

Organic Council of Ontario Annual General Meeting 10 am, March 29th, 2023 - virtual

In Attendance

Members: Nicole North (Board Member), Amanda Peer (Board Member), Hugh Martin, Dave Lockman (Board Member), Krysten Cooper (Board Member), Andrew St Jean, Ann-Marie Saunders (Board Member), Dean Martin, Helene St. Jacques, Jen Berman Diaz, Joel Aitken, Lauren Stallard Wedderburn (Board Member), Norm Hansen (Board Member), Rob Wallbridge (Board Member), Ruth Knight (Board Member), Wayne Angelo Aloff, Yasser Ghoreishi, Ben Cullen (Board Member), Shawn Brenneman, Aaron Coristine, David Cohlmeier (Board Member), Adolph Ng, Kristiina Mai, Tomas Nimmo (via phone), [list all members present], Simon Jaques (cota)

Non-Members: Charlie Tian, Kate Barlow

Others: Carolyn Young (Executive Director), Kaelin Barichello, Kelly Carmichael, Stephanie Brunet, Briana Vanular, Brazil Gaffney-Knox, Amy Elvidge, Maggie Chang [list OCO staff and other non-members present]

Minutes recorded by: Nicole North

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chair - 9:51am EST

2. Approve 2023 AGM Agenda

Motion to approve 2023 AGM Agenda

Motioned by: Nicole North

Seconded by: Krysten Cooper

Yes: 100% No: 0%

Abstain: 0

Motion: approved

3. Approve 2022 AGM Minutes

Motion to approve 2022 AGM minutes

Motioned by: Rob Wallbridge
Seconded by: Ann Marie Saunders
Yes: 100% No: 0% Abstain: 0
Motion: approved

4. Activities Report

Policy and Regulatory, Stable Funding, Ontario Organic Campaign, Membership, Funding, Organic Data Strategy, Guelph Organic Conference, Looking Forward to 2023

5. Approval of Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Motion to approve amendment of Article 4.1 of the bylaws to increase the maximum number of board seats from 12 to 16

Motioned by: Norm Hansen
Seconded by: Ruth Knight
Yes: 100% No: 0% Abstain: 0
Motion: approved

6. Financial Report presented by Curtis-Villar LLP Chartered Accountants

Motion to invite members to approve the 2022 Financial Statements at the next board meeting

Motion: to move the approval of the financial statements to the next board meeting on April 20th, 2023

Motioned by: Norm Hansen
Seconded by: Krysten Cooper
Yes: 100% No: 0% Abstain: 0
Motion: approved

7. Approve 2023 Auditor

Motion to approve Curtis-Villar LLP as the auditor for Organic Council of Ontario for 2023

Motion: to move the approval of the financial statements to the next board meeting on April 20th, 2023

Motioned by: Norm Hansen
Seconded by: Ann-Marie Saunders
Yes: 100% No: 0% Abstain: 0
Motion: approved

8. Any New Business

9. Results of Board Elections Announced

2023 Nominees

Name	Business	Board Category
Bob Reeves	Root Rescue Environmental Products	Director-At-Large
Dave Cohlmeier	David Cohlmeier Consulting	Director-At-Large
Dean Martin	Harrow Organic Farms	Producer (Certified) & Director-At-Large
Hélène St Jacques	Informa Market Research	Director-At-Large
Krysten Cooper	Yorkshire Valley Farms	Value-Chain (Certified) & Director-At-Large
Lauren Stallard	Pfenning's Organic Vegetables	Value-Chain (Certified) & Director-At-Large
Norm Hansen	Erievue Acres	Producer (Certified) & Director-At-Large
Randy Gananathan	Woodstone Farm	Director-At-Large
Rob Wallbridge	SureSource Commodities	Value-Chain (Certified) & Director-At-Large
Ruth Knight	Organic Consultant, Inc.	Director-At-Large
Wayne Alof	Organic Halal Foods International	Director-At-Large

Results of Election

Elected for Value Chain (Certified): Lauren Stallard

Elected for Producer (Certified): Dean Martin

Elected for At-Large: Krysten Cooper, Ruth Knight, Rob Wallbridge, Norm Hansen

Motion to destroy the election ballots

Motioned by: Nicole North

Seconded by: Yasser Ghoreishi

Yes: 100% No: 0%

Abstain: 0

Motion: approved

10. Adjournment - 10:59am

Motioned by: Norm Hansen
Seconded by: Krysten Cooper

11. Panel: Why we still need organic regulation in Ontario

- Ontario is 1 of only 3 provinces that don't have other regulations around organic
- if producing something in Ontario and is moving outside of province, must be certified
- anyone in Ontario is free to use the term organic as long as they are not using the logo or having product cross a border
- current loophole making businesses susceptible to fraud
- consumer has an expectation/trust of what they're buying if it's labelled as organic