

2019
Annual General Meeting

Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Keith Currie called the 2019 OFA Annual General Meeting to order.

2. Senator Rob Black

The Honourable Rob Black addressed the delegates.

Senator Black stated that OFA's theme "Farming 2020 - Adapt and Grow" is a very important message due to the changes faced in agriculture. Farmers must be able to respond to the new and existing challenges.

He noted that he is a member of the Standing Committee of Agriculture and Forestry and that his focus as Senator is to represent rural Ontarians and Canadians.

3. Motion to Commence OFA Annual Meeting

Motion: *McQueen/Wettlaufer ... "THAT the OFA Annual Meeting commence."*
CARRIED

Motion: *Freeman/Bonnett ... "THAT the Agenda be approved and late resolutions dealt with, time permitting at the end of business with 2/3 majority."*
CARRIED

4. Approval of 2018 Minutes

Motion: *Parks/Wagner ... "THAT the 2018 AGM Minutes be approved."*
CARRIED

5. Receive Financial Statements, August 31, 2019

Motion: *Renaud/McEachern ... "THAT the Financial Statements for the period of September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019, be accepted."*
CARRIED

6. Approve the Auditor's Report

Motion: *Lunn/Otto ... "THAT the Audit Report be accepted as presented by our Auditors, BDO Dunwoody."*
CARRIED

7. Appointment of Auditors 2019-2020

Motion: *Vincent/Morrison ... "THAT the OFA Annual General Meeting delegates accepts the OFA Board of Directors recommendation to have BDO Dunwoody as OFA's Auditor for the 2019/20 fiscal year."*

CARRIED

8. Appointment of Election Chairperson and Election Procedure

Motion: *Wales/Webster ... "THAT Cathy Lennon be appointed as Elections Chair."*

CARRIED

9. Ratification of Amended By-law

Motion: *Miles/Lynn ... "THAT the Ratification of By-law 18.1 Section 12.6 be approved."*

CARRIED

10. Resolutions

**Algoma
Biomass**

Motion: *McLeod/Taylor ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture encourage the Ontario government to fund development and adoption of new technology to use surplus biomass from Ontario farms as an alternative energy source to replace fossil fuels."*

CARRIED

**Arnprior
Staffing of Retiring OMAFRA Extension Personnel**

Motion: *Hudson/O'Rourke ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby OMAFRA to hire replacements for retiring OMAFRA extension personnel."*

CARRIED

**Arnprior
Farmer Mental Health**

Motion: *Hudson/Cousens ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture support the expansion of the L&A Farmer Wellness Program province wide."*

CARRIED

**Arnprior
Compensation for livestock losses due to predators**

Motion *Hudson/Shaw... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby OMAFRA for improvements to the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation program."*

CARRIED

**Elgin
Land Registry System**

Motion: *Wales/Clutterbuck ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture continue to lobby the Ontario Government to change the Land Registry System under the Planning Act so that the practice of automatic merging be discontinued, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA provide a letter of support for Bill 88, Planning Amendment Act, 2019 with the additional recommendation that if abutting properties will be merged, then a requirement to notify the landowner should be mandatory, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA issue a yearly "buyer beware" reminder to the OFA membership containing the appropriate information members need to know to prevent these mergers."

CARRIED

**Essex
Communication with Agricorp**

Motion: *McLean/Perth ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture increase their effort to communicate with Agricorp to get accurate information about in season changes to production insurance coverage, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA ask that the Grain Farmers of Ontario become farmers' main source of communication for production insurance changes related to insuring corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and/or barley, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture requests that the Grain Farmers of Ontario make sure their membership fully understands what the changes to production insurance are and the reason for changes to policy coverage being made during a production season."

LOST

**Essex
AGRICORP Policy Changes**

Motion: *McLean/Perth ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture recommend to Agricorp that it consult with Grain Farmers of Ontario before implementing any in-season policy changes to agreed upon production insurance contracts related to insuring corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and/or barley, for which premiums were paid, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture recommend to Grain Farmers of Ontario that any negative changes to production insurance contracts related to insuring corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and/or barley be strictly debated and refused by Grain Farmers of Ontario if the changes do not benefit the production insurance participants."

LOST

**Glengarry
Woodlots**

Motion: *Lang/McDonell... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Province to enhance the Farm Forestry Exemption provisions in the Assessment Act to increase the portion of woodlands exempt from property tax assessment as a way to incentivize property owners to keep woodlots on their property.”*

CARRIED

**Grey
Member Engagement**

Motion: *Wettlaufer/Ryan ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture strike a committee to investigate and deliver a strategy on membership engagement and volunteerism for Provincial and County Board positions.”*

CARRIED

**Haldimand
Transportation of Agricultural Commodities and Reduced Load Periods (half load seasons)**

Motion: *Young/Armstrong... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby municipalities and the provincial government, including the Ministry of Transportation, to exempt feed and livestock trucks from Reduced Load Periods on roads.”*

LOST

**Halton
Natural Heritage**

Motion: *Opsteen/Egger ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture develop a “best practices” Natural Heritage System interpretation for municipal Official Plans that Region or County Federations of Agriculture can consider when their respective municipal Official Plans are under development, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA take the proactive approach and lobby the Ontario Government to change Natural Heritage policies where the effects create unacceptable constraints on agriculture.”

CARRIED

**Kawartha Lakes
Rural Real Estate Transactions**

Motion: *McEachern/Buckley... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial government, the appropriate legal society, and realtor regulators to ensure that when real estate transactions occur new registrants are made aware of all encumbrances, including a ward drains, municipal drains, hydro easements, Line Fences Act implications and regulations.”*

CARRIED

**Lambton
OFA Board Members External Political Involvement**

Motion: *Dickenson/Martin... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture amend its Bylaws to prohibit OFA Board Directors from active participation in local political party constituency associations or lobby groups other than the Ontario Federation of Agriculture."*

LOST

**Lambton
Unseeded Acres**

Motion: *Dickenson/Martin ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with Agricorp so that a portion of the unseeded acre benefit under a production insurance contract is paid to the Farmer/Sharecropper in a sharecrop agreement."*

LOST

**Lambton
Cannabis**

Motion: *Martin/Dickenson ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby OMAFRA to develop a cannabis-specific minimum distance separation formulae for sites growing cannabis."*

CARRIED

**Lennox and Addington
Safety in the Workplace**

Motion: *... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture produce, or partner with another organization to produce, farm safety and training videos to aide members in the practice of due diligence, and to help foster safe and efficient workplaces for the industry."*

**Oxford
Possible Half Load**

Motion: *Arts/Boogerd ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to amend the Highway Traffic Act to increase the weight limits in section 122 and include livestock bedding in section 122, subsection 4 – Exceptions."*

LOST

**Rainy River
Assistance Programs**

Motion: *DeBruin/Cryderman... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocate for assistance programs to offset costs related to feed and straw shortages affecting farmers in Ontario."*

CARRIED

**Rainy River
Provincial Abattoirs**

Motion: *“THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture continue to lobby the Ministry of Finance and MPAC to change the property assessment classification of provincial abattoirs in Ontario to a new classification for abattoirs to facilitate the application of a lower property tax rate.”*

Withdrawn

**Rainy River
Abattoir Audits**

Motion: *DeBruin/Cryderman ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby OMAFRA to take a more practical approach to auditing abattoirs and use clear and concise language in audit reports, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby OMAFRA to make financial assistance available to abattoirs for food safety upgrades to maintain the high standards for food safety.”

CARRIED

**Renfrew / Beef Farmers of Ontario
Retirement Staff at OMAFRA**

Motion: *McLaughlin/Hudson ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocate for filling gaps in OMAFRA staffing and lobby the Ontario Government to hire and retain a full complement of OMAFRA staff in Ontario.”*

**Renfrew
Benefit Card and Member Benefit Program**

Motion: *McLaughlin/Hudson ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture ask all of its Member Benefit partners to allow OFA to design a new OFA membership card containing the trademarks of all the participants in the member benefit program, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA ask its Member Benefit partners who currently require OFA members to present a separate discount card to accept the OFA membership card instead of a separate discount card.”

CARRIED

Motion: *Bonnett/Freeman ... “To allow the late resolution from the Northern Caucus regarding Bill 132.”*

CARRIED

**Northern Caucus
Bill 132**

Motion: *LeBlond/Wettlaufer ... “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with agricultural commodity groups to prevent the repeal of the Line Fences Act.”*

CARRIED

11. Election of Director-at-Large

Elections Chair Cathy Lennon introduced the following nominees for OFA Director At Large:

Erica Miles
Ricard Pringle
David Ritchie
Teresa Van Raay
Sara Wood
Adrian Wynands

Each candidate addressed the delegates followed by a question and answer session and electronic ballot.

Cathy Lennon declared Teresa Van Raay elected as Director At Large for a three-year term.

12. Vicky Dickson – JFAO

Vicky Dickson, General Manager for the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario (JFAO) gave a report to the Delegates on JFAO's activities for 2019.

13. David Phillips, Senior Climatologist - Environment & Climate Change Canada

David Phillips, Senior Climatologist of Environment & Climate Change Canada addressed the delegates

He spoke on the impacts of climate change in Canada and the world now and in the future.

He noted that that unfortunately that this is not fake news as the trends are indisputable.

Mr. Phillips acknowledged the good things that Ontario farmers are doing and is optimistic about the future of ag in Ontario.

He concluded by saying that farmers have the ingenuity and adaptability in this province.

14. Mary Robinson, President, CFA

Mary Robinson, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) brought greetings from the CFA. She told the delegates that CFA is your voice in Ottawa.

Mary gave a report on CFA's files and issues that they have been active on over the past year.

- Producing Prosperity in Canada
- Labour – including streamlining the Temporary Foreign Worker Program
- AGGrowth Canada and BRM
- Rural Infrastructure

- International Trade
- PMRA
- National Food Policy
- Regulatory Modernization

15. MPP John Vanthof

John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane and Deputy Leader for the NDP addressed the delegates.

16. Joe Gray - Agri-Skills Abroad

Joe Gray of Agri-Skills Abroad made a presentation to the delegates on their past year activities.

17. Election of OFA President

Elections Chair Cathy Lennon introduced the following nominees for OFA President:

Peggy Brekveld
Keith Currie

Each candidate addressed the delegates followed by a question and answer session and electronic ballot.

Cathy Lennon declared Keith Currie elected as OFA's President.

18. Bursary Winners

OFA announced the winners of the 2019 student bursary award.

The winners were Natalie Templeton of Grenville, Nolan McLarty of Elgin and Robert Maston of Peel.

19. Geri Kamenz – The Co-operators

Director Geri Kamenz gave an update to the delegates on the past year at The Co-operators, noting The Co-operators appreciate the strong partnership with the OFA.

20. Hon. Ernie Hardeman

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs addressed the delegates.

Minister Hardeman stated the OFA's Annual General Meeting theme "Adapt and Grow" is timely as the Ministry is continuing their work so that Ontario farmers can have programs that they can count on.

One issue that his Ministry will be focusing on in 2020 is mental health in agriculture. Home and farm are the same place and he has heard concerns loud and clear and wants to make sure that his Ministry gets this issue right.

Minister Hardeman thanked the delegates for everything they do as he has a deep sense of responsibility to those he serves.

21. Andrea Horwath – Leader of the Official Opposition

Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition addressed the OFA delegates.

Ms. Horwath told the delegates that agriculture shapes our landscape and drives our economy. It is the foundation and fuels Ontario's economy.

She also spoke the need for reliable broadband across the province as it is an essential service.

In conclusion, Ms. Horwath stated that there is a need to invest and protect agriculture as well as adapting and growing into our future.

22. John Stackhouse, Senior Vice-President - Office of the CEO, RBC

Mr. Stackhouse, Senior Vice-President - Office of the CEO, RBC made a presentation the delegates titled "Farmer 4.0 - A Skills Revolution Meets and Agriculture Revolution".

23. Election of OFA Vice Presidents

Elections Chair Cathy Lennon introduced the following nominees for OFA Vice President:

Peggy Brekveld
Crispin Colvin
Mark Reusser

Each candidate addressed the delegates followed by a question and answer session and electronic ballot.

Cathy Lennon declared Peggy Brekveld and Mark Reusser elected as OFA's Vice-Presidents.

24. President's Closing Remarks

Keith Currie thanked the sponsors of the AGM and also to everyone for a great AGM.

OFA is here to hear your concerns and work with you so please do not hesitate to reach out to your organization.

25. Adjournment

