

FINAL DRAFT
2006 DRAINAGE PRACTITIONERS MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2006
Pinetree Room B, Ramada Inn
Guelph, Ontario

1.0 Attendance And Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

An attendance sheet was passed around and there were 26 people in attendance of which 14 were Practitioners.

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

Motion by Andy McBride, seconded by Bill Dietrich, that the minutes of the October 27, 2005 meeting (as distributed) be accepted. Carried.

3.0 Old business

No old business.

4.0 Chairman's Report

Chairman Jeff Dickson reported to those present on the activities of the Land Drainage Committee for the past year.

- Two representatives from each of LICO, DSAO, & the LDC attended the 5 or 6 different forum meetings held across the Province this year to debate the Clean Water Act.
- John Johnson represented LICO and DSAO and made a presentation at the Hearings in Peterborough in October. Due to OSPE's participation in an earlier hearing and to avoid a perceived conflict, the committee was not "formally" part of John's presentation. The Clean Water Act given 3rd & final reading and passed in Parliament. Over the next couple of years the regulations will be defined.
- This year the LDC reviewed three (3) separate drainage projects to provide an opinion on eligibility for grant under the (old) Municipal Outlet Drain program; the request was received from Sid Vander Veen of OMAFRA and agreed to by the engineer who authored each report. The engineer was present at our Jan 2006 meeting to provide the background for each report. The LDC rendered a decision (to Sid) for each report. Such reviews are consistent with the terms of reference for the LDC and, although not common, they can be one of the roles of the committee. With the new ADIP policies, there is less opportunity for interpretation of the grant eligibility, so it will be less likely for OMAFRA to call on the committee again for similar assistance.

- The LDC website is still maintained by Active Web; however, very soon it will be taken over by OSPE. There will be some modifications to the LDC webpage to be consistent with the branding and colour scheme of OSPE, not seen as a problem by LDC. There will also be an opportunity to update the webpage throughout the year at no cost to the LDC. The website address will be www.ospe.on.ca/landdrainage. The LDC still intends to have all the existing links to LICO and DSAO. .
- At this year's conference there will be approximately 100 registrants, including 10 exhibitors and 10 presenters.
- The LDC had a busy year attending other meetings including the Clean Water Act sessions. The FHAG (Fish Habitat Advisory Group) has been disbanded; however, a new committee is being considered and will have representatives from the LDC, LICO, DSAO, DFO and Conservation Ontario to name a few.

5.0 OMAFRA report

Sid Vander Veen

Sid reviewed the activities at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs. A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- No changes in Ministry staff this year. Sid Vander Veen & Andy Kester as co-ordinators, Valerie Anderson as support staff and Leona Dombrowsky remains as the Minister.
- Provided handout of Legislature passing of the Clean Water Act.
- Provided handout of Generic Regulations Ontario Regulation 97/04 for all CA's in the province to model their regulations after. The Conservation Authorities Act was revised in 1998 through a Red Tape Reduction bill and this amendment gave CA's the additional authority to pass these regulations to control wetlands and all watercourses.
- Fisheries Act, This past year, there were a number of issues related to maintenance and another set of issues with construction/improvement projects. A meeting was arranged between DFO and OMAFRA this fall to discuss these issues. WE hope that a committee with broad representation will be established to deal with fisheries/drainage issues. One concern was landowners were considering the abandonment of a drain to avoid the Fisheries Act authorization process.
- Drain classification system: To change drain classification requires hard data, not to be changed based on a walk by observation by DFO or CA staff.
- ADIP Policies introduced in September 2005. In April, 2006 OMAFRA presented to local DSAO Chapter (Waterloo area) to explain some of the issues. No grant eligibility on forested lands or conservation lands. Review of ADIP policies in 2007. Sid has started a file of comments or suggested

changes to the policies that continue to grow. Please continue to e-mail Sid with any other comments or suggestions.

- Primary Drainage Course will be held from February 6 to 16, 2007.
- The Drainage Superintendent's Course will be held from March 5 to 9, 2007 in Guelph. Last year 29 attended. Rural Municipal Course and Calculating Drainage Assessments Courses were held in April-May 2006 in London & Guelph. Times to be announced for offerings of these courses again in 2007 and locations will depend on number of those who sign up. More details will follow in Jan 2007.
- Latornell Symposium planned for Nov 15-17 in Alliston, ON. More information available on web site www.latornell.ca Environmental conference with guest speakers.
- Sid provided drain statistics handout and made general comments.

6.0 Update on Affiliation with OSPE

- The LDC receives a budget of \$1,200 annually. The donations from Practitioners made in 2004 and 2005 will be used to cover overruns in OSPE budget. Brett McDermott, our OSPE contact is looking into the matter and will confirm the final arrangements for these additional funds.

7.0 New Business

- Melanie Prosser and Jennifer Kulikowsky have been quite busy and on behalf of the Committee, they have organized an exciting conference. There are 10 exhibitors this year and each registrant will receive a coloured program hi-lighting each presenter with their biography.

8.0 Election of New Members

Ray Dobbin and Tim Oliver have each completed a 3-year term; however, Ray Dobbin has completed two consecutive 3-year terms and is not eligible for nomination. Sid Vander Veen was then asked to preside over the nomination (and if necessary election) portion of the meeting. Tim Oliver and Mike DeVos were nominated as new members and, since no other nominees were brought forward, each was acclaimed.

9.0 Open Discussion

Discussion cantered around better "technical" representation on the Drainage Tribunal and that at least one (or more) members have some direct drainage experience; suggestions included a drain superintendent or a (retired) drainage engineer. **Action Item:** It was request that the LDC inform the Appeals Tribunal the utmost importance of having more technical specialty on the drainage panel.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jeff Dickson, Chairman

Tim Oliver, Secretary