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ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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GLASI Priority Subwatershed Project Launched

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2015

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) has launched the new Priority Subwatershed Project, the latest installment in the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) suite of programs. The new Priority Subwatershed Project program is designed to target specific areas within the Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair watersheds or the Lake Huron southeast shores watershed area. Projects in these targeted locations will seek to demonstrate measurable improvements to soil health and water quality, with a particular focus on phosphorus.

“The Priority Subwatershed Project aims to deliver a highly targeted suite of Best Management Practices (BMPs) within specific subwatersheds that are at a high risk of phosphorus loss and decreased soil health,” expressed Andrew Graham, OSCIA Executive Director; “this is a unique opportunity to see how effective stewardship can be when implemented in a high-density manner within a small geography.”

OSCIA will be partnering with the following Conservation Authorities to deliver targeted support for on-farm stewardship activities under the Priority Subwatershed Project program:

- Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
- Essex Region Conservation Authority
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

These four partners were selected by OSCIA through a recently completed request for proposals process.

A customized suite of BMPs best suited to the risks present in each of the four respective geographical subwatershed areas will be offered to eligible producers, and each region will determine the levels of funding that will be available to participating producers.

“The Priority Subwatershed Project is a prime example of an alternative approach to program delivery that has great capacity to achieve the goals of the GLASI program in a highly impactful way,” said Christine Schmalz, OSCIA Environment Programs Manager.

“A healthy Great Lakes system is a key priority for our government,” said Jeff Leal, Ontario’s Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “The Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship

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Initiative (GLASI) supports a healthy Great Lakes system by investing \$16 million over 4 years for programs that help ensure a sustainable agricultural community. These projects, under GLASI, are great opportunities to demonstrate how Ontario's partner organizations are working with community groups to develop innovative solutions, to improve soil and Great Lakes health."

For more information on the Priority Subwatershed Project, visit the OSCIA website at ontariosoilcrop.org or contact OSCIA directly at 226-706-8669 or GLASI@ontariosoilcrop.org.

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