlords, investment firms & rural non-farming dwellers.

MOVED BY: Paul Hagey

SECONDED BY: Jennifer Doelman (Renfrew SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Thom Hagerty, Chair of Soil Action Group (SAG) – Director, Environmental Management Branch, OMAFRA

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #9 – Renfrew SCIA – Recognizing Agriculture’s Contributions as a Key Stakeholder to Economic and Environmental Sustainability**

WHEREAS all Canadians benefit from one of the safest, most affordable food systems in the world however less than 2% of the population are farmers, and;

WHEREAS agricultural systems are complex and require a great deal of expertise to create the healthy & economically strong systems we all enjoy, and;

WHEREAS fear-based sensationalism in the media makes it difficult for consumers to know where to find accurate information, and;

WHEREAS other provincial Farm and Food Care organizations’ public trust outreach efforts are supported by other provincial governments in SK and PEI however the Ontario organization has received no public trust funding from the Government of Ontario since 2015, and;

WHEREAS public scrutiny of agriculture continues to escalate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association encourage the provincial government to invest in the agricultural industry by engaging the services of Farm and Food Care to provide education, social incentives and & engagement tools for collaboration.

MOVED BY: Paul Hagey

SECONDED BY: Jennifer Doelman (Renfrew SCIA)  
CARRIED

SEND TO: Letter of support to Kelly Daynard, Executive Director, Farm and Food Care Ontario

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #10 – Thunder Bay SCIA – Communications Grant, Regional Communications Coordinator and Regional Newsletters**

- WHEREAS the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association has undertaken the process to significantly change both the currently successful Communications Grant program, the role of the Regional Communications Coordinator and the structure of the Regional Newsletter Program, and;
- WHEREAS Much of the new structure and changes to the grant program, the role of the RCC and the writing, compiling, editing and distribution of proposed newsletter has not yet been determined or clearly communicated to the Regional and Local Associations or the grassroots membership, and;
- WHEREAS The Northwest Region Association has demonstrated a longstanding successful and financially sustainable regional newsletter, the Northwest Link, distributing 10 editions annually, in a combination of both electronic and print versions, to upwards of 450 OSCIA members and agriculture partners within the Northwestern Ontario area, and;
- WHEREAS The Northwest Region of Ontario is a large area, encompassing 3 main agricultural districts considerably distant from each other, and significantly separated from the agricultural areas elsewhere in the vast province of Ontario. The Northwest Region is geographically, climatically and agriculturally diverse and largely different from other agricultural areas in what is commonly referred to as Southern Ontario, and;
- WHEREAS Information and content included in a regional newsletter should be timely, include regionally focused articles, and communicate information and knowledge about regional events, activities, research, and education relevant to the grassroots membership in the region in which it represents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA recognize local and regional associations that have clearly demonstrated the ability to produce a strong, vibrant, successful and sustainable regional newsletter by:

- Continuing to provide a funding program equivalent to (or better than) the existing Communications Grant.
- Providing adequate support, guidance and training to the Regional Communications Coordinator position.
- Allowing Regional Associations to ensure that newsletter content is both timely and contains information, articles and content that is largely relevant to their specific region and circulated in a manner that is suitable to both the grassroots member's needs and technological infrastructure available.

MOVED BY: Birgit Martin

SECONDED BY: Erik Johansson (Thunder Bay SCIA)  
CARRIED

SEND TO: Update letter back to Thunder Bay updating them on coming changes

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**Resolution #11 – York SCIA – Glyphosate**

WHEREAS, glyphosate has been vilified as a cancer-causing agent by anti-farm technology activists, and;

WHEREAS glyphosate allows no-till weed control programs that promote soil health, carbon sequestration and reduced fossil fuel use while providing effective control of many weeds, and;

WHEREAS glyphosate has been deemed harmless to humans or animals when properly used.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA write a letter of support for glyphosate to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) encouraging their continued re-affirmation of the safety and effectiveness of glyphosate, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA thank PMRA for publicizing their confidence in their science-based review of glyphosate.

MOVED BY: Birgit Martin

SECONDED BY: Jeff Steiner (York SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND: Letter of support to PMRA



**Resolution #12 – York SCIA – Bill 156**

WHEREAS, OSCIA for many years has encouraged farmers to adopt biosecurity measures through administering workshop and other programs, and;

WHEREAS some militant advocacy groups have taken actions which interfere with the biosecurity practices in place on farms, and;

WHEREAS these militant actions have introduced a degree of fear in farmers, and;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced legislation, namely Bill 156, to protect farmers from such militant actions

WHEREAS the Federations of Agriculture in the Province of Ontario have endorsed such legislation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA acknowledge and support the efforts of the Federations of Agriculture in encouraging the Government of Ontario to enact Bill 156 into law.

MOVED BY: Birgit Martin

SECONDED BY: Jeff Steiner (York SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Cathy Lennon, General Manager, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

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**Resolution #13 – Eastern Valley SCIA – OMAFRA Staffing**

WHEREAS, the Agri-Food Sector is the largest sector of the provincial economy, and;

WHEREAS OMAFRA has provided invaluable services to this sector for many years, and;

WHEREAS these services are essential to keeping the sector healthy, competitive and sustainable, and;

WHEREAS we continue to see the number of OMAFRA staff go down, and;

WHEREAS the level of service has recently been on the decline due to a number of vacancies within the Ministry's extension staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA encourage OMAFRA to replace all extension staff who have recently retired or who have otherwise left the Ministry, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the positions being refilled that were originally bilingual remain bilingual positions.

MOVED BY: Birgit Martin

SECONDED BY: Alan Kruszel (Eastern Valley SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Honorable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of OMAFRA – with specific note around position in the Northern area and focus on bilingual employees

RESPONSE FROM: Honorable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of OMAFRA (see separate document for letter-Resolution #13 link)

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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**Resolution #14 – Eastern Valley SCIA – OSCIA Website**

WHEREAS, websites are more and more being used as a source of information, and;

WHEREAS the OSCIA website contains enormous amounts of information that is important to Ontario Agriculture, and;

WHEREAS the upcoming changes to the newsletter will likely drive more traffic to the website, and;

WHEREAS the layout of the website is confusing, not intuitive and in need of an update

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA work to revamp the website to make it more user friendly by being less confusing and more intuitive.

MOVED BY: Birgit Martin

SECONDED BY: Alan Kruszel (Eastern Valley SCIA)  
CARRIED

SEND TO: Letter back to Eastern Valley – ensuring them that the website is continually being worked on to make improvements and that the new e-news letter and membership side of the site should help increase flow to the site and usability.

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**Resolution #15 – Golden Horseshoe Regional SCIA – OSCIA Newsletter printing**

- WHEREAS Golden Horseshoe SCIA is fully supportive of the new communication direction for OSCIA including the province-wide newsletter and template for local and regional news, and;
- WHEREAS GHSCIA recognizes the efficiency in both time and cost savings of electronic distribution of the newsletters but recognizes that some members will still wish to pay to receive a hard copy newsletter, and;
- WHEREAS GHSCIA wishes to make best use of resources for knowledge transfer activities in the region through the services of the Regional Communications Coordinator, and;
- WHEREAS OSCIA has established very cost-effective printing services for the province-wide newsletter, has access to both local and province-wide news, and printing both parts at Guelph will avoid double-handling therefore making best use of resources.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA carry out printing and distribution of both the province-wide and local news for members requiring hard copy, as identified by each region, with cost incurred to be billed to each region on a cost-recovery basis.

MOVED BY: Paul Hagey

SECONDED BY: Alan Yungblut (Niagara North SCIA)  
CARRIED

ACTION: OSCIA Executive and RC Sub-committee to continue investigations into printing solutions for the e-news for those that require a printed copy.

UPDATE: The RC Sub-Committee met and discussed the various print and distribution options and made their recommendation, which was accepted, to the OSCIA Executive on March 23<sup>rd</sup> during the Executive meeting.

**SEEK - TEST - ADOPT**



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