



## **YEAR END REPORT 2013 of the ONTARIO COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE (OCSI)**

TO: OCSI Member Associations (MEA, MFOA, OGRA, OPWA, OWWA, WEAO)

FROM: Carl Bodimeade, Chair OCSI

DATE: December 13, 2013

RE: **OCSI Year End Report 2013**

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Key highlights of 2013 are presented, below, and details are provided at the end of the report.

1. **Quarterly Reports (January, April, July, October):** Quarterly Report presented the OSCI update in alignment with the following components of our work plan:
  - A. OUTREACH (be well known to MOI and other stakeholders)
  - B. AWARENESS (raise profile with member organizations)
  - C. ACTION (deliver external projects)
  - D. ADMIN (well-run organization)
  
2. **Strategy Session:** A strategy session was held as part of our quarterly OCSI meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss and determine 4 or 5 key initiatives for 2014 work plan. It was agreed to stay with the mission of the coalition (“Promoting safe and sustainable infrastructure”). Minor revisions were made to the goals, with one new goal added “to promote sustainable funding”. The action items from the planning session were confirmed at the October meeting.
  
3. **Working Together with CNAM:** We signed an MU with the Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM), plus an added membership proposal to provide full membership benefits of CNAM when our members register for the 2014 CNAM annual conference (at the member rate). This arrangement includes a role of OCSI member associations in promoting the CNAM conference in Toronto on May 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.
  
4. **Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI):** On the project side, we submitted an unsolicited proposal to MOI in early 2013, focusing on survey work. The Minister replied in May and we met with **Minister Glen Murray** in August to discuss the proposal and other initiatives. In advance of the meeting we met with his parliamentary assistance, **Kevin Flynn, MPP**. OCSI participated in the public consultation process on the **\$100 million critical infrastructure fund** that was co-hosted by MOI and Rural Affairs in the summer and we submitted a written response. We continue discussions with MOI to determine the next step related to a possible project with MOI.

5. **Ministry of the Environment (MOE):** Together with RCCAO and OSCWA, OCSI met with Sharon Bailey at the MOE to discuss how sustainability plans in the Water Opportunities Act will be linked to Asset Management Plans. On the project side, we are discussing with MOE an opportunity to deliver a project related to asset management planning and wastewater.
6. **Membership:** We invited OPPI to join OCSI as a core member and after a positive presentation to our board in April (by Paul Stagl, OPPI) and to their Board in June (by Carl Bodimeade), the opportunity for membership was politely declined. We will continue to keep lines of communication open. Further on membership, we are looking at various options to extend membership, for example, to add an affiliate status.
7. OCSI was invited to participate in a “**Jobs and Infrastructure Roundtable**” in Thunder Bay on April 26th hosted by Minister Glen Murray (Infrastructure and Transportation) and Minister Michael Gravelle (Northern Development and Mines). Our delegation included: **Joe Tiernay** – Executive Director, Ontario Good Roads Association; **Pat Mauro** – Manager of Engineering, Thunder Bay (representing Municipal Engineers Association); **Dave Knutson**, representing Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA) and **Carol Busch**, CFO Thunder Bay (representing Municipal Finance Officers’ Association).
8. OCSI was invited by CNAM to speak at their annual conference held in Edmonton on May 5 to 8th on a panel about regional networks. In addition, OCSI was invited to speak as part of the Ontario story of new regulations in Ontario on Asset Management Plans. Darla Campbell, Executive Director, attended and presented at the CNAM conference.
9. **Participation:** OCSI was invited by Ben Osemeke (MOE) to be part of the **Municipal Wastewater External Reference Group**. Christine Campbell (MOE) contacted OCSI about the **Ontario Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program (OCIAAP)** – Water Sector working group and whether OCSI would like to be a core member of that group. Following a conference call to discuss, some OCSI member associations preferred to have direct representation (MEA, OWWA, WEAO) as well as OCSI.
10. **OCSI Special Event:** We have begun planning for a special event hosted by OCSI. This event is being schedule for early/mid 2014.
11. This year OCSI reached out to the following organizations: AMCTO, AMO, CEO, CNAM, RPWCO, RPWFA, OPPI, ORFMA and OSPE. At the October quarterly meeting we heard a presentation by Brian Mergelas (CEO WaterTAP) via conference call.
12. The following quarterly OCSI articles were distributed to Executive Directors (to share with their members):
  - November 2012 – Problems.....and Solutions
  - January 2013 – The Real Story on Asset Management Planning

- April 2013 – Toward a Sustainable Funding Model
- August 2013 – The Importance of Infrastructure “Resiliency”
- Nov/Dec 2013 – OCSI Reaches Out to Young Professionals, Future Leaders

13. In the area of communication, we continue to keep updating OCSI’s website (www.on-csi.ca) updated with OCSI media releases, member news and events as well as mainstream media stories about infrastructure. Brochure was revised with MFOA’s logo as is available as a download on our website. In the 30 days between Nov 15 and Dec 15, 2013, there were 75 visits to the OCSI website, with 75% of the visitors new to our site. As for the country of origin, 68 visitors from Canada 68 visits, followed by 3 visitors from U.S.A, 2 from China and one each from Germany and Romania.

14. Operational Guidelines were revised July 2013.

15. Expenditures and revenues have been in accordance with the approved budget.

## Special Events

Carl Bodimeade attended the following events in his capacity as Chair, OCSI:

- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 – OPWA Annual Meeting, Mississauga
- April 9<sup>th</sup> – WEAO conference – presentation as part of the Government Affairs technical session
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – Panelist at OCE Discovery - GCIF Panel: Intelligent Cities/Smart Infrastructure, moderated by Senator Art Eggleton
- Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – Panelist at Thought Leadership Excellence in Asset Management, event hosted by RIVA.

Darla Campbell, Executive Director, attended the following events:

- February 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> – OGRA Annual Conference, Toronto
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Oakville Chamber of Commerce breakfast featuring Minister Tony Clement (President of Treasury Board)
- May 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> – CNAM conference in Edmonton
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Queen’s Park proclamation of Public Works Week, as part of OPWA delegation and meeting with Minister Murray
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Western GTA Summit
- July 9<sup>th</sup> – OPA Consultation
- August 13<sup>th</sup> – participated in the consultation on the \$100million critical infrastructure fund session held in Peterborough. Session facilitated by **Maureen Johnson (MOI)** and **Minister Jeff Leal (Rural Affairs)** gave a short presentation as well.
- Sept 26<sup>th</sup> – attended MFOA conference and spoke in opening session.
- Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – attended as a guest the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Global Forum.

## Articles and Submissions

Nov 2012 – Article published in *Public Sector Digest*: “**The Infrastructure Deficit and Asset Management: Finally Some Progress?**” By Carl Bodimeade and Darla Campbell, OCSI.

Nov/Dec 2012 – *Water Canada* article includes interview with Carl Bodimeade: “**The State of Our Water Assets: Experts comment on Canada’s first municipal infrastructure report card.**”

Feb 7, 2013 – Proposal for Funded Project submitted to Minister of Infrastructure.

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Submission on the \$100million critical infrastructure fund

September – Abstract submissions to WEAO for their 2014 conference in April (London), and another abstract to the American Public Works Association for their 2014 congress in August (Toronto).

## Correspondence

Feb 8, 2013 – Letter to **Minister Lebel**, Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, in support of Chiarelli’s report on long term funding federal funding for infrastructure.

Feb 8, 2013 – Joint letter to **AMO** on full cost pricing report (co-signed by OCSI, RCCAO, OSWCA)

Feb 19, 2013 – excerpt from the Throne Speech, sent by e-mail to association reps and to OCSI Infrastructure News

March 21, 2013 – Infrastructure News from the Federal Budget was sent by e-mail to association reps and to the OCSI Infrastructure News

April 16, 2013 – letter to **Minister Charles Sousa**, Minister of Finance with OCSI’s contribution to the budget consultation process.

June 16, 2013 - Congratulations e-mail to **MPP Mike Colle** for appointment as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure/Minister of Transportation. Congratulations e-mail to **MPP Kevin Flynn** for re-appointment as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure/Minister of Transportation and new appointment as Government Whip.

July 26, 2013 – Letter of invitation to **Ontario Professional Planners (OPPI)** to join OCSI.

September 6, 2013 – Letter to the Minister of Infrastructure/Minister of Transportation, **Glen Murray** following up on our meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>

September 30, 2013 – Joint letter (OCSI/OSWCA/RCCAO) to **Sharon Bailey (MOE)** following up on our meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>