

**OCIA International AGMM 2008  
Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico  
February 28, 29, 2008 March 1, 2008  
Thursday, February 28, 2008**

**1. Welcome Messages/Invocation 8:55 AM CST**

Jeff Dewald (JD) advised assembly of requested conduct/procedures and welcomed the assembly.

**1. a. Call Meeting to Order:** JD called the meeting to order at 8:57 AM.

JD asked for a moment of silence in honor of long-time member Victor Chrapko. JD introduced the BoD members.

**1. b. Election Committee Report and Establishment of Quorum:** Wes Baker.

Wes Baker (WB) advised of changes to Election Committee membership and thanked members and staff for their work.

**OCIA International: Attachment –**

**Numbers are recorded as follows: 418 Chapter, 25 CGG, 63 Corporate, Members at Large 11. Total votes 517. Quorum 1/3 of membership = 172**

**Votes in 287. Proxy for Quorum 70 . Votes received = 357 .**

**Proxy for Quorum , Anticipated Delgate votes . Total =**

**OCIA Research and Education:**

**Membership 374, Chapter 356, CGG 1, Corporate 15 , MAL 2 , Supporting 0 , Total Votes 374 .**

**Quorum = 1/2 of membership = 187 .**

**Votes in 253, Proxy for Quorum 50 , Votes received = 303 .**

**Proxy for Quorum , Quorum anticipated, Delegate votes , Total .**

**1. c. Explanation of Minute Keeping Process and Duties of Referees:** Ed Snavelly

Ed Snavelly (ES) explained the minute keeping process and requested speakers talk clearly. ES explained the duties of referees and advised attendees to bring corrections to secretary or himself.

**1. d. Approval of Minute Keeping Process**

Marion McBride asked about approval of minute keeping process. JD asked for motion to approve minute keeping process. Carl Eidsness moved, Susan Tyler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motioned passed with no opposing votes and no abstentions.

**1. e. Selection of Referees (2) for the Minutes**

JD asked for two referees. Dale Maass and Br. Kurt Van Kuren volunteered.

**1. f. Approval of Recording the Meeting**

JD asked for motion to record the meeting. Sven Schalit (SS) moved, Marion McBride 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried with no opposing votes and no abstentions.

**1. g Approval of Proposed Agenda**

**SS moved for agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marion McBride.**

**SS requested time later in the day for the Mexico Chapter #6, 11 after break.**

Steve Elliott (SE) requested to have next item (approval of 2007 AGMM minutes) moved down, since minutes are being distributed.

JD asked for vote with those two changes. Carried with no opposing votes and no abstentions.

**2. Approval of 2007 AGMM Minutes - Moved**

**3. Election of 2008 Election Committee (3 members)**

58 SS moved to take Bryce Stephens, Wes Baker, and Clark Phillips as Election Committee members. Susan Tyler 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
59 Motion passed with no opposing votes and no abstentions.  
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#### 4. Reports:

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##### a. President's Report : DeEtta Bilek

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DeEtta Bilek (DeB) thanked Mexico chapter for inviting members to Huatulco for AGMM. See Attachment .

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##### Questions:

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Carl Eidsness asked for more information on meeting with China reps, asked if any staff has been to China and in the fields, and what made DeB feel they are doing a good job. Stated concerns if there was a problem with an OCIA-certified operation there.

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DeB stated the NOP audit included China; NOP audited other agencies working with China as well. DeB stated Jeff See (JS) would be more able to explain what is happening with China. JS advised of issue previously, steps taken since include sending staff to China to observe and train China staff. OCIA training department (Kenny, Lebi, Alex) went to China to train inspectors and training continues. Between OCIA and OFDC, 14 trainings have been provided to inspectors. A second inspection, behind first, is being conducted due to concerns for 100% of new applicants and 66% (random) of renewing applicants. China members are not happy with additional inspection, but are cooperative and understand the need. JS attended workshops in Germany at Bio-Fach for integrity issues in China.

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Br. Kurt Van Kuren (KVK) asked for clarification on 100% inspection for multi-sites. DeB advised 2002 recs do not require 100% inspection, but ICS must be documented. KVK asked if they have ICS, they are ok; DeB advised yes and to watch the NOP site; their new rec will be up by April 1 for their next meeting.

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##### b. Executive Director : Jeff See

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JS gave Executive Director report. See Attachment .

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##### Questions:

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**SS requested to ask question; why Donald from Nic is listed on IMO (our competition)'s website. JS advised of Donald taking over office, hired by Homero; did not have a good answer. SS requested to ask Donald. JS questioned whether issue should be addressed here; advised Donald was employed under Homero, but now has a direct contract with OCIA Intl. Advised more**

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**Jake Gei said litigation is not the answer, dialogue is; we should not fight one another and to utilize dialogue.**

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SS stated it was difficult to have dialogue.

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JD requested order.

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Carl Eidsness (CE) requested elaboration of why Spain office closed and more comment on loss of chapter members (reasons why). JS advised JD went with him to meet with Spanish authorities in spring 2007; understanding was they would work with OCIA Spain office to issue certificates. There was a delay of over two years; JD and JS went there and stated OCIA had done all the work; would a member be able to get a certificate to sell directly to the EU? Were told no. Information was brought back to Board. CE asked if there was a change of heart. JS didn't think so, OCIA would be a threat to European certifiers. JS advised IOAS expects to provide equivalency or compliance (would give direct certification) to EU program. JS and DeB met with Mark Bradley (USDA/NOP), have offered to take problems with getting EU certification to Foreign Agriculture Service as barrier to world trade.

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Loss of chapters: JS advised OCIA's strength pre-NOP was the seal, but with the addition of NOP seal, the playing field was leveled. Canadian standards are soon to be implemented, so it given smaller certifiers in Canada the opportunity to stand against OCIA. JS advised the organization values the chapters, but there are chapters where file handlers are not able to keep up; it's difficult to get people to serve on the Boards of the chapters. It's difficult to find people to give up the time to serve. JS advised more people need to get actively involved at the chapter level or modify for other options (Denis Brodner's chapter contracts file handling through Canadian regional office). JS stated the restructure proposal was an attempt to answer these issues.

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Juan (Guatemala Chpt 1) advised they agree with Homero's decision and want their own office in Guatemala.

c. **Secretarial Report** : Ed Snavely

Ed Snavely gave the secretarial report. See Attachment .

d. **Treasurer Report** : Denis Brodner

Denis Brodner gave the treasurer report. See Attachment .

Recess at 10:35 AM, Meeting reconvened at 11:01 AM.

**Insert - Mexico Chapter #6 Requested Time**

Mexico Chapter 6 meeting discussed the situation at their meeting, comes from internal issues faced a few weeks ago. This has impacted growers and members of chapter. This has caused delays in cert renewal and delays in TCs, this has impacted the marketing. Currently this is the season to collect and market product; these issues have seriously impacted the harvest. The situation was discussed yesterday at the assembly, the chapter agreed and proposed the following. Proposal will be delivered by colleague, which was agreed to yesterday.

SS read what came out of meeting yesterday (See Attachment): The members of Chpt 6 in Mexico discussed the issues. After analyzing problems, the proposal:

Background: This hagrately affected chapter and caused delays in renewals and with TCs. Has caused economic lose. After discussion, the following agreement was reached:

Economic return within 8 days after assembly.

TCs for those who have requested need to be immediately.

Request directive from assembly, within 30 days, to reopen regional office with full structure and operation, headquartered in Oaxaca.

Chapter is against the new restructuring proposed by OCIA Intl. Because it weakens the chapter.

If these requests are not served, the chapter may seek to leave or close. The proposal was signed by

Would like assembly to vote.

JD asked if SS was making a Motion; Advised yes.

JD asked for SS to repeat it to the assembly:

1. Delays in certificates and recertifications need to return to their status or be resolved. Not to exceed 8 days after the assembly is dissolved.

2. Seek immediate release of all TCs for all producers that have made requests, but have not yet been released. Seek immediate release of requests made, have them solved as soon as possible.

3. Seek assembly to instruct ED, in term not to exceed 30 days, to reopen regional office for LA, with full operational structure—as it was originally, and the city in Oaxaca.

SS advised last point would not be in motion. SS stated if membership approves motion, required to have this resolved within the timeframe or dire consequences.

JD asked for 2<sup>nd</sup>, KVK 2<sup>nd</sup>. SS clarified it included implementation.

\_\_\_ producers not aware of Intl BOD actions, but talked 3-4 hours to analyse issue. Have lost a lot of money and are still waiting for certificates for months. Unable to reach agreement with AMSA, coffee is detained, and unable to get TCs. Requested to look at issues item by item.

1. For TCs should not be difficult, a button needs to be pushed. After 8 days, second item would be looked at.

JD asked to open floor for discussion.

CE stated the motion was lengthy and complicated; stated he and others might agree with parts of it and not others. Requested to perhaps break motion down into smaller parts to be voted on individually—getting certificates out, as CE understood it the regional office closing had nothing to do with that. The regional office would be a different issue.

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SS agrees, but the chapter wants things as before, but are not talking about resigning Homero's contract—same city, same staff—chapter wants that back within 30 days. SS advised that Julio Gonzalez and Lebi Perez are at meeting rather than working on the files.

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JD stated the membership needs to know some of the details of what happens, said SS could explain and then have ED speak. SS agrees, but wants votes to happen first, as it has nothing to do with termination of contract—they are different issues. The chapter is asking for their regional office back ASAP, without regard to why things happened. SS advised he can explain why things happened from their point of view, but they are asking for their regional office back. They want the same services and same number of staff.

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Susan Tyler (ST) stated that when OCIA offer a service, even when there are internal problems, we don't have the right to cut off the service.

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SS agreed.

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Jim Robbins (JR) stated it would be possible to divide into three proposals, but if proposers do not want to, it can be dealt with. JR summarized the three points. JR stated the TCs should be dealt with as rapidly as possible. Regarding the regional office, JR stated he understood why the chapter members want their regional office, as Canada has theirs. JR explained the background of the establishment of both regional offices. JR stated returning to normal certification seems reasonable and mentioned JS's report where he mentioned the additional staff hired. JR advised there were delays for Canadian TCs.

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JR advised it was mandated by organization to have Mexican regional office, and it is budgeted for. JR stated the issue would be how quickly it can be reestablished, and would support the proposal, but that the 30-day deadline be flexible as long as OCIA Intl. Is trying to meet the deadline and working for it. JR requested the chapter be understanding and allow organization to meet the motion if passed.

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Clark Phillips (CP) requested clarification from SS: wanted to know if same people or the same number of people would be in the Mexico regional office. SS advised it is the same number of people; Homero is unwilling to work with OCIA.

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Steve Elliot (SE) advised that originally regional offices bore their costs, and that the concerns were voiced originally about timeliness of TCs and certificates. SE stated it's not out of line to request this, and he agrees with proposal. Like JR would request deadline flexibility. SE agrees with SS that the issues that closed the regional office is different than the regional office being there.

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SS reemphasized SE's last point.

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JS reminded that the loss was one staff member, but because of contract, all staff was lost. One staff person is now working for OCIA Intl. JS advised procedures are being developed. Advised the delays are expected, and JG and LP have been working to get the files. JS stated the proposal indicates the proposed Mexico regional office would cover all of LA, but it has been stated that members in other countries want their own regional office. JS stated having the motion say all of LA is an error; that other counties want to stand on their own. JS advised the problem is beyond Mexico, because some members outside Mexico experience delays.

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SS stated he thought JS is out of order as the motion is to re-establish the office and be back in Oaxaca to do the service they did. SS stated he is not against other regional offices, but the proposal is to establish the office as it was before. SS requested support of other colleagues from Guatemala; would support their efforts.

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JD stated SS was out of order. Stated the office was not closed, but due to structure (contract).

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SS advised the Intl BoD had asked JS to incorporate in Mexico, so office would have liability protection.

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JS advised he and JD spoke with Homero, Homero said he could not collect money locally which isn't allowed through regional offices. By-law proposals have been brought to allow that, but currently cannot be allowed. SS asked for clarification.

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229 JS stated Homero was asking for money collection, incorporation was second to that, but organizationally it  
230 cannot be met. SS advised he did not see what JS's statement had to do with incorporation; if Mexico's  
231 employees were employees of OCIA Intl. The situation would not have happened.

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233 JS advised that mistakes were made. JS advised that the decision was not meant to burden anyone, but the  
234 contract issue was an employee issue. JS mentioned the staff hired in the International office and staff currently  
235 working on certification and TCs. SS stated that because JS did not finish directive of BoD... JS clarified the  
236 BoD did not direct him to incorporate but asked him to find out how. JS advised it cannot happen until By-laws  
237 are changed.

238 CE stated he would favor the motion if LA part was removed, if those chapters want to come back, it could be  
239 voluntary. CE asked if other members of the regional office, excluding Homero, would come back to work for  
240 the regional office, because if so, the 30-day deadline might be possible to meet.

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242 JS advised that Perla Perez is now working for OCIA Intl. Esther is working for chapter, but is not interested in  
243 job with OCIA Intl.

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245 JD stated he thinks items are already in process.

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247 Martin Meinert (MM) stated he is not interested in why, if he were a member of the chapter, he would want  
248 things fixed. Stated he is in favor of proposal.

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250 SS stated an apology. SS agreed with CE, that other LA countries work with Mexico regional office be  
251 voluntary. SS stated he would be willing to change wording. SS stated the chapter wants this done, willing to  
252 adjust deadline. SS restated the issue is about having the regional office back, not what happens.

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254 Theresa Hu (TH) advised OCIA Intl needs to become familiar with regulations for those that want regional  
255 offices. Requested those people help Intl by getting them in touch with the right people, so Intl can investigate  
256 and get information.

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258 Guatemala Chpt #1, own regional office is desired, as for the past two years they have had problems with the  
259 Mexico regional office. Stated if Mexico chapter wants to go to other agency, they can, but those who are in  
260 OCIA are in it because they love it. Stated they do not want to work with Mexico regional office, and they are  
261 working with Intl without problems, but would have problems with regional office. Indicated he believed the  
262 other countries, without regional offices, are the ones to decide as other countries have a regional office.

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264 Esther Palacios (EP) wanted to clarify for Guatemala members, the regional office was not able to inform any  
265 members of the closing, because they were not closed. EP stated she apologized for being unable to inform  
266 members, because they were not informed. EP advised JAS processing is difficult, as it takes much time in Intl  
267 and Japan.

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269 Stated that OCIA Intl. Has right to open/close and establish regional offices, said he is unaware of who made  
270 decision. Intl has the right to move offices, but the procedures were not followed. Criticized the way the  
271 closing took place, preparation should have been taken place for new office workers. Summarized the delays,  
272 and stated it's unfair for those who made decision to hurt members.

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274 JD advised discussion with close soon.

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276 Rodriquez (Mexico), agreed that countries should be able to choose who they want to work with. The yearly  
277 income of producers has been delayed. With delays of TCs, it is likely that members will leave OCIA. Stated  
278 this is not a threat. The chapter wrote this in terms. That is reasoning behind the proposal, the proposal isn't a  
279 threat.

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281 Salator (Nic) stated it seems that most people agree; opening a Mexico regional office and respecting other  
282 members. Nic would like their own office, as Mexico and Guat.

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284 ST stated that previous speaker clarified some of her point. By-laws state members can create regional offices.  
285 ST indicated the proposal wasn't to establish something new. Supports the motion.

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287 Received letter from JS that possible fraudulent acts were taking place. In chapter meeting, the issue was  
288 clarified with previous director in Mexico. Stated the first issue can be solved, OCIA Intl has people do so.  
289 Advised Intl was able to strengthen regional office.

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291 JD advised John can speak and then one minute for SS.

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293 John Koskan asked ED if the timeframe was doable, before voting, requested from JD if the question can be  
294 asked.

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296 JS advised he's unsure about 30 days, as no one is in mind. JS went to Mexico to sign the contract, there was  
297 no intent to not sign. JS advised an employment agency can be contacted, but questioned if the quality of  
298 service would be want members want. JS would consult with the DA members and chapter members in  
299 Mexico; the timeline may be longer than 30 days. JS advised the TC system hasn't changed, but is now all out  
300 of Lincoln. Members should contact Sheli Fletcher (OCIA Intl), and she will get the TCs out. JG and LP are  
301 taking calls every day. JS stated he is unsure if he can meet that timeline and have high quality staff.

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303 SS stated the timeline is important, so issue will be addressed. SS would like to amend the proposal, they will  
304 remove reference to LA. They request reopening of regional office in Oaxaca, but other LA countries can  
305 decide whether to work with Oaxaca or not.

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307 JD called the question.

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309 Proposal as amended:

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311 1. Delays in certificates and recertifications need to return to their status or be resolved. Not to exceed 8 days  
312 after the assembly is dissolved.

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313 2. Seek immediate release of all TCs for all producers that have made requests, but have not yet been released.  
314 Seek immediate release of requests made, have them solved as soon as possible.

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314 3. Seek assembly to instruct ED, in term not to exceed 30 days, to reopen regional office in Oaxaca. Other LA  
315 countries can decide whether to work with regional office.

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316 Motion passed.

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318 Mexico Chapter #6, expressed thanks to membership for passing motion and for the opportunity to voice  
319 concerns. The chapter is working to contribute to OCIA in Mexico.

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322 e. **Certification Analysis Committee:** Nathan Cook  
323 Nathan Cook gave CAC report. See Attachment .

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325 f. **Internal Review Committee (IRC) :** Delores Turner  
326 Delores Turner gave the IRC report; there was no activity to report this year.  
327 See Attachment .

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329 **f. Member Chapter Licensing Committee (MCLC) :** Delores Turner  
330 Delores Turner gave the MCLC report on behalf of Shawn Matteson. See Attachments .

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332 ST advised of confusion in procedure and following of policy. By-laws 5.2.2 was referred to, which refers to  
333 suspending members. ST stated IRC, per By-laws, is the committee to review the issue.

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335 SS stated the importance of MCLC, as a membership committee. SS indicated perhaps there should be  
336 adjustments, but it's very important, and to thank the MCLC.

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338 JD advised the By-law issue will be researched over lunch.

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340 The meeting was recessed for lunch at 1:12 PM.

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342 The meeting was reconvened at 2:30 PM.

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JD advised the MCLC issue will be addressed when ST returns.

**g. Accreditation Committee:** Bryce Stephens

Bryce Stephens gave the Accreditation Committee report. See Attachment .

Deb Miller (DM) talked about items that came up at Bio-Fach last week.

1. Canada: National regulation is scheduled to become law on 12/14/08; anything sold as “organic” in Canada must meet national regulation. Regulation is currently being revised. It will not be ready by 12/14/08. Standards need to be translated into both official languages, but it will still be implemented on the set date. Some adjustments will be made. For those outside of Canada who will sell to Canada, all products will need to be certified to the national standards starting in the beginning of 2009. The Canadian organic office is reviewing applications; audit for agency we are looking at will take place in March. Once accreditors are approved, OCIA can apply. New forms, requirements made be necessary and there may not be much notice. 65 countries have been identified that send products to Canada (or vice versa). Equivilency has been announced for \_\_ countries (17 in Europe, USA, Costa Rica...). Meetings with USA (Mark Bradley) have went well.

2. Bio Suisse: New items for Bio Suisse: 2008 forms must be used; old forms cannot be used. New forms are available on the website. Field history forms should be filled out more carefully. Example is “fallow,” they did not know if that was a seeded crop or not. Ensure histories are very clear.

Standards: will be the same. No longer will accept hybrid seeds, except for corn. Standards are very strict regarding organic seed.

Requested breakdown for each file sent with number of acres (how many requested for certification, how many in transition and conventional). OCIA may create form to attach to Bio Suisse application.

BioS acknowledged that many decisions were not timely and apologized for delay due to change in computer system. If a sale is pending, they will do what they can to push file through.

3. EU: regulation is changing, OCIA will be applying for equiv under new regulation once forms are available. Exporting to EU should be easier. Application will be due in 2009; additional paperwork/questionnaires may be required.

4. China: Quality of product from China came up at Bio-F. Presentations addressing issue were given. China had a national standard before many other countries; two govt agencies involved with organic (CNAS and \_\_). Local demand for organic product in China is growing; only 30% is exported; numbers were reversed just a few years ago. They are interested in Western products, so there may be opportunity to export to China.

DM repeated information from JS and DeB: China producers receive two inspections (100% new applicants, 66% of returning). In and outflow of product auditing important because of possibility of fraud. TCs are required.

5. IFOAM: Assembly in June. Totally revised standards, would replace IFOAM Basic Standards, will be proposed. Standards are vague. OCIA commented on the level of the standards; benchmark should be a ceiling and the benchmark should be raised from the proposed standards. 300 comments received on standards, and there will be one more round of comments before voting. OCIA and other certifiers are concerned about agreements already reached if lower standards are used; would be a barrier to trade. It would be difficult to source ingredients from other IFOAM certifiers.

At Bio-F, the question was asked, how relevant is IFOAM? How many producers use it? Some certifiers have high numbers, but those are agencies who have IFOAM mandatory. Others have less numbers. What does IFOAM accred do for an agency? If there isn't a govt standard, it is used, but the only country where it's needed to market product is Israel. OCIA members and BoD have to decide if it's worth it to have. The private standards developed by OCIA is backed by IFOAM; if OCIA doesn't have accred through IFOAM, it would not be accred; would it be dropped? DM advised this issue is something OCIA needs to think about.

399 6. Chapters: Organizations like OCIA are being looked at who have chapters; all filehandling offices may need to be  
400 auditing. For OCIA it would mean Lincoln office, all Chapters, etc. This would be expensive and time-consuming.  
401 Auditors are asking, how much control does Intl have over the file process? Auditors looked in detail at staff  
402 information of who is processing and handling files. Most OCIA files are handled through Chapters, but Intl does  
403 not have direct oversight over Chapters. DM asked, how can we keep the chapters but be in line with auditors  
404 requirements.

405  
406 **Questions:**

407 CE was under the impression that IFOAM was pushing OCIA to improve the standards, but now IFOAM is  
408 lowering the standards. CE requested elaboration on why this is occurring. China inspections: CE requested to have  
409 comparison of North American farms to China and how second inspection for China compares to the first.  
410

411 DM advised that now every country has a regulation, IFOAM is not needed for most. DM stated IFOAM seems to  
412 be on the way out; they are only private organization, so without IFOAM, govt will be writing the standards. Change  
413 will allow people who couldn't meet standards previously to use IFOAM seal. A family of IFOAM standards will  
414 be developed, so OCIA could put their standards with this "family."  
415

416 JS responded to China questions. JS does not currently have statistics on the inspections in China. JS asked OCIA  
417 mngt what they believed would make them comfortable operating in China; this was the solution. New staff was  
418 hired in China. JS stated people are not getting kicked out, but they are getting additional requirements and revising  
419 their Organic System Plan (OSP).  
420

421 SS asked about IFOAM accred for OCIA: how many members are in IFOAM program and how many are NOP-  
422 only. JS stated 95% are NOP; 60%ish asking for IFOAM. The numbers drop every year; the drop may be further  
423 once Canadian standards start.  
424

425 SS asked DM if IFOAM would again become a farmer-controlled organization. DM stated it depended who was  
426 nominated to the world board; most who run for it are consultants or other areas, not farmers. SS clarified that DM is  
427 saying, no. DM stated OCIA would nominate someone for the board; that is what SS is asking. JS stated that for  
428 IFOAM, OCIA is likely the largest voluntary membership in IFOAM. SS indicated it's for that reason that he was  
429 asking.  
430

431 Bryce Stephens (BSt) asked to run his idea about aligning with IMO (to merge with them or take them over) with  
432 SS. SS advised IMO is privately owned; it may not be easy to take them over. SS stated for some parts of the world  
433 it could be a good idea—IMO has strong presence in places OCIA doesn't (and vice versa).  
434

435 MMcB asked about how OCIA stop IFOAM; requested to have information to think over for the next year. DM  
436 advised it will depend on meeting in the summer. OCIA will request to strengthen standards; if general assembly  
437 votes to lower standards, many certifier may not continue with IFOAM.  
438

439 ST stated the OCIA standard must be accred to be taken seriously, and it is among the highest standards. Nano tech  
440 standards will be proposed; state standards do not address this.  
441

442 SS asked whether the members would want to ask the committee to find a nominee for the IFOAM World Board.  
443 DM clarified, in addition to the Nomination Committee. SS didn't want to make a motion, but asked if there was a  
444 consensus. JD advised he heard none.  
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446 **h. Promotions Committee : Jake Geiger**

447 Jake Geiger gave the Promotions Committee report. See Attachment .  
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449 JG stated the green flower is blooming and suggested OCIA align itself with like-minded organizations (green  
450 movement groups). OCIA would identify them and work with them. JG advised of major candidate of USA for  
451 President has mentioned organic and local farming in their materials.  
452

453  
454 **Insert - Approval of 2007 AGMM Minutes**  
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456 JD requested motion to bring minutes forward. Randy Gubersky moved, Keith Everts 2<sup>nd</sup>.

457

458 Steve Elliot (SE) advised of By-laws part of minutes, he asked for the minutes after AGMM and the by-law was  
459 tabled. SE asked for corrected minutes then. SE advised the minutes should not be corrected now; requested they  
460 be corrected outside of here and brought back to assembly.

461

462 SE made motion to table notes. SS 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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464 Motion passed, minutes are tabled.

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466 **I. 2007 Audit Report : Theresa Hu**

467 Theresa Hu (TH) gave audit report. See Attachment .

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469 Questions:

470 CE stated commodity prices at end of 2007 were higher; requested to know if user fees received reflect that.

471

TH advised only in the last quarter. TH advised of increase in TC sales.

472

473 SS asked if there is a reason why LA income is down; TH advised some DA have been lost.

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475 **j. Finance Committee Report : Denis Brodner**

476 Denis Brodner gave Finance Committee report. DB advised of lower of user fee, but certification fees will go  
477 up. See Attachment .

478

479 Changes to Budget proposal:

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Page 2: Total Canadian Regional Office under 2008 budget, will be \$218,730. Total LA Regional Office  
481 \$128,447. Changed because BoD has adjusted per productivity measures.

482

483 Questions:

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MMcB, asked if no users fee up to \$16,000, what is the percentage of our members that would be paying no  
485 user fees? DB did not have the number.

486

487 MMcB would like to make a motion if something is taken away, it be added or removed from another place. JD  
488 advised this was not intended as the time to make changes to the budget. SS asked if there is a sale of 100k, the  
489 user fee paid is 100k-16k. DB advised yes, and JS will get number MMcB asked for.

490

491 Jim Robbins (Jro) asked if the figures are available for a bracketed fee schedule at tonight's workshop; DB  
492 advised yes. Jro said there may be some concern about a higher cert fee and "crediting it back" for user fee;  
493 wanted to know how easy it may be administratively. TH advised they developed a formula (details).

494

495 Keith Kadmas asked about clarification on JAS fees.

496

497 BSt asked how increase of \$100 to cert fee will cover accred. DB advised it would cover cert costs, not accred. BSt  
498 asked how blanket costs should be increased for all. DB advised \$275 is for first cert, additional will be the same (if  
499 \$50 last year, will be the same). DB advised it will off-set the user fee.

500

501 SS asked why JAS fees went up from \$350 to \$600. DB advised it was to cover actual costs, which is still not  
502 recovered. TH advised the JAS cert takes a long time and user fees can't be taken.

503

504 Tyler Remoue asked about lifecycles of user fees. TH advised it is calendar year.

505

506 CE noted numbers in budget for user fees when commodity prices were much higher. DB noted it will be addressed  
507 in workshop in the evening.

508

509 ST asked what is in the \$600 as they have many members who are thinking of adding JAS. There is a JAS  
510 mandated inspection, does \$600 include the cost of inspection or is inspection on top? DB advised, inspection is  
511 always on top of fee. ST asked if inspection will take place at OCIA/NOP/etc inspection as long as inspector is  
512 JAS-approved. TH advised that for JAS a PIR must be completed. ST stated there is always a PIR, does that mean

513 CDT PIR? TH confirmed yes. DB advised that in Canada many times the PIR couldn't be completed for JAS, a  
514 second inspection often was done. ST indicated it may triple the cost of cert.  
515 SE asked about accred for (textile accred name). TH advised that is textile accred; there is lots of organic cotton out  
516 of China. JS advised there is a lot of interest in textile certification (processing of cotton into cloth); there is interest,  
517 so the cost is to look into standards. SE asked whether it would be like verif programs where there would be an  
518 extra fee; JS advised board could look into that.

519  
520 SE asked about menu fee program after 3 years, # of people were going to be looked at. JS advised the numbers are  
521 tracked, but it's difficult to divide out the cost. JS advised staff has to report, and it's difficult to keep track of on a  
522 daily basis. SE thought each program would pay for it's own accred, the time spent by staff would not be much  
523 additional. JS stated that is where \$550 came from. SE stated he thought the original idea was the cost of the people  
524 applying for NOP would pay for that cost (and IFOAM for that accred, etc). SE wanted to know if that had been  
525 attempted. JS advised no, but Intl does have number of people who applied for it, and the cost of accred.

526  
527 Jro asked for explanation into why JAS fee has varied so much over the years. JS advised that at first, JAS fees  
528 were a guess. A competitor was at \$300, so OCIA lowered the fee and still lost members. JS advised OCIA isn't  
529 worried about the competition but want to recover the cost. ST asked if the JAS PIR is only allowed in the first  
530 year, but if no changes the PIR is not needed. Confirmed by Kenny Bogus, it is needed every year by CDT for JAS.

531  
532 JS advised in answering MMcB's question: 233 were less than \$16k + 450 did not use TC system. 683 total.

533  
534 ST stated that because people have not gotten JAS in the past, they may want it now. It has taken her chapter  
535 members to get ready. When fee is reduced, people who previously did not want cert, people then decided whether  
536 to apply for JAS or not.

537  
538 DB advised that fee was increased, because if a member is JAS-only, there is not an ability to option user fees.

539  
540 CE stated he thought ST is advocating OCIA subsidize having more members. MMcB stated under revenue, why  
541 small holder burser fees are there. DB advised it has to be budgeted for. TH advised it is a revenue item, but also an  
542 expense under promotion budget.

543  
544 DB asked that additional questions be brought to budget discussion.

545  
546 The meeting was recessed for break at 4:20 PM.

547 The meeting was reconvened at 4:35 PM.

548  
549 **5. Three-Year Plan, Power Point Presentation by the Board:** Sven Schalit, Keith Everts, and Angie Tunink.  
550 SS, Keith Everts, and Angie Tunink (AT) presented the Three-Year Plan. See Attachment .

551  
552 Questions after marketing/promotion part:

553 John Koskan asked if anyone on staff is available to answer editorial/letters to the editor seen that attack organics.

554 AT advised the staff will answer any questions, if she cannot, she will forward to someone who can.

555  
556 KVK advised that he has recently updated website for new IE, etc. AT advised we have an IT person who will be  
557 updating; doesn't have a complete answer for that.

558  
559 BSt asked about the idea of reducing fees if electronic forms are used. KE requested to talk about the idea later and  
560 stated everyone should give their input; it's the member's organization.

561  
562 KE continued with Proposed Balance Budget slide in presentation.

563  
564 Questions:

565 Mark Meinert asked about exit survey results. KE advised the stats were not provided in the powerpoint.

566  
567 JD called recess for the day at 5:20 PM.

568  
569 **6. Presentation of 2008, 2009, and 2010 Budget**

570

571 **7. Restructure Proposal, Power Point Presentation by the Board**

572

573 **8. Standards Committee Report and Introduction to the Standards**

574

575 **9. Recess**

576

577

578

579

580

581 Attachments:

582

583

584

585