



## Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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### ***OSCIA Annual Conference – DRAFT MINUTES*** ***Tuesday, February 4 and Wednesday, February 5, 2020*** ***Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, London, ON***

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

#### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Stuart Wright, President-Elect, welcomed the delegates.

#### **Skills Development Panel Session**

- Topic presented: Strategies for pulling together a successful project/event.
- Alan Kruszel, 2015 Past President and current president of Eastern Valley Regional SCIA introduced the panel topic and the panel participants.
- Warren Schneckenger, Eastern Valley Provincial Director - speaking on his experience with their very successful 2019 Dundas Compaction Day.
- Paul Legge, Regional President of Georgian Central - shared the components contributing to their continued success with Mystery Tours.
- Karla Jackson, Chatham-Kent SCIA - spoke to the challenge encountered to execute a farm tour.
- Woody Van Arkle, Ontario Soil Network - focus on their various events and strategies.
- Overall, events that were educational, covered diverse topics and new innovations resulted in greater turnouts. Consideration must also be given to knowing your audience, how to advertise i.e. social media, newspaper, etc. to attract numbers and ensuring ample networking time.

#### **President's Report**

- Les Nichols, President, OSCIA  
Les extended thanks to the sponsors for supporting the annual conference. Over the past year, positive strides in membership engagement were made and we look forward to what 2020 has to offer in innovation and opportunity. It is through our membership and grassroots that we remain strong and steadfast.

#### **Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

- Ernie Hardman addressed the Annual Conference via recorded video, commending OSCIA for their work and wishes for a successful conference.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

- Andrew Graham, Executive Director, Guelph
- Andrew's report was titled Growth, Change and Challenges
- To achieve growth, one must continue to look at things differently and open our minds to other possibilities.
- 2019 was a year of change in both membership and program delivery. Change is necessary to position OSCIA as an essential farm organization in the coming decade.

### Approval of 2019 OSCIA Annual Conference Minutes

Motion #1 – Moved by Henry Denotter (Essex), seconded by Kyle Sharpe (Northumberland), the minutes of the 2019 OSCIA Annual Conference be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### Presentation and Approval of 2019 Audited Financial Statement

- Julie Henderson, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the Auditor for OSCIA, Murray Short, who is a Chartered Accountant with RLB to present highlights of the audited financial statements for the 2019 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.

Motion #2 – Moved by Darcy Weber (Waterloo), seconded by Alan Kruszel (Stormont), the audited financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2019 be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### Appointment of Auditors

Motion #3 – Moved by Allan Yungblut (Niagara North), seconded by Andy van Niekerk (Simcoe North) the firm of RLB LLP be appointed as auditors for the fiscal year of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

**Carried**

### 2020 Honourary President

Stuart Wright introduced the 2020 Honourary President, Harold Rudy. Harold's achievements:

- Served as a Senior Manager of Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association as well as the Secretary Manager of the Ontario Seed Growers' Association (now retired).
- Authored 'The Soil Fixers' book, covering OSCIA history plus topics surrounding modern agricultural practices and rural issues.
- Recipient of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Inducted to the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame in 2017.

### Ratification of the Board of Directors

- Warren Schneckenburger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, presented the 2020 slate of Provincial Directors, each elected in their region, for ratification by the delegates.

Motion #4 – Moved by Henry Denotter (Essex), seconded by Travis Greydanus (Northumberland) that the 2020 slate of Directors be approved.

**Carried**

### The 2020 Provincial Directors are:

East Central .....	Paul Hagey	North Western Ontario.....	Stefan Szeder
Eastern Valley.....	Warren Schneckenburger	Ottawa-Rideau.....	Eleanor Renaud
Georgian Central .....	Andy van Niekerk	Quinte .....	Mark Burnham
Golden Horseshoe.....	Steve Sickie	St. Clair .....	Chad Anderson
Heartland .....	John Poel	Thames Valley.....	Phil Oegema
North Eastern Ontario.....	Birgit Martin		

### Certificate Presentation

Andrew Brekveld – outgoing Provincial Director, North Western Ontario, was presented with a certificate in acknowledgement of his service.

### Slate of Executive Board

- The 2020 slate of the Executive Committee was presented by Warren Schneckenburger.

### The 2020 OSCIA Executive consists of:

President.....	Stuart Wright	Honourary President.....	Harold Rudy
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President.....	Chad Anderson	Immediate Past President.....	Les Nichols
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President ....	Warren Schneckenburger	Executive Director.....	Andrew Graham
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President.....	Steve Sickle	OMAFRA Ex-officio.....	Deanna Nemeth
		U of G Ex-officio.....	Dr. Robert Corry

### Research Committee Reports

Reports from Directors who sit on research committees are in the annual report.

- Mark Burnham reported on the activities of the Ontario Corn Committee.
- Chad Anderson presented a report on the Peer-to-Peer project.

### Soil Network Update

Laurent “Woody” Van Arkle, Past President of Innovative Farmers of Ontario, and current Chair of Ontario Soil Network Advisory Group.

- The Soil Network strives to educate the greater farming community of initiatives being undertaken, philosophies and the measurement of success.
- Currently the Soil Network is evaluating how to develop into a permanent operation.

### New Communication Direction for OSCIA

Phil Oegema, Thames Valley Provincial Director, and chair of the Regional Communication Sub-Committee.

- Mandate of the committee was to improve internal communication and provide more funds for communication support.
- New Ontario wide newsletter, “The Innovator”, will be sent via email and will include articles relative to all Ontario locations. Content is generated and controlled by the region itself for local news. Platform for sharing knowledge across the province. June 2020 launch.

### Resolutions

The Resolution Committee, composed of Birgit Martin, Paul Hagey and Warren Schneckenburger, came forward to present resolutions to the delegates.

#### **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 non-lethal 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)

***Carried***

**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)

***Carried***

**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 and quality based rather than relying on a rainfall model.

Moved by Warren Schneckenburger, seconded by Ray Prestedge (Algoma)

***Carried***

**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 structure, accountability, operational processes and fiduciary responsibility established, such that regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations can re-engage as appropriate and ensuring that FarmSmart can continue to deliver exceptional knowledge transfer events into the future.

Moved by Warren Schneckenburger, seconded by Mark Eastman (Halton)

***Carried***

**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 Alan Willits (Huron)

***Carried***

**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 through some financial compensation for this service.

Moved by Paul Hagey, seconded by Mike Cornelisson (Lambton)

***Carried***

**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 Scholten (Oxford)

***Carried***

**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)

***Carried***

**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 Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan receives \$150,000 and Farm & Food Care Prince Edward Island receives \$100,000 annually from their provincial ministries of agriculture however Farm & Food Care Ontario 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)

***Carried***

**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)

***Carried***

#### **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)

***Carried***

**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 Federation of Agriculture in the Province of Ontario have endorsed such legislation.

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

Moved by Birgit Martin, seconded by Jeff Steiner (York)

***Carried***

**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)

***Carried***

**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)

***Carried***



**Resolution #15 – Golden Horseshoe SCIA – Printing and Hard copy of Newsletters Under the New Communication Direction**

- 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, and;
- 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 Birgit Martin, seconded by Alan Yungblut (Niagara South)

**Carried**

**Bird Ecology and Conservation Ontario**

- Zoe Lebrun-Southcott, Executive Director
- Dr. Andrew Campomizzi, Research Scientist

Shared their research surrounding the bobolink, a grassland bird which nests in agricultural grasslands. The focus is on nesting habitat and developing conservation strategies where livestock grazing, and forage harvest occurs.

**Soil Test Manager App**

- Jake Munroe, Soil Management Specialist for Field Crops with OMAFRA

Jake demonstrated the Soil Test Manager App which allows use of current soil test results to get crop specific fertilizer recommendations. The app consolidates various literature sources into one application.

**Tier Two Grant Presentations**

Presentations presenting results from Tier Two grants were made at different times throughout the conference.

- Thames Valley – Roots Not Iron Part 2 – Peter Johnson
- Nipissing/East Sudbury– AgTiv Mycorrhizal Inoculant Trial on Potato and Cereal Crops – Emily Potter
- St Clair – Soil Health as it Relates to Yield – Anne Verhallen
- Heartland / Eastern Valley – Maximizing cereal rye cover crop management for multiple benefits – Jake Munroe
- Quinte / Heartland – Making Relay Cropping Pay – Mark Burnham
- Bruce – Compaction Recovery with Cover Crops – Tori Waugh

**2019 Soil Health Graduate Scholarship Presentation**

- Hannagala Jeewan Kumara, winner of the 2019 OSCIA Soil Health Scholarship at University of Guelph
- Researching the role of soil microorganisms in forming recalcitrant soil organic matter in order to achieve sustainable agricultural production strategies.

### **2020 Soil Health Graduate Scholarship Recipient**

- 5<sup>th</sup> OSCIA Soil Health Graduate Scholarship Recipient, Gordon Bell
- Gordon's research will focus on water conservation and how different farming practices, specifically the crop rotation employed, can affect water dynamics in that field.
- Gordon hopes to show that by increasing the diversity of crops grown in a field and with careful management we can increase the amount of water available to plants and decrease the chance of experiencing droughts in dry seasons.

### **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 their farm.
- Mark Lumley of Fairwind Farms in Lambton County is this year's winner of the Don Hill Legacy Award.
- Mark developed the ability to apply fungicide and starter fertilizer together, at planting stage, through use of a 12-volt driven submersible electric pump. The pump was placed inside the planter's 200 gallon providing aggressive agitation mixing the fertilizer and fungicide together to prevent separation and coagulation. This allows for a more targeted application of the fungicide.
- Mark could not join us, daughter Olivia accepted on his behalf.

### **Soil Champions 2019**

- Jim Denys, 2019 winner in the producer category, started no till in the 1980s and strip till in the 1990s to initially combat wind and water erosion. His presentation covered where they started, where they are now and what's next using cover crop, crop rotation, increased manure, timing of spreading among other factors. Demonstrates the use of consistent learning and trials to advance soil health.
- Anne Verhallen, 2019 winner in the research category, spoke to 'Soil health and conservation – the journey that never ends.'

### **Soil Champion 2020**

- Andrew Graham explained the reason behind the baseball bat as the award for the Soil Champion.
- Stuart Wright introduced the 2020 winner Anne Loeffler, Conservation Specialist with the Grand River Conservation Authority. She works to deliver the Rural Water Quality Program assisting in soil and water conservation projects. She was presented with the bat as well as a Certificate of Accomplishment from Senator Robert Black.

### **Flagship Award**

- This award is a paddle, first presented to OSCIA at the 2007 Summer Directors' Meeting, representing that whatever role we play, we all put the organization further ahead by our efforts. The paddle has been signed by each outgoing president ever since and this year was duly signed by Les Nichols.
- Les Nichols gave his farewell address.

### **New President for 2020**

- Stuart Wright addressed the delegates - looking forward to continued work with fellow executive members and OSCIA staff in the areas of training and development and program delivery.

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**Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

### **Research Programs Update**

Angela Straathof, Program Director, Guelph

- Spoke to the renewed focus on soil health and water quality. The objectives and activities of the OnFarm Program, an applied research program launched in December 2019 by OMAFRA, were outlined.

Andréa Dubé-Goss, Applied Research Coordinator, Guelph

- Work has been initiated on an investigation to assess and reduce barriers to BMP adoption, use of cover crops and continuous soil testing plans funded through OMAFRA.
- The Living Labs initiative, supported through AAFC, brings farmers, scientists and other partners together to co-develop, test and monitor BMPs and new technologies in a real-life context resulting in more practical technologies and sustainable farming practices. OSCIA will learn by April 1, 2020 if our proposal was successful.

### **Tier One Grant Presentations**

Presentations presenting results from Tier One grants were made at different times throughout the conference.

- Wentworth County & Golden Horseshoe Region– Comparing Methods for Making Soil Management Zones – Janice Janiec
- Eastern Valley – Diversifying with Alternative Crops Workshop – Alan Kruszel

### **Association Development Advisor Update**

Brittany Roka, Association Development Advisor

- Three new training modules were developed in 2019. The videos outline the roles and responsibilities of the local of president, secretary/treasurer and director. These videos can be accessed on the OSCIA website.
- Reviewed the new membership platform on the OSCIA website replacing the existing Wild Apricot platform. Rollout will start in April 2020.

### **Research Do's and Don'ts**

Dr. Ian McDonald, Crop Innovation Specialist, OMAFRA

- Stressed the importance of accessing the right people/tools at every stage of research.
- Notably, the use of available technology will lead to greater accuracy in results as accurate measurements generate clearer decisions.

### **Sandhill Crane Issue**

Chris Sharp, Environment and Climate Change Canada Canadian Wildlife Service

- Research being conducted on sandhill cranes to understand migration, nesting and related damage to adjacent agricultural lands.
- Birds were captured in 2019 to attach transmitters to study migration path and destination. Agricultural data will be available in 2020 when birds return to the area.

### **Controlled Drainage**

Kevin McKague, Agricultural Engineer, OMAFRA

- Drainage is dictated by an area's natural soil characteristics.
- Controlled drainage uses a water control structure to raise the depth of the drainage outlet holding the water in the field during periods when drainage is not needed. Existing tile drainage can be modified with 'gates' on each tile line depending on topography.

### **Cost-Share Program and Projects Update**

Angela Straathof, Program Director, Guelph

- Provided updates on:
  - Workshops and eLearning
  - Canadian Agricultural Partnership – Year 2
  - LEADS – Year 2
  - Targeted Intakes
  - Operation Pollinator
  - Species at Risk Partnership on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL)

### **Sustainability Panel Discussion**

Definition: Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of **sustainability** is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social—also known informally as profits, planet, and people.

Bronwynne Wilton, Wilton Group

Introduced the panel to discuss the question: What is Canada's vision on sustainability?

- Nick Betts, Director presenting on the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform. A global initiative with a focus to grow a sustainable, healthy and resilient agricultural sector while creating strong and secure supply chains.
- Jaclyn Horenburg, Beef Farmers of Ontario. Outlined the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef initiative which includes producers and retailers working to develop a standard to ensure quality and trust.
- Robert Wallbridge, Organic Council of Ontario. How the organic sector has approached sustainability and its focus on the demands for sustainability in shaping the certified organic industry.
- Paul Hoekstra, Government and Industry Relations Manager Syngenta Canada Inc. Outlined the demands for sustainability and how it shapes Syngenta's research, business, and pro-active approach.
- Emily McDonald, Field Service Representative, Dairy Farmers of Ontario. Introduced the proAction Program, an on-farm food safety program, to help farmers prevent and reduce food safety hazards and risks on their farms. It is a national program, designed to reinforce the dairy industry's leadership and encourage improvement on farms.

The conference ended at 3:30 p.m.

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Andrew Graham, Executive Director

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Stuart Wright, President