

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**O.S.P.E. LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Friday, June 1, 2007**  
**DFO Office, 73 Meg Drive**  
**London, Ontario**

**1.0 Attendance and Call to Order**

Members Present: John Spriet, Chairman; Bill Dietrich, Secretary; Tim Oliver, Vice-Chairman; Jeff Dickson, Past Chairman; Chris Allen, Mike DeVos

Liaison Members Present: Melanie Prosser, Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph; Sid Vander Veen, OMAFRA; Dana Boyter, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Davin Heinbuck, Conservation Authorities (ABCA)

Absent Members: Leo Christl, MNR; Art Groenveld, MTO; Brett McDermott, O.S.P.E.

Chairman John Spriet called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

**2.0 Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Mike DeVos, seconded by Jeff Dickson, that the agenda as prepared by the chairman be accepted. Carried.

**3.0 Minutes of Last Meeting**

Motion by Chris Allen, seconded by Jeff Dickson that the minutes of the January 27, 2007 O.S.P.E. Land Drainage Committee Meeting be accepted. Carried

**4.0 Business Arising From the Minutes**

4.1 DFO organized a new committee, Drains Action Working Group (D.A.W.G.) and Mike DeVos reported on the committee meeting. See attached report.

4.2 All expenses are to be submitted to the secretary. To this date none have been received.

4.3 Received two responses from Chris Allen and Bill Dietrich for the recommended changes to the ADIP policies.

**5.0 Correspondence**

Two responses were received for recommended changes to the ADIP policies.

**6.0 Liaison Report – Conservation Authorities Report**

Davin Heinbuck

- 6.1 Conservation Authorities will meet to discuss drain reviews. The purpose will be to acknowledge the various policies and seek a more consistent approach when dealing with drainage matters; both Municipal and Private. A SW Region CA meeting re: Section 28 Regulations and Drainage will provide a forum to develop a consistent approach as discussed at the CO Consultation meeting on the draft wetland guidelines.
- 6.2 ABCA/DFO held a Working Around Water workshop on March 22, 2007 for Drainage Superintendents and Drainage Contractors. It provided a good opportunity for the ABCA and DFO to explain their responsibilities under their respective legislation and to promote better communication, delivery and relationships with the drainage community.
- 6.3 Davin will represent Conservation Ontario on the Drains Action Working Group (D.A.W.G.) committee. Terms of Reference need to go through ARMAC at earliest possible time; then to Conservation Ontario for formal membership in the DAWG.

**7.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

Sid VanderVeen

- 7.1 Some structural reorganization of OMAFRA recently took place. Drainage now reports to Manager Len Senyshyn and is part of the Environmental Management Branch, headed by Director Peter Merrveld.
- 7.2 The ADIP Review will not take place until the fall. However, many engineers and superintendents have already provided comments in advance of the review and we will continue to accept them before the review formally begins. Once the review begins, the target is to complete and implement the revised policies before the next fiscal year. Collective comments from the OSPE Land Drainage Committee will be very valuable.
- 7.3 Allocation Letter – was sent to municipalities on May 30, 2007. The last paragraph of this letter provided information on the OSIFA Loan Program, which is administered by Infrastructure Ontario Municipalities can now access loan funds for all their infrastructure expenditures (including municipal drains). Longer term loans are available at very reasonable interest rates. More information can be found on their website: [www.infrastructureontario.ca/en/loan/index.asp](http://www.infrastructureontario.ca/en/loan/index.asp)
- 7.4 COWSEP – Canada-Ontario Water Environmental Program – LICO has received funding through this program to develop a GIS layer to show areas in Ontario where conservation drainage (controlled drainage) and sub-irrigation could be practiced. Through this project, a manual will also be developed as well as an internet site where data can be accessed.

7.5 Ground Water Fact Sheets – Titles are :

1. “Managing The Quality of Groundwater Supplies”
2. “Understanding Groundwater”
3. “Protecting the Quality of Groundwater Supplies”
4. “Private Rural Water Supplies”

**8.0 Liaison Report – Office of Open Learning**  
Melanie Prosser

8.1 Financial Statement from 2006

88% of expected revenue

Expenses were 109% of budgeted, due in part to the addition of the folder, increases in costs and 13% increase in OOL costs. I believe the folder adds to the overall professionalism, but we can discontinue if the committee wishes.

8.2 Evaluation Summary

Rate of return improved from 34% last year to 76% this year. Some excellent suggestions in the feedback in addition to the usual comments.

8.3 Budget for 2007

Propose having only CD's sent to each delegate. If they want printed, have to pay. Registration fee will remain the same. How can we increase number of delegates? Expenses are realistic, based on last years' costs. Suggest moving the conference in the future, to encourage more to travel to different locations to attend. Propose having a headlining Keynote after lunch speaker on continuing education topic – professional development.

8.4 Possible Topics for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Drainage Engineers Conference

- Beavers' Speaker
- Case Study
- Drainage Act – Topic On-Site Meeting
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- DSAO – Future Reports
- Perched Culverts
- Railway Act/Transport Canada
- Public Utilities and Drains
- Filter Strips

**9.0 Liaison Report – Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Dana Boyter

- 9.1 Jane Sadler-Richards will be sending out a survey to drainage practitioners and a workshop may also take place.  
Have municipalities complete supplemental evaluation forms when petitions and requests for municipal drain work is requested.  
DFO has established the Drains Action Working Group.

**10.0 Sub-Committee Report – Drains Action Working Group (D.A.W.G.)**

Mike DeVos

First meeting – February 22, 2007

Committee members: Eric Chamberlain, DSAO; Andy McBride, DSAO; Mike DeVos, LDC; Sid VanderVeen, OMAFRA; Davin Heinbuck, ABCA; Peter Jeffrey, OFA; Dana Boyter, DFO; Joe deLaronde, DFO

Drain projects may be brought before DSAO and the LDC and could be brought to D.A.W.G. by these groups for discussion

MNR to be also contacted to determine whether they should join the committee

ROMA to also be contacted to discuss a possible representative on the committee

The following is a list of topics for discussion: (issues and concerns)

- Status of “Agricultural Design Maintenance in Southern Ontario Guidance to Meeting the Requirements of the Fisheries Act”
- Define the process to reclassify drains
- Jane Sadler-Richards to do a study on the class authorization process and drain classifications
- Drain Enclosures
- What is DFO’s role in CA’s with Level 3 agreements
- Protection of fish habitat vs. Public Health and Safety
- Review of the Fisheries Act

**11.0 Sub-Committee Report – OSPE**

Brett McDermott by conference call

The committee questioned the status of the website. Jeff Dickson contacted “Tyler Francks” from ActiveWeb who indicated they were in a “standby mode” while OSPE formulate their plan for integration of the material for the current to a new site; Jeff also requested an ETA on this site migration from Brett... still pending.

List of members to be sent to Brett and minutes of all LDC meetings to be posted on the OSPE website

## **12.0 New Business**

- 12.1 A motion by Jeff Dickson and seconded by Tim Oliver for the Drainage Conference Advertising by Melanie Prosser be sent to all drainage practitioners.
- 12.2 A motion by Jeff Dickson and seconded by Tim Oliver that the proceedings of the Drainage Engineering Conference be sent to all participants on CD and printed copies be available at an additional cost of \$25.00/copy.
- 12.3 Responses to recommended changes to ADIP policies will be dealt with at next LDC meeting. A report will be formulated and sent to OMAFRA.

## **13.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LDC will be held on Thursday October 25, 2007 at 10:30 am at the Ramada Inn and Conference Centre, Guelph, Ontario.

The practitioners meeting will be held at 7:00 pm.

## **14.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm. Moved by Chris Allen and seconded by Mike DeVos.