



Annual Meeting 2015



Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists
April 9, 2015
Best Western Glengarry, Truro
info@nsagrologists.ca

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NSIA Council 2014-2015

Peter Burgess	President	Chair – Professional Development Committee, Education Standard Committee
Janette McDonald	Past-President	Co-chair – Program Committee Chair – Nominations Committee
Jacqueline Hoyt	President Elect	Chair – Honours & Awards Committee, Finance Committee
Mike Devanney	Councilor	Chair – Communications Committee
Carolyn Van Den Heuvel	Councilor	Co-Chair – Program Committee
Monica Sani-Berry	Councilor	Chair – Agrology club
Keith Fuller	Councilor	Chair – CNMP Committee
Av Singh	Councilor	
Rebecca Sooksom	Councilor	Chair – Scholarship Committee
Laurie Eagles	Executive Director/Registrar	

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome by President
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Moment of Silence
5. Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2014 Semi-Annual Meeting
6. Business Arising From Minutes
7. Reports:
 - a. President's Report
 - b. Executive Director's Report
 - c. Committees of Council
8. Financial Report
 - a. Appointment of Auditor
9. New Business
 - a. Membership Survey Results
 - b. Discussion on Professional Development Program
10. Other
11. NSIA Pins
12. NSIA Membership Certificates
13. Transfer of Presidency
14. NSIA Past President's Plaque
15. Adjournment

Minutes Semi-Annual Meeting November 19, 2014

1) Call To Order: President Peter Burgess called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Approximately 30 members attended

2) Welcome by President: President Burgess welcomed all to the meeting.

3) Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Jim Goit moved and Alan Fredeen seconded that the agenda be approved as circulated. **Carried**

4) Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was observed for those members who are no longer with us.

5) Approval of the Minutes of April 10, 2014 Annual General Meeting:

Motion: Janette MacDonald moved and Rosalie Madden seconded that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. **Carried**

6) Business Arising from the Minutes:

No Business Arising from Minutes.

7) Reports:

a) President's Report

b) Executive Director's Report

c) Committees of Council

Motion: Jacqueline Hoyt moved and Keith Fuller seconded that all reports be accepted as presented. **Carried**

8) Financial Report:

Laurie Eagles presented the 2015 Budget

Motion: Keith Fuller moved and Yousef Papadopoulos seconded that the 2015 budget be accepted as presented. **Carried**

9) New Business:

No New Business

10) Membership Certificates:

Membership Certificates were awarded to the following people:

Articling Agrologists (A.Ag.)

Jill MacDonald

Professional Agrologists (P.Ag.)

Dawn Barrington-Hodgson

Chris Duyvelshoff

Mohamed Farouk

Farshad Khademi

Rosalie Madden

Mullai Manoharan

Greg Piorkowski

Cory Roberts

Jillian Saulnier

11) Other

12) Adjournment: There being no other items of business, Keith Fuller moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Laurie Eagles

President's Report

Council has been working hard to make the institute more relevant to its members and the agricultural industry as a whole. There have been several initiatives that were started this year that are showing signs of success.

We've just completed our first year of Professional Development requirements for NSIA. This is a requirement of most professional associations and council is happy how the launch of this program, within NSIA, has gone. We still feel we need to improve communication with members so they can fully understand how to update their PD credits and understand the importance of this initiative to the profession. That being said we had over 70% compliance in the first year. It is hoped our newly updated website will allow for easier entry of PD credits and make it easier for compliance. This is an important part of ensuring industry and public confidence in our profession.

As I outlined at the semi-annual meeting we are also working on clarifying our education entrant requirements for the institute. There is a fair amount of vagueness in the Act and this makes it challenging for council to have consistent decisions from year to year. We have a draft process that quantifies the entrance requirements and makes entry into the institute clear and transparent and at the same time allow for labour mobility across the country.

We are continuing to work with the Department of Environment, to allow PAg's that work in the

area of soil remediation and soil reclamation the ability to work in their areas of practice in NS.

The institute has been working hard with our traditional programs to offer networking and learning opportunities for our members. The fall tour, Hot Topics in Agriculture and our AGM conference will continue to be big components of our program delivery. However, we will be looking for new ways to provide value to our members.

Council is also looking at a longer term project which will involve modernizing the Act. This will allow for more clarity for council and more flexibility to potentially offer a technical agrologist designation.

I want to thank Laurie for all the work she has done and the energy she has brought to the institute. Much of what has been accomplished would not have happened without her guidance. I'd also like to thank council for the great work they have done on behalf of the institute. It has been a very good group to work with.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Burgess

Executive Director's Report

2014 has been a very busy year for NSIA and it seems that as one task is completed there are two more to do. Council has worked very hard to move important issues forward and to improve the processes and transparency of the day-to-day business of council. Our accomplishments over the past year include:

- Increased communication with members through regular posting of council meeting minutes on our website and the enews letter.
- Improved benefits with member's access to Errors and Omissions Insurance and General Liability Insurance.
- The formation of an Education Standard Committee to develop a fair and objective process for evaluating applicants. We have developed a really great tool but there are a few issues that still need to be addressed such as processes for International applicants, developing a list of agricultural equivalent degrees, a policy on work experience etc. The goal is to have this completed for the semi-annual meeting in November.
- Development of new promotional material with the assistance of funding through Home-Grown Success. The cards have gone out to agricultural businesses and commodity associations throughout the province accompanied by a letter detailing who we are and what we do.
- Working with Department of Environment to ensure Agrologists are recognized site professionals.
- Continued work on the website and development of a database tool to provide oversight on areas of practice. This will be launched within the next week or so. For this

to be effective, all members must participate. More information about this will be going out soon.

- Active committees lead by engaged councilors and committee members.

We will continue to improve our processes and provide value to our membership. We will also continue to build partnerships with government, industry and the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture as we work to promote our profession. I welcome your comments and feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Eagles

Registrar's Report to December 31, 2014

Status	Dec 31 2014	Dec 31 2013	Dec 31 2012
Professional Agrologists	232	238	231
Articling Agrologist	3	8	8
Retired Agrologists	21	20	19
Distinguished Life Member	7	8	10
Distinguished Life Member Honorary	22	21	22
Associate Members	2	3	2
Students	0	0	0
Total	287	298	292

Membership Statistics for 2014

Status Change	
New P.Ag.s	18
P.Ag. to Retired	7
P.Ag. to Discontinued	15
Transfers Out	5
Transfer In	1
A.Ag.s to P.Ag.s	3
New A.Ag.s	3
A.Ag. to Discontinued	5
RT to Discontinued	6
DLM to DLMH	1
AM to Discontinued	1
Deceased	1

Program Committee Report

The role of the program committee is to organize programs and activities of benefit to our members. With the introduction of mandatory professional development, it is our goal to provide our members with current professional development opportunities throughout the year.

There were a number of events held this past year under the direction of the Program Committee including:

- July 8, 2014: Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program session at Keddy Nurseries
- September 20, 2014: Farmers Markets of Nova Scotia Impact Study
- October 16, 2014: Fall Tour which included presentations on current research in the Wild Blueberry Industry in Nova Scotia, a visit to Masstown Market and a tour of Millen Farms Ltd.
- November 19, 2014: Semi-Annual Meeting with a panel discussion on Certified Nutrient Management Planning Programs
- February 10, 2015: “Meet the Grads”
- February 18, 2015: A Hot Topic Series session on Innovation in the Agriculture Industry

The Program Committee has reformatted the Lunch and Learn series and will be hosting a number of *Hot Topics in Agriculture* events throughout the upcoming year. We are currently working to develop criteria for the *Hot Topics in Agriculture* series so that a regional group of members could receive some financial assistance to host an approved event in their area. Further information on this will be available in the upcoming months.

The next *Hot Topics in Agriculture* event will be held on April 21, 2015 at the Best Western Glengarry at 12pm. The topic is Succession Planning with presentations from Yvonne Thyssen-Post, Thyagrissen Consulting Ltd. and Maxine MacLean, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Plans for the 2015 Fall Tour to be held in October are underway with a theme focusing on Biodiversity on Agriculture.

We have enjoyed this past year as Program Committee Co-Chairs and look forward to future events. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have relating to the Program Committee.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel & Janette McDonald
Co-Chairs, Program Committee

Education Standard Committee Report

The Education Standard committee has had an eventful year. We began the year exploring options for a National Education Standard with the loss of University Accreditation through AIC. A proposed National Standard laid out university course requirements for all Agrologists in Canada. NSIA council was concerned with this approach, as it did not assess course content and the vagueness of the Standard concerned us on how it could be applied in Nova Scotia and if it would greatly restrict the ability for professionals to join the institute.

Agrologist Canada has subsequently decided to move away from a National Standard and appears to be moving more towards competency requirements, similar to what has been already adopted in Quebec.

In Nova Scotia, we decided we needed to have more clarity and transparency around entrance requirements into NSIA. The act does lay out these requirements, but they are vague and can be interpreted differently as council changes from year to year. The committee developed an internal tool, which will allow for consistent, quantitative decisions from council to council.

Also as we look at modernizing the Act in the coming years, this committee is looking at the possibility of introducing a 2nd tier Agrologist for Nova Scotia (ie. "Technical Agrologist"). This designation, would not be a transferable designation across Canada, but would be a way to integrate valuable individuals, who don't have the post-secondary requirements to be a Professional, into the institute. We are looking for feedback from members on the possibility of creating this designation.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Burgess

Professional Development Committee Report

This past year, was the first year where Professional Development reporting was a requirement for Professional Agrologists in Nova Scotia. This is quite a change from what has been required

from members in the past. The initiative was started by council, several years ago, as a response to strategic planning and feedback from Agrologists.

As a regulated profession, there is a requirement for us to show due diligence in maintaining our currency within our areas of practice. Reporting of the professional development activities we undertake, on an annual basis, is a documented way to show currency and professionalism. In practice, the vast majority of Agrologists in Nova Scotia have been collecting way more PD credits than is required by NSIA for years.

Industry AGMs, workshops, NSIA events, twilight meetings, educational sessions around your area of practices are all examples of professional development that meet the NSIA PD standards. If anyone has questions on what actually qualifies, please contact Laurie at the office.

Council was very happy with the initial uptake with this program, with 138 professionals submitting their PD reports to date. With the improvement of our website and an increased information campaign, we hope to increase compliance to near 100% in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Burgess

Honours and Awards Committee Report

Each year, the NSIA Honours & Awards Committee recognizes life achievements, dedication, and outstanding contribution to agriculture in Nova Scotia. Awards are presented at the Annual Meeting in the spring.

In addition to the NSIA Awards, the family of the late C.A. Douglas allows the NSIA to facilitate and administer the presentation of the C.A. Douglas Award recognizing an outstanding agriculture extension worker providing public service in the province of Nova Scotia. This is the last year that the award will go to a member of the NSIA. In order to have the fund endowed, the Douglas Family and NSIA agreed to move the fund to Dalhousie University. Going forward the fund will be a student award. The Douglas family is working with Dalhousie to sort out the details around the award but they would like to continue the link with agrology and NSIA and have requested that the award be presented at our annual banquet.

This years' award winners are:

Distinguished Agrologist – Gordon (Sonny) Murray, P.Ag.

Distinguished Life Member – Derrick Jamieson, P.Ag.

Outstanding Young Agrologist – Janette McDonald, P.Ag.

Honourary Member – Beth Densmore

Outstanding Farmer – Spurr Brothers Ltd.

CA Douglas Award Winner – Jolene MacEachern, P.Ag.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Hoyt

Agrology Club Report

In August, 2014 an initial meeting was called to discuss the focus of the Agrology Club at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus. Those present were Monica Sani-Berry, NSIA Committee Chair, Audrey-Jo McConkey and Jean Lynds past NSIA Chairs of the Committee, Robyn McCallum and Rosalie Madden who are co-chairs of the club. It was decided that the Agrology club would move to a more inclusive model and work with all student groups and clubs and combine resources.

During the meeting, it was discussed that the following agenda would be followed for the 2014/15 academic year:

- Orientation Welcome Package insert
- Club Fair September 9th – bookmarks, magnets and sign-up sheet
- Conferences, field trips and community activities
- NSIA Meet the Grads
- \$500 Club Budget Request from NSIA
- Professional Development Opportunities – cross list topics with SAIL, Student Leadership
- Health and Wellness – partner with RESPECT Program on campus
- Science Fair – volunteer
- Ag. Literacy Week - volunteer

Fall 2014 Event

- DASA Club Fair September 9th – Information and Sign-Up, magnets and book marks give-away
- Thursday September 11th – 1st Agrology Club meeting in DASA – Chef's Garden manager was there to promote volunteering in the garden. A 1 page information sheet on NSIA was provided to the Agrology Club members.
- Thursday Sept 19th, SAIL (Student Advancement in Leadership) promoted Ag. Club and 5 more members joined. There will be seminars offered through SAIL that Agrology Club members are welcome to join.
- Regular Agrology Club meetings and events scheduled for Tuesdays. All events have been posted on the Agrology Club Facebook page.
- Open Farm Day, Sunday September 21st, 13 students carpoled and visited 4 farms in the Tatamagouche area: Seafoam Lavender Farm, Bella Vista, Jost Vineyard and Lismore sheep farm.
- Garlic Planting and Clean-Up in the Dal AC Community Garden
- Agrology Club fundraising event Toque Sale - \$5 per toque.

Winter 2015 Events

- Clean NS presentation to the Agrology Club – collaboration event. Agrology Club was asked to critique the presentation that Clean NS gives to 10th and 11th graders.
- Attendance at Hort Congress
- Attendance at NSIA Meet the Grads Night

- Attendance at East Coast Student Leadership Conference and presentation “Being an Advocate: Making informed purchase decisions in supporting your local farmers”
- Atlantic Grains Council Conference attendance
- Ag. Literacy week volunteering
- Seminar Series in Agriculture and Ruminant regular attendance
- Purchase and screening of “Till the Cows Come Home”
- Ag. Connect Conference attendance and volunteering
- ACORN Conference attendance and volunteering

The academic year is coming to a close and the Agrology Club is in the process of succession planning and a new club chair, Morgan McNeil has agreed to begin planning the 2015/16 agenda. The 2014/15 year has been exciting for the Agrology Club and has seen a significant growth in participation in membership of up to 25 members.

The 2014/15 Dalhousie University Agrology Club thanks NSIA for its support and collaboration in offering programming and opportunities to the members of the club.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Sani-Berry

Communications Committee Report

Membership survey results to be presented under new business.

CNMP Committee Report

On November 19, 2014 the NSIA held a NMP Workshop at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. Forty agricultural professionals attended. The goal of this event was to provide a critical assessment of the current state of Nutrient Management Planning in Nova Scotia.

The NSIA conducted a detailed survey of the 12 Certified Nutrient Management Planners in the province. The results of that survey were presented. As well, three invited speakers gave presentations on three different nutrient management models. Following the presentations, a facilitated discussion was conducted where the workshop participants were asked to provide their answers to the following three questions: What would the ideal Nutrient Management Program look like for the Nova Scotia circumstance; what are the barriers to getting to the idea; what are the first steps that need to be taken to move forward?

Several recommendations were put forward in the final report which was sent to the NSFA, NSDA, NS Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Perennia and Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture.

Comparative Income Statement to Dec 31 2014

	Actual 2014	Budget 2014	2013	2012
		<i>Amended</i>		
Income				
Investment Income	\$248.94			\$2,081.63
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$30.00			
NSIA Fees	\$37,642.50	\$36,855.00	\$36,511.64	\$35,025.00
CNMP Fees	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$650.00	\$550.00
Program Income	\$1,836.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,995.00	\$1,680.00
HomeGrown Success	\$401.33			\$0.16
CA Douglas Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		
Total Income	\$41,758.77	\$40,155.00	\$39,156.64	\$39,336.79
Expenses				
Admin Support	\$1,230.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,035.00	\$460.00
Advertising	\$575.00	\$575.00		\$277.21
Agrology Club	\$529.49	\$500.00	\$200.00	\$606.83
Awards	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$2,000.00
Bank Charges/PayPal	\$427.75	\$450.00	\$120.76	\$133.14
Council Expense	\$85.20	\$100.00	\$749.14	\$483.56
Executive Director	\$14,880.00	\$13,500.00	\$15,646.25	\$9,194.24
Insurance-Liability	\$1,600.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,879.00
IT Service	\$1,633.50	\$1,500.00	\$1,812.50	\$667.00
Miscellaneous	\$120.00	\$100.00	\$72.63	\$40.45
National Membership Fee	\$2,270.00	\$2,440.00	\$2,430.00	\$2,950.00
Office Rental	\$3,846.92	\$3,900.00	\$3,451.73	\$1,222.92
Office Supplies	\$323.03	\$200.00	\$801.73	\$4,306.09
Phone	\$571.49	\$600.00	\$605.73	\$532.74
Photo-Copies/Printing	\$319.61	\$300.00	\$995.03	\$718.28
Postage & Delivery	\$24.53	\$50.00	\$379.28	\$403.00
Professional Services	\$2,273.95	\$1,900.00	\$1,811.00	\$2,300.00
Program Expense	\$7,556.25	\$6,500.00	\$6,899.63	\$4,255.58
Regulatory Compliance	\$2,440.00	\$2,440.00	\$2,430.00	\$2,450.00
Travel	\$664.05	\$600.00	\$1,881.47	\$3,308.91
Total Expenses	\$42,370.77	\$39,855.00	\$43,171.88	\$38,188.95
Net Income Over Expenses	\$(612.00)	\$300.00	-\$4,015.24	\$1,147.84

Balance Sheet to December 31 2014

ASSET			
Current Assets			
Paypal	0.00		
Money Market Account	8,812.36		
NSIA & 50th Anniversary Scholarship	54,866.00		
CA Douglas Fund	32,334.06		
Chequing Bank Account	1,672.50		
Total Cash		97,684.92	
GIC - Regulatory Compliance		7,446.88	
Accounts Receivable	0.00		
CA Douglas Award Receivable	0.00		
Total Receivable		0.00	
Purchase Prepayments		0.00	
Total Current Assets		105,131.80	
Capital Assets			
Leasehold Improvements		0.00	
Office Furniture & Equipment	0.00		
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	0.00		
Net - Furniture & Equipment		0.00	
Total Capital Assets		0.00	
TOTAL ASSET		105,131.80	
LIABILITY			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable		0.00	
Regulatory Compliance Payable		0.00	
Prepaid Sales/Deposits		0.00	
Total Current Liabilities		0.00	

Long Term Liabilities			
Bank Loans		0.00	
Total Long Term Liabilities		0.00	
TOTAL LIABILITY		0.00	
EQUITY			
Owner's Equity			
Owners Contribution		0.00	
Owners Withdrawals		0.00	
Retained Earnings - Previous Year		104,303.80	
Current Earnings		828.00	
Total Owners Equity		105,131.80	
TOTAL EQUITY		105,131.80	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		105,131.80	
Generated On: 12/01/2015			



White Owl Accounting Services



April 8, 2015

To the Board of Directors of
Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists
Perennia Innovation Park
60 Research Drive
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2

Re: Financial Statements Review for the year ended December 31, 2014

I have reviewed the financial statements of Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair representation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my review of financial documentation. The review involved verifying documentation of sample accounting entries, and in this regard no errors or omissions have been found.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Marie Mattie'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Lynn Marie Mattie

White Owl Accounting Services

330 Brunswick Street, Truro, NS B2N 2J6 (902) 441-8479

NSIA 50 & 25 Year Membership Pins

The Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists in 2003, as part of their 50th year Anniversary, instituted a program of recognition by providing 50 and 25 year pins to those members who have served the industry for those periods of time.

For 2015, we are pleased to present the following 50 year pin:

William Hanlon

For 2015, we are pleased to present the following 25 year pins:

Gordon Brewster

Sherry Fillmore

Louise Lindsay

John Murray

NSIA Membership Certificates

The following members will receive their Membership Certificate at this annual meeting.

Professional Agrologists:

Eileen Beaton

Peter Nelson

Janet Walker

Past President's Plaque

Peter Burgess 2014-2015