

**CONSTITUTION OF  
MINNESOTA INDEPENDENT CROP CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION (MNICCA)**

**ARTICLE I. THE ASSOCIATION**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Minnesota Independent Crop Consultants Association, (MNICCA), hereinafter referred to as the Association.

**ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVE**

**Section 1.** The objective of the Association shall be to promote the profession of agricultural consulting in the State of Minnesota for the best interests of the agricultural community. This objective shall be best accomplished by the following:

1. Provide a state organization through which all members can unify their effort to promote agricultural consulting.
2. Promote and upgrade the business of agricultural consulting as a profession with high standards of education and experience.
3. Encourage and participate in research on management principles and techniques.
4. Encourage and assist consultants to become a member of the Association, to seek current information, and to provide training concerning management principles and techniques.
5. Support agricultural production with the most economical methods that will least adversely affect the environment.
6. Assist in the formation and exchange of management philosophies.
7. Distinguish for the public the difference between independent consultants employed for a fee, and those consultants that may have a conflict of interest in giving advice on management. The term "independent" shall mean that the individual and/or firm which employs him does not sell agricultural products for a profit.
8. To assist in the formation or exchange of ideas pertaining to legislative activity.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** There shall be seven classes of memberships: (1) Member (2) Provisional (3) Honorary (4) Affiliate (5) Academic (6) Student and (7) Sustaining.

All persons shall have equal opportunity for membership without regard to race, religion, color, sex or national origin.

**Section 2.** A *Member* shall be one who meets the requirements of training and experience and who provides agricultural crop consulting service to the public on a fee basis. An independent agricultural crop consultant being one who, as an individual, derives his livelihood from offering independent, objective, professional advice in matters relating to crop production and who acts as a private contractor.

A *Member* shall possess a four year college degree in an appropriate agricultural field and have had a minimum of four years of reputable experience in an appropriate field of agricultural consulting, one year which may be substituted for by a Master's degree and two years by a PhD degree. The Membership and Rules committee may, at its discretion, permit the substitution of six years of non-consulting experience in an appropriate field for two as a consultant, except that a minimum of two years as an independent consultant is required. The Membership and Rules committee may, at its

discretion, admit to membership, those without the academic training, but who have 10 or more years' experience as an agricultural consultant, provided they meet other criteria for the *Member* classification.

In addition, an applicant for membership must provide references from individuals for whom he or she has personally provided consultation services. Investigation of these references should show that these services were provided in a highly competent and professional manner.

A Member must be certified with either the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants or ARCPACS or under the Certified Crop Advisor program. A Member is required to fulfill continuing education requirements with the respective organization that they are certified under. Members will provide documentation of acceptance of their CEU'S to the Ethics and Principles committee, annually, for review in order to maintain Member status. A Member who does not provide documentation for Continuing Education will be designated as a Provisional Member.

**Section 3.** A *Provisional Member* shall be one who is engaged in independent crop consulting but has not achieved all the requirements for membership. When a *Provisional Member* has fulfilled the requirements of a Member, the applicant shall request re-evaluation for Member status by the Membership and Rules committee. A *Provisional Member* has the same rights, privileges and obligations as a Member with the following exceptions: The *Provisional Member* shall not hold office in the Association or have voting power.

**Section 4.** An *Honorary Member* shall be anyone who is nominated and approved by a majority vote at an official meeting of the membership. The *Honorary Member* shall not hold office in the Association or have voting power.

*Honorary Members* must be nominated by a Member and approved by the Membership and Rules committee. The basis of this honor is to award those individuals who have significantly contributed to the promotion and expansion of innovative crop management practices.

**Section 5.** An *Affiliate* shall be an individual who does not qualify for membership but who wishes to support this Association.

An *Affiliate* has the same rights, privileges and obligations of a Member. The *Affiliate* will be able to vote, hold office, and chair and participate in committees including the Executive Council.

**Section 6.** An *Academic Member* shall be an individual of the academic community approved by the Membership and Rules committee, with official approval by majority vote.

*Academic Members* have the same rights, privileges and obligations of a Member with the following exceptions: *Academic Members* shall not hold office in the Association or have voting power. *Academic Members* may serve on but may not chair committees.

**Section 7.** A *Student Member* shall be a college student in good academic standing pursuing courses in crop management. A *Student Member* must be approved by the Membership and Rules committee.

*Student Members* shall be encouraged to participate in the activities of the Association, but shall not hold office or have voting power.

**Section 8.** A *Sustaining Member* shall be any corporation or organization that wishes to support the Association.

An individual representative of said organization shall have the same rights, privileges and obligations of a Member, but may not vote or hold office. A representative of the *Sustaining Membership* may serve on committees.

#### **ARTICLE IV. DUES**

Dues of the Association shall be determined as provided in the Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 1.** The membership is responsible for the management of the Association. However, the Executive Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, is established to manage the Association between the Annual Meetings as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Section 2.** The Council shall consist of the immediate past-President, the President, the President-elect, the secretary-treasurer and three directors.

**Section 3.** In addition, two Honorary Directors, representing the University community and industry may serve on the Council for a period of two years and may serve more than one term. The Honorary Directorships will not carry voting power. Honorary Directors will be appointed by the Council.

**Section 4.** A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Council present at any regular or duly called meeting shall be required to pass any motion consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

**Section 5.** The Council shall direct the investment and care of the funds of the Association and shall make appropriations for specific purposes.

**Section 6.** No member of the Council shall receive a salary or compensation, except for expenses incurred in behalf of the Association as approved by the Council.

**Section 7.** The Council shall at all times constitute the trustees of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Association shall be the immediate past-President, President, President-elect, secretary-treasurer, and three directors.

- a. The President is elected annually and serves for one year.
- b. The President-elect is elected annually and serves for one year, after which his/her name is placed into nomination for President.
- c. The secretary-treasurer is elected in the odd numbered election years and serves a two-year term.
- d. One director is elected in the odd numbered election year and two directors are elected in the even numbered election year. Each director serves a two year term.

**Section 2.** Only Members or Affiliate members of good standing shall be eligible to hold office of President, President-elect, secretary-treasurer, or director.

**Section 3.** Eligibility for retention of an elective office of the Association shall be contingent upon residence in the state of Minnesota.

**Section 4.** The procedures for election and the duties of the officers shall be defined in the Bylaws.

**Section 5.** The fiscal duties of the Association shall be performed by the secretary-treasurer. The secretary-treasurer may be bonded at the expense of the Association, for an amount specified by the Council.

**Section 6.** The officers shall assume their offices at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected and each shall hold office until a successor has been duly elected or appointed.

**Section 7.** Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the President-elect shall assume the office so vacated. Other vacancies among the elected officers occurring during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the Council.

## **ARTICLE VII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** Nomination for elective offices of the Association shall be made by the Nominations committee which shall consist of the immediate past-President as chairman and two other Members in good standing.

**Section 2.** Additional nominations may be made to the Nominations committee prior to publication of nominees. Prior consent of the nominee must be obtained before placing his name in nomination.

**Section 3.** Officers of the Association shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote by secret ballot.

## **ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** The Association shall hold an Annual Meeting at such time and place as may be selected by the Council as provided in the Bylaws.

**Section 2.** Special meetings of the Association shall be called by the President on request by a majority of the Council; or upon petition by twenty percent (20%) of the membership.

**Section 3.** The Council shall hold at least two meetings each year. All meetings of the Council shall be called by the President or upon petition of the majority of the Council.

## **ARTICLE IX. HEADQUARTERS**

**Section 1.** The location of the headquarters of the Association shall be determined by the Council.

## **ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** The chairman and members of each standing committee shall be selected by the Council after the Annual Meeting. The membership shall be notified of committee appointments within two months of the last Annual Meeting date.

**Section 2.** The duties of the standing committees shall be as provided in the Bylaws, Article 8. The duties of special committees shall be defined by the Council.

#### **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting members present at any Annual Meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the membership at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

**Section 2.** Any amendment to this Constitution, adopted according to the procedure specified herein, shall become effective upon its adoption.

#### **ARTICLE XII. BYLAWS**

**Section 1.** The Constitution and Bylaws committee shall prepare a series of Bylaws for adoption by the Association. These Bylaws shall govern all procedures under this Constitution, including those of the Council and of the committees.

**Section 2.** Bylaws may be introduced or amended without prior notice at any Annual Meeting by an affirmative vote of the majority of the voting members present.

#### **ARTICLE XIII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

**Section 1.** This Constitution shall become effective upon its adoption by an affirmative vote of the majority of the eligible voting members present.

#### **ARTICLE XIV. STATUS AND DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1.** This Association is a nonprofit organization without capital stock, dedicated to the furtherance of agricultural consulting for the benefit of the general public and not for monetary profit or gain of its members.

**Section 2.** In the event this Association is dissolved, the last Council shall pay all just debts of the Association from Association funds and transfer all remaining monies and assets to the University of Minnesota as designated by the Council.

#### **ARTICLE XV. RELATION TO NAICC**

**Section 1.** This Association may follow guidelines set forth by the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) to best preserve the integrity of independent crop consultants.