



## ONTARIO BIOMASS PRODUCERS CO-OPERATIVE INC.

*for a cleaner tomorrow*

**Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Ontario Biomass Producers Cooperative Inc.  
Monday March 7, 2019 – 10:30 am – 2:203pm  
Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre, Campbellville Ontario**

**Attending Directors:** Peter Lambrick, Norm Richardson, Don Nott, Peter Lambrick, Scott Abercrombie, Urs Eggimann, Larry Davis

**Attending Advisors:** Domenic Cavallo, Mahendra Thimmanagari

**Members:** Jay Kitching, Michael Rich, Fred Brown

**Guests:** Stacy Weber, David Palowski, Sandy Marshall, Tina Yan, Doug Yungblut, Jim Todd, Jordan Graham, Sean Simpson, David Phibbs, Erica Pate, Jon Gingerich, Gail Carpenter, Carl Hadfield, Diana Martin, Jake DeBruyn, Lucas McNea, Khurshid Saharan

**Staff:** Patricia Ellingwood

**Call to order:** 10:35 am

**10:30 am - Introduction to AGM and Welcome - Larry Davis, OBPC**

Larry Davis welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted the Directors in the room.

**Speaker Introduction - Norm Richardson, OBPC**

Norm introduced each speaker and provided a brief bio/interest of study for each.

**10:40 am - Feeding switchgrass to dairy cattle: What we know and don't know - Dr. Gail Carpenter, U of Guelph**

[Feeding switchgrass to dairy cattle: What we know and don't know](#)

**10:55 am - Miscanthus, Switchgrass and Wheat Straw Comparison - Erica Pate, Mahendra Thimmanagari, OMAFRA**

[Comparing Miscanthus, Switchgrass & Wheat Straw for Reduced Winter Injury in Strawberries](#)

**11:10 am - SOC sequestration as influenced by land-use systems and soil types in southern Ontario - Jordan Graham**

[Influence of Switchgrass and Miscanthus on Soil Organic Carbon contents in Ontario Soils](#)

**11:20 am - The potential role of biofertilizer on biomass crop productivity and soil health - Sean Simpson**

[The Potential Role of Biofertilizer on Biomass Crop Productivity and Soil Health](#)

**11:40 am - Switchgrass new varieties performance trials - Don Nott & Roger Samson**  
[Switchgrass Seed Growing Experiences at Nott Farms](#)

**11:55 am-12:10pm - Other initiatives updates**  
[Other Initiatives Update](#)

**12:15- 1:00pm Lunch**

**1:00pm-1:30pm - Business Meeting**

Jamie Fisher thanked everyone; Directors, Advisors, and staff for their hard work in 2018.

- **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to Approve the [March 7, 2019 Annual General Meeting Agenda](#)**

**Moved by:** Norm Richardson

**Seconded by:** Glenn Young

**Voted & carried**

- **Approval of the February 6th, 2018 AGM Minutes**

**Motion to Approve the [February 6, 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes](#) as circulated**

**Moved by:** Larry Davis

**Seconded by:** Glenn Young

**Voted & carried**

- **Business Arising from Minutes**

None

- **Financial Report - Peter Lambrick**

Peter reported that the financials are not yet finalized. There was a miscommunication with BDO on the statement of earnings which resulted in erroneous tax liabilities. This miscommunication was due to product quotes that had not resulted in sales. The statements have been corrected and show an approximate \$9,500 deficit, and no taxes owing. Peter credited the improved financial position to Jamie Fisher's hard work with sales. Peter is working with BDO to finalize the statements for presentation at the OBPC Board Meeting on April 8, 2019.

Peter reviewed the [2019 Proposed Budget](#).

The expenses are relatively minimal and are consistent with 2018.

OBPC still sources administration through Grey County Agricultural Services (Grey Ag) in Markdale and thanked them for a great job. Money has been invested in research projects and OBPC is starting to see results. The largest expense is shipping associated with switchgrass. Freight and shipping costs have now been included. 2019 has an anticipated net income of \$17,000 and cash at the end of the year to be \$22,440.

- **Approval of Financial Report**

**Motion to Authorize the Board of Directors to Approve the Financial Statement on behalf of the OBPC membership at the April 8, 2019 Board Meeting.**

**Moved by:** Norm Richardson  
**Seconded by:** Don Nott  
**Voted & carried**

**Motion to accept the 2019 Budget as Presented**

**Moved by:** Larry Davis  
**Seconded by:** Norm Richardson  
**Voted & carried**

- **Approval of 2019 Financial Reviewer**  
**Motion to Approve BDO as the Financial Reviewer for 2019**  
**Moved by:** Peter Lambrick  
**Seconded by:** Don Nott  
**Voted & carried**

**1:30-1:40 pm - Election of Directors - 4 open positions for 3 years and 1 vacancy for 1-year term.**

Jamie Fisher reviewed the [Director's Term Summary](#).

Five positions were declared open

Directors with terms ending in 2019:

Glenn Young - will allow his name to stand for 2019

Frank Hoftyzer – has not confirmed that he will return another term

Directors resigning in 2019

Urs Eggimann

Larry thanked Urs for his service and dedication to the Board and Jamie presented Urs with a token of appreciation.

Nominations for new Directors declared open

**4 open positions for 3 years and 1 vacancy for 1-year term**

John Malecki volunteered for a 3-year term.

Nominations closed.

Jamie Fisher declared 3 Directors by Acclimation: Glenn Young, Frank Hoftyzer, and John Malecki

Elections concluded.

**1:40-1:55 pm - Market Update James Fisher**

Jamie reported that there are many markets developing.

Glenn Young has been the lead on a project for chopped, dedusted, and bagged bedding, mostly for the horse market. Don Nott has been selling fine chopped switchgrass and has arranged to sell bales and custom chop onsite for customers. He has also discovered a use for the fines created in the dedusting process. Scott Abercrombie has provided miscanthus pellets to a greenhouse that is doing a mulch trial.

There has been expressed interest in doing a potting trial for the flower pot market. Miscanthus is the favoured product as there are no seeds. This will be the first commercial market for miscanthus.

Orders are lined up for switchgrass bales. Jamie noted that don, who formerly managed switchgrass sales was an excellent salesman and the demand is reflective of his efforts. Jamie has been discouraging switchgrass sales in attempt to meet the current demand. Jamie will continue to manage the sales until year-end. Projections show that there may be money available to hire a part-time marketer.

Jamie noted that 2020 looks good and the co-op is on-track. The Board is working on developing a grower contract and anticipate one will be available in 2020. Jamie will talk to growers about contracts and marketing in the next 3-4 weeks. Anyone producing or interested in producing switchgrass should talk to Jamie by the end of March. It is anticipated that the 2019 switchgrass supply will be sold out early in the year.

### **1:55-2:10 pm - Goldfield Update - Dayna Hale**

Jamie introduced Dayna as the bedding guru. Goldfield has purchased 12 trailer loads of switchgrass and has signed a contract to purchase 1load/week for the 2020 year.

Dayna thanked the co-op for the invitation to speak at the AGM. Dayna explained that she is from a horse background provides bedding to high level competition horses. The two greatest concerns for this market are:

1. Dust extraction – horses have sensitive lungs
2. Comfort – the horses must accept it

Goldfield offers a variety of lengths and cuts for their customers and are looking to get into the pet market with a scented product.

Goldfield's contract is for 1 load/month and they are currently compensating the supply gap with wheat straw as OBPC ramps up production. Dayna noted that the absorbency of switchgrass is excellent, and it trumps the colour of the wheat straw. For dust removal, they are using a proprietary method that uses air, the equipment is originally from the UK.

Q: Does the spring harvested switchgrass give better footing?

A: Yes, and more absorbent.

Dayna stated that she looks forward to working with OBPC.

### **2:10-2:25 pm - Sock Project Update - Norm Richardson/ Domenic Cavallo**

[The Sock-Project Update](#)

### **2:25-2:40pm - Bio-Origins - Sukhraj Kairon**

[Biodegradable Food Packaging from Bio-mass](#)

OBPC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bio-Origins. The technology presented was using biomass to create disposable food packaging. The company's vision is to replace single-use Styrofoam food packaging with biodegradable dinnerware. Target markets include packaging for retail food sales i.e. grocery stores, and the restaurant market i.e. disposable dinnerware.

**2:40-2:45pm - Wrap-up and Adjournment - Larry Davis, OBPC**

Larry Davis thanked the Directors for their hard work and attendance at the AGM. Larry also thanked the speakers, members and government attendees for their attendance and participation. Larry welcomed John back to the Board and noted that anyone else interested in a Board position to contact Jamie or Patricia.

**Adjourn:** 2:46 pm

**Moved by:** Norm Richardson