

# **OFA – Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting**

**August 7, 2024**

## **Hybrid Meeting**

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### **Welcome**

Drew Spoelstra, President and co-host Erica Murray, PAC Steering Committee member welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Storm Water Management Fee Update**

Drew Spoelstra, President provided a follow up report on what has happened after the Storm Water Management Fees were discussed at the last PAC meeting.

Drew commented that the Board of Directors with the information provided by PAC helped develop a policy against implementing Storm Water Management Fees on agricultural land. All municipalities are looking at implementing fees, with no provincial guidance on how to adopt these fees.

Drew reported that Minister Thompson sent a letter to all municipalities in Ontario explaining concerns of storm water fees and the unfair financial burden on agriculture landowners. Stressing that municipalities should consider an agriculture exception when implementing these fees in their municipalities.

Directors will continue to have conversations on this file with the government and will be brought up at ROMA and AMO conferences.

If an exemption is not possible OFA is looking to minimize the effects on farmers.

### **Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) Update**

*Duncan Goetze, OFA Policy Analyst*

Duncan's presentation overviewed what is the PPS, what are the proposed updates to the PPS, what was OFA's response and what happens next.

Duncan explained that the PPS is a type of policy instrument to direct how planning is done in the province. The PPS sets the rules for land use planning in Ontario, municipalities "shall" conform to the PPS when making decisions.

Duncan highlighted four proposed changes to the 2024 PPS.

1. No more Municipal Comprehensive reviews for settlement
2. Consolidating the Growth Plan with the PPS, repealing the Growth Plan
3. Two "additional residential units" per lot in prime agriculture
4. Clarifies when PPS is in force

Duncan overviewed the five recommendations of OFA's response to the 2024 PPS.

Duncan explained that a new PPS comes into effect when the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Paul Calandra) issues an *order in council* pursuant to the *Planning Act*.

There are no future rounds of consultation expected. Originally, 2024 PPS was anticipated to come into effect in the Fall. More details may come at the upcoming 2024 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference (August 18-21st).

## **Ag Land Expropriation Presentation**

*Ian Nokes, OFA Policy Analyst*

Ian explained the rules surrounding access to farmland for infrastructure projects. For example, telecoms are a type of infrastructure that has no legal right to your property.

*Ian provided a detailed explanation on property expropriation:*

Land near public services, transit, healthcare, highways is convenient, but also risks expropriation. Be aware of the possibility of expropriation, be familiar with the process, and know your rights under notice of expropriation.

Expropriation is an act by Government or Legislated Proponent to acquire private property from landowners for a public purpose. It is the Government exercising the power of Eminent Domain, governed by the Expropriations Act, Ontario, or the Expropriation Act, Canada.

In addition to the difficulty of losing property, it is stressful to navigate, appeal and compensation negotiation process.

If unable to reach a voluntary agreement, the offer expires, and the proponent may file an application to seek Expropriation Authority (EA). In Ontario, [Section 99 of the Ontario Energy Board Act](#) outlines the expropriation authority for electricity and natural gas.

The first step is the [Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land](#) served on owners of the EA's intentions. This directs landowners how to request a Hearing of Necessity.

An inquiry officer conducts a review and prepares a report for the Expropriating Body. They may approve a report considering the expropriation necessary and still recognize that the landowner may not be satisfied with those findings. Once approved and registered, the plan of expropriation is served to the owner.

Landowner: Accept offer or accept offer "Without Prejudice" (reserve right to contest). Landowners can request an appeal to the Tribunal or Local Planning Appeal Tribunal and further appeal the decision to the Divisional Court within 6 weeks.

Should the owner be willing to cooperate, and the appropriate plans drafted, expropriation can be completed in as little as 4 months, often with a premium negotiated in favour of the owner.

Expropriation compensation can be based on fair market value (FMV) taken for the land as-is, without considering value added improvements nor any decrease in value of the overall property due to the nature of the expropriation and disturbance.

Damages for Disturbance: relocation compensation, moving expense reimbursements (about 5% of FMV) plus compensation for difficulties relocating (for example, if a new residence needs wheelchair accessible).

Request damages for Injurious Affection (remaining land value decline following expropriation), and other reasonable costs, such as legal fees, disbursements incurred in negotiating, and appealing expropriation.

### **Panel Presentation**

The three panel participants introduced themselves and Drew facilitated the panel discussion.

#### **Ed Ormsby – Grey County**

Beef cow operation/cash crop, 6<sup>th</sup> generation farm. 1870's home on corner of lot would be expropriated due to the widening of highway 26.

#### ***What have been some struggles – were expectations met?***

Received a registered letter in 2005, attended meetings and spoke with MTO personally. Was told that a new house would be built for us, including a driveway, septic and landscaping. In 2007, it was far from that. All during that process, people at our place once a week – surveyors etc. We just let them do it – no compensation and we did not ask for it.

#### ***What did you learn and what would you have done differently?***

We should not have been naïve when dealing with MTO. I would have called an expropriation lawyer much sooner than we did.

#### ***How long was the process?***

From the fall of 2005 and made a final deal in spring 2009 – would have gone on longer. However, we were in a unique situation; parents had a bungalow down the road, we had a place to move and was within our area. Phoned the lawyer and said we are ready to put this behind us and asked him to get the best deal. A final proposal came in, lawyer got them to pay legal fees and settle for more money.

#### **Stewart Snyder – Wilmot Township, Region of Waterloo**

Farming near Waterloo on a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farm, mother was pushed out in 1976. The farm was purchased for a fair price and my mother purchased a farm in Wilmot Township. Built a new dairy barn and expanded the farm.

#### ***Tell us about your expropriation experience?***

In January 2024 a neighbor received an offer via courier from a numbered company. Other neighbors started to get the offers. Neighbors gathered as a group and gathered the community to fight the sale of the farmland for a mega industrial site, type of industry is unknown and will not

be disclosed. They want us out by July. My dairy operation on the south side, Lots of unknowns right now.

***What is your opinion on business going forward and what are you doing?***

Forced to buy another farm in the middle of June that I was renting, I needed protection for the short term. We are in the middle of succession planning with my son, and we had to stop. I intend to fight to the bitter end. If I lose 100 acres of land to feed the cattle, I will be forced to reduce my herd.

I was going to put elevators on the other farm, all plans are halted, and my age is against me.

***What would you do differently?***

Being nice and polite at the start. At times city council would not let us speak. We should have been more forceful at the start.

***Question from the audience:***

I do not understand fair market value – If it is going to be re-zoned industrial land that should be the fair market value. How can they skirt around it?

Ian commented that for expropriation, the value of the current use of the land is used. OFA has written a letter to the Attorney General on the expropriation act and this issue. By re-zoning the land to industrial the municipality is getting an unfair windfall. If you take into consideration the municipality will have to spend money on services, after the re-zoning suddenly that land is now worth 1.3 million per acre. Much higher than agricultural zoning.

***How has the situation in Wilmot followed the official plans?***

Official plans are a waste of taxpayers' dollars because the municipality can do what they want. Developers are in cahoots with others to override it. The company that came to us was a numbered company in Kitchener, a private enterprise. If I am forced to sign, I will require that the public know where the leak was.

***Your succession plan – where does your son sit on his future?***

He is disappointed and upset with his father. He wanted to build a dairy barn; he is very discouraged. I can't carry on with succession plan with an industrial park across the road.

**Brian Eves – Lambton County**

***How have easements had different impacts on your farm?***

I have two pipeline easements, on natural gas and hydro corridor. Difference with natural gas pipeline is once that pipeline is finished you walk away, and it is done.

Twice over the last five years where they need to dig up a hydro line, large excavations. The towers have an impact, I need to work around them every year.

***Pipeline - are you compensated for the land damage?***

Yes, they do try to protect the property. There is always a negotiation process, it is very important to negotiate.

***What would you do differently?***

Nothing, except trying to get the community together. Farmers are independent but should try to come together and not do what is best for just them.

***What is your advice to a landowner new to the process?***

Don't be in a hurry, get educated, when you deal with a lawyer, they will know nothing. Be ready to explain everything. Be ready to invest the time and properly explain your concerns and issues. I have not had bad dealings with them. They are working for who they work for.

***You purchased farms with easements, what has it cost you with the hassles etc.?***

There is a forever discount on that property, does it impact the crop – yes. You must think about your farming practices. There is always a cost to having to do things differently. I try to look at it from my 20-year-old son that wants to farm perspective, what will that cost in 20 years? Lots of other aspects you need to consider like how it affects your operation.

**Breakout Session**

Attendees were divided into breakout tables and asked to consider the following questions:

**1. What can the local Federations do when ag land is being expropriated in their region?**

- Attend council meetings, information meetings, landowner meetings, specific meetings such as Hydro One, information gathering by requesting meetings etc.
- Delegation to council to make sure they understand our point of view
- Connect landowner with OFA resources
- Be at the meetings just to be a presence to show there are stakeholders and people with vested interest in the topics
- Stay on top of municipality and county agendas to know when the topics of interest are being discussed
- Information gathering, track agenda and minutes
- Contact landowner (OFA member or not) to ensure that they know the federation is there for support as necessary
- Find out the farmer family's wish (for example, WFA is following the lead of the affected landowners rather than leading the protest)
- Assist the farmer (if wanted): help form their narrative/story, providing letter of support, list of specialized lawyers/expertise, providing reassurance that they are supported and aren't alone
- Send letter of support from neighboring community/federations, share and help raise public awareness, help community know what is happening/how to get involved
- Attend/participate in meetings/delegations/networking with municipal & provincial politicians (both proactively and when issues arise) to ensure agricultural opinions are heard

- As a group of farmers, when land is going to be expropriated, we really need to advocate on the side of the current landowner to make sure that they are treated fairly and get the most value of the land
- In Lambton, 3 or 4 possible paths they were looking at for hydro lines – first meeting in a farm shop and then they rented a hall – got word out – Brian did a really good job of getting information out – then they had a meeting there and another meeting later on where they could get everyone out and ask questions
- Having clear communication with members at large in the community about what information is available surrounding the situation (facts) – so many concerns building up – making sure the info is available and clear messaging and clear ask – e.g. upcoming consultations – like they have been doing at the Waterloo Federation – pushing the information out to surrounding federations
- In Waterloo – nonfarm groups were some of the best allies in the Wilmot example (ie. Grand River Environmental Network) – get to know the nonfarm groups
- We can't blame the farmer for accepting the offer if it is going to happen anyways – need to ensure that if land is going to be expropriated, we help get the farmer the best value
- Educate ourselves - Ensure the info is available about the expropriation: Where is this happening in the region? Who's involved? Understanding it at a Board level regionally, at our own meetings and ensuring everyone is at the same understanding
- Divide and conquer, approach to expropriation, done with non-disclosure agreements, so that makes it hard to work together as a group.
- OFA or federations should push for more public transparency-? Many expropriation discussions are done in camera, public is not privy to that information.
- Non Disclosure Agreements are designed to lower the cost of the process
- Federations can gather and distribute helpful information such as lawyers' information to share.
- Federations can find out the 5 w's of the situation as a starting point
- Federations can act as a directory for support or an initial resource
- Educate your members on issues affecting your county and neighbouring counties
- Relevant links
- Key step by step, takeaways
- Past experiences, record panel session
- AACI appraisers
- Contacting landowners, create group
- Offering key research staff knowledge
- Get word out to the membership that OFA can provide support to members during the process (awareness in advance and throughout, not just when occurring)
- Resources and staffing are amazing to have available
- Checklists / steps type fact sheet for considerations when approached
- How to contact a lawyer with specialized experience (law society)
- Have a list of questions to support selecting a lawyer that can help find/decide a lawyer with experience
- Have a relationship developed with municipalities to be able to tap into communications where possible
- Encourage communication in community (i.e when neighbours are approached)
- Communicate with OFA
- OFA as a provincial organization host information meeting when issues of expropriation occur such as the hydro corridor. Too much risk and responsibility for the local

federations to host. Can be a collaboration between the local federation and the provincial organization. Local federation can promote the meeting, chair the meeting. Get good information out there, considering all the different factors but individuals make the final decisions.

- OFA could develop a summarized expropriation fact sheet regarding farm owners' rights.
- OFA develop guidelines/best practices for lawyers, can OFA recommend bonified agricultural lawyers?
- OFA could provide financial support to update county federations agricultural impact statements. Many are outdated. Would stress the importance of local farmland.
- Presentations to council
- Help facilitate resources, support, lawyer list
- Counties need to understand the process and keep in communication with council

## **2. What support does OFA need to give local federations?**

- Information overload is a problem
- Can information be boiled down somehow?
- Resource Package
  - a. List of lawyers to reach out to in our area
  - b. Key points and messaging for us to be mirroring in all communications
  - c. Media and Advocacy training – provincial director could help be a spokesperson (i.e. Director in Waterloo), communications could help provide messaging and materials

### **Provincial and Federal Support**

- d. Push for legislation to streamline processes, for all our ag voices to be represented – lobbying on our behalf
- e. Rehabilitation/reclamation of abandoned powerlines, etc. (need to be bonded since could be multiple numbered companies, hard to attribute responsibility, who pays if company doesn't have money at the end-of-life, etc.)

### **Togetherness**

- f. When this effects more than 1 Federation, the OFA should bring all involved together (i.e. hydro lines run through multiple federations, OFA can become a resource, pull meetings together, etc.)
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- The OFA can provide support to local federations in gathering information – numbered companies looking to buy land – not knowing who the real actors are behind a proposal (municipality, developer, etc.) maybe the OFA could help find out
  - OFA can suggest alternative places to develop instead of prime ag land; focus on non-ag land, put that land aside for development
  - Have standardized letter/policy that we can provide and send to government, stakeholder to support
  - A list of resources that can be shared with federations
  - Questions that members can ask when put in the position of expropriation
  - Public documents that can be shared with members
  - Expanding the flow chart to include resources

- Give organizational structure – i.e. here is what's been successful,
- Training from key staff i.e. communication, etc.
- Form a committee with expertise in:
  - o Chair, secretary, financial, social media, communications
- Share best practices from other federations (what works, what doesn't)
- Trusted advisor
- How do you run a press conference, what's appropriate to say / not say, how to communicate using social media in an appropriate and effective manner.
- Lobby for when larger projects to be publicly declared before seeking the municipal approvals are pursued. (Often by time project is announced, process is too far along to slow down)
- Come up with Best Practices for Local Feds consideration for use (examples from other areas could help)
- Keep contact with key individuals involved to assist future (some distance could be beneficial)
- Support peer network of experience
- Maintain connection with key industry groups i.e. OEB – relationships for heads up, sharing concerns, and developing policy is unseen but necessary.
- Open communication for efforts
- Financial to update agricultural impact statements.
- Hosting information meetings and ensuring they have the best available information for local farmers to make informed decisions. Ensure members only- cross check OFA member list.
- Many farmers don't know bonified lawyers/don't know who to call when legal issues like expropriation arise- can OFA provide a list of recommended lawyers?
- Continue promoting Homegrown campaign/promote it more/media attention .... Gains urban support for protecting farmland.... need more non-farmers fighting to preserve farmland. Next level of Homegrown for tangible impact.... Homegrown is not translating to protecting farmland. What is the Homegrown with teeth strategy with 70,000 signatures?
- Significant cost for going to the Ontario Land Tribunal, can OFA if there's a case help local federations fund the case to go through? Precedent setting situations and if successful OFA would get a lot of the money back.
- Adding mitigation information such as mapping, cost studies, etc.
- Local federations can facilitate to the OFA
- Manual or information book, handbook or other resources
- OFA create lawyer database
- Get affected landowners together
- Try to get on the list to speak to planners to get ahead of the situation

### **3. In which circumstances does OFA get directly involved?**

- OFA looks at a lot of issues as regional and therefore not a provincial issue
- Should be support through OFA without taking away too much attention from other areas of priority
- If large acreage is involved – the OFA should be providing legal resources and support, as well as any history to the story
- Based on some sort of scale – a large enough size, OFA gets involved

- Should be involved in at least an advisory level (i.e. A 100-acre farm facing a 100-acre expropriation doesn't have the resources to fight, will need OFA support)
- Once the province is involved, then OFA should be involved (especially since OFA directors have relationships with Ministers, etc.)
- If it could set a precedent
- If the local federation asks for help (snowball effect, the local federation gets involved if requested by the affected farmer, OFA gets involved if the local fed reaches out)
- It depends on what "directly involved" means- the concern is the impending liability
- OFA could be involved in the general issue of expropriation but does not necessarily need to be involved in individual cases.
- Should be involved in offering support and changing upper-level policy for benefit of agriculture.
- OFA could offer specific training for these instances- i.e. today's PAC meeting is a perfect example of OFA should be involved.
- As soon as property owners contact local federation
- Training – communication
- Anything that's an issue greater than local municipality – need to be ongoing lobbying at provincial level
- What does "Directly Involved" mean – i.e. help vs take over?
- Size of project could be a trigger
- Viewpoints of directly involved stakeholders
- Should be member driven
- Public outcry could be a consideration with caution
- Stage of expropriation landowners are probably not willing to sell
- Take cues as to what benefits are for stakeholders, members, local community, local fed and ultimately province
- Does the Community Fed ask for help?
- Impact on Neighbouring Counties proximity and impact on those regions ("growth/sprawl" will continue)
- What groups/exemptions are already at play (i.e. Federal approval, type of development?)
- Situations like Wilmot when a region goes so far out of their official plan, and precedent setting situations.
- OFA should bring in partners to help members be successful such as commodity partners, industry partners, stakeholders. Have one strong voice and be united.
- Get private businesses involved
- Is there a policy where OFA or other commodity groups are informed?
- Local federations have a check list to follow
- Is there an expropriation list that OFA can access?

## **OFA Update**

Drew provided an update on stakeholders, federal, provincial and municipal issues.

### ***Beef Industry***

Plenty of challenges this summer in the beef sector including the Cargill processing strike. OFA

is supporting Beef Farmers of Ontario and the industry; we were happy to see an end to the strike and a return to normal operations in mid July.

OMAF & Agricorp have sped up RMP payments, made enhancements to the feeder cattle loan guarantee program and invested into the Ontario Beef market development program to increase demand in beef in domestic markets and internationally.

#### *Agricultural & Commodity Organizations*

OFA has welcomed a few new Agricultural & Commodity Organizations in recent months: Agriculture Credit Corporation (ACC), Farm Fresh Ontario, Flowers Canada and Farmers Markets Ontario. We see great benefits in working together in areas of common ground/shared priorities.

OFA hosted a meeting on August 6 with the leadership of Agricultural & Commodity Organizations to network, understand priorities and where there might be opportunities to work together/partner and support one another.

#### *Federal/Provincial/Territorial Minister's Meeting*

The OFA Executive attended the federal/provincial/territorial minister's meeting in July and had a great opportunity to spend some time with Minister Flack and his new OMAFA team as well as network with other agricultural ministers across the country and three Canadian senators. The focus of the round table was around 'data' and the needs of the agriculture and food sector going forward.

#### *Carbon Tax and Capital Gains*

Carbon tax and changes to capital gains remain high on the priority list and on both files, we are working with CFA and other provincial and national organizations. OFA proposed a solution to Minister Freeland that would enable an exemption that is offered to mining to be extended to agriculture.

In farm families, it is common for farm businesses to be passed down to the next generation or sold at a below market value to the next generation to keep the farm in the family. The current wording of the eligibility requirements for the Canadian Entrepreneurs' Incentive would disqualify the next generation of farmers from accessing this incentive, since they do not qualify as founding shareholders.

To address this, the OFA is advocating for amendments to the requirements for the Canadian Entrepreneurs' Incentive to include all farm businesses. To ensure all types of farm businesses are eligible, OFA recommends that the Canadian Entrepreneur's eligibility criteria be amended to include owners of all qualified farm property that meets the criteria set out in Section 110.6 of The Income Tax Act.

Any owner of qualified farm property that meets this definition should be eligible for the Canadian Entrepreneurs incentive including second-generation and non-incorporated farmers. These modifications will help facilitate farm succession plans, ensuring that the tradition of the family farm continues in Canada, that young Canadians can afford to start their journey in a farm business and that rural communities remain strong and vibrant into the future.

#### *Railway Crossings*

Railway crossings also a significant provincial and national issue – private railway crossings and who is responsible for maintenance costs. OFA recently had a meeting with Transport Canada and have communicated the financial challenges involved with upgrades to the rail crossings that

have historically been covered by the rail ways for 120 years with both transport Canada and CN/CP. Additionally on the rail side were working with AMO and ROMA to try and advance some of these challenges including the drainage challenges they're experiencing through municipal leadership as well.

#### *Provincial Government Minister Changes*

Welcomed a new team of Ministers and key staff. A new Energy Minister (Lecce) and new Agriculture & Food Minister (Flack). Energy has become a key Ministry to connect with over the past year as we discuss issues of battery energy storage, hydro transmission corridors etc. and their farmland needs.

#### *Wetland Mapping*

Recent concerns in Eastern Ontario around wetland mapping, an initiative of the province and conservation authorities and had an opportunity to speak with Minister Flack & Steve Clark and raise the concerns of farmers with them about the process and the communications – and the process has since been halted. We were able to communicate recently with MNRF many challenges we see with the regulation as it's been implemented and were happy to have the support of OFVGA and other commodity partners on that front.

#### *ROMA & AMO*

Enjoying good relationships with leadership of ROMA & AMO and seek to continue that dialogue. Working to keep the conversation going between conventions, on topics of overlapping interest.

### **County & Commodity Updates/Emerging Issues**

#### **Kent County**

- Multiple rural housing
- Institutional investments of farmland

Kent county felt these issues will be addressed during the meeting.

#### **Brant County**

- Road Safety Concern - growing traffic and the challenges that it presents for moving farm equipment

Counties provided Brant an overview of what they do in their areas to address the issues of road safety:

Simcoe - the past 2 springs our MSR has invited county staff and councillors to a farm and had them drive the sprayers and combines. This helps them understand the size of the equipment and the challenges farmers face on the roads. Was a big hit and will it do it again next spring. Simcoe invited the engineering firms that work for the municipality, they would not come because they were not paid – they design the roads.

Essex – we sponsor a radio ad at a local station and have signs we have made up to put on the back of implements.

## **Looking Ahead – Gathering Grassroots Input in a Member Forum Moving Forward & OFA Proposal**

Cathy Lennon, General Manager did a recap of what was presented at the 2023 AGM. Reminding the PAC that the OFA proposal of a Federation Forum was tabled at the AGM. Cathy presented a possible by law amendment to the group for discussion as this was heard at the AGM as one of the main concerns to the OFA proposal.

Drew continued by outlining that since the AGM, the Board of Directors committed to running two “pilot project” Federation Forum meetings and ran two regular PAC meetings.

Drew asked the PAC to provide feedback. Comments below:

- It was asked if a guiding document will be drafted and shared with AGM delegates prior to the 2024 meeting. Drew confirmed yes.
- Will the steering committee be asked for guidance in the discussion of the guiding document. Drew confirmed yes.
- After 2023 AGM it felt like the OFA board of directors wanted to take complete control. We want to keep it as a member driven organization. Grassroots voice was getting lost, more government than a member driven organization
- Representing a larger federation - I would feel better if more than one person from our county was at the table.
- I like the idea of going to a direct link county to OFA board, an issue comes up and in days we can have a forum.
- PAC is a way to help engage young farmers in our county. The young farmers want PAC to exist. I do not want to throw away more than one voice, not sure I am good enough to bring back the message. More than one of us gives a different perspective.
- From the North we appreciate the one federation – one voice. Putting the federation forum into the by laws was a concern and now OFA has addressed it.
- PAC has been the jack of all trades and master of none. Going forward as a smaller group is a viable concept going forward. As an idea, PAC could meet twice a year and member forum could meet twice a year. Good to have a broader resource for the board, a hybrid of what we have now
- I feel that counties should send to the meetings the one person that is the best – more flexibility and quick turn around on information. Still get to meet each other in person and will include training etc.
- If young farmer attendance is a concern for not attending Federation Forum, the AGM is a perfect opportunity to nurture new people.
- A lot of responsibility on me as County President to implement the mission of the OFA.
- I look at PAC as a great communication tool, as a educational tool for new directors for OFA. If I can leave some of my wisdom with young guys here. I am not in favour of ripping the roots. We showed that we can get stuff done in quick order. With the three severances. I like PAC I think it does a better job.
- Commodity partners are important – they should be apart of any forum that we end up having. If a county wants to bring a young member as a guest. Maybe that should be allowed.
- Very few newer people that are coming to PAC. Allow someone new to come forward if you have been around the table for awhile.

- My third year coming to PAC – getting to know people. Each time I come here, helps me understand the organization better. Helps SW become more engaged together. It is the social aspect that helps me learn.
- In the last couple of years, we have not spent the \$75,000 per year of the PAC budget - it is not excessive – does have merit. To bring communications back and forth. Benefit for larger counties to have larger representation, a larger voice will do better at the local level. Tweak PAC and not throw it out.
- Hybrid version of the two – you are killing something that people rely on and giving us something that we do not understand.
- Add term limits to PAC or Federation Forum
- Give each county the ability to bring a new or young member to a meeting and have the county pick up that cost.
- Getting people engaged is an issue – PAC plays an important role for getting new board members. 6 people put their names forward for three positions on the PAC steering committee and the five board positions were acclaimed. In favour of making this better not shutting it down.
- Does board of directors have a strategic plan for leadership development. Drew responded, yes, lots of good things that we are working on – event at COFS and working on training piece. Investments in AALP.
- Thank you for bringing it forward to the PAC – look forward to the policy you will develop and provide prior to the AGM. Don't change the name but each federation having a voice is important. Smaller voices are not being heard – remember that means three voices are overpowering the smaller federations.

## **Adjournment**