

LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, January 27, 2005
Summit Room
Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London, Ontario

1. Attendance And Call To Order

Members Present: Ray Dobbin, Chairman; Tim Oliver, Secretary; Jeff Dickson; David Johnson; Bill Dietrich; John Spriet

Liaison Members Present: Sid VanderVeen, OMAF; Dana Boyter,(for Norm Smith), Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Leo Christl, MNR; Melanie Prosser, Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph (regrets); Conservation Ontario (position vacant); Art Groenveld, MTO (regrets)

Chairman Dobbin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Dickson, seconded by Dietrich, that the agenda as prepared by the chairman be accepted. Carried.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Accept minutes of Oct 21, 2004 as amended. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Dietrich, that the minutes of the October 21, 2004 meeting be adopted as amended. Carried.

4. Business Out Of The Minutes

Item 6.7 of the Oct 21/04 Minutes has LDC taken care of the hospitality invoice of \$146.65. Jeff D. will check with Melanie and will arrange for payment.

5. Correspondence

AgCare wants a response by Feb 14th on the report by the MOE on Source Water Protection. LDC may provide any comments on the Land Drainage Section 5.23 Recommendations 103. Source Water Protection is currently in the Consultation process and is listed on the EBR website. Deadline for comments is Feb 14th.

LDC members should review the document and provide comments to Secretary Oliver by e-mail and passed on to Chairman Dobbin by Feb 14th.

6. Liaison Report – Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph

Melanie Prosser (absent – no report)

Dave Johnson noted the Exhibitors would like to know the representation of engineers, contractors, municipal staff etc. attending the drainage conference. Knowing this information, they can equip their display to best suit the conference attendees. Jeff D. offered to contact Melanie Prosser to see what she can do with the registration form to obtain the information and provide it to the exhibitors prior to the start of the conference.

In regards to topics for the 2005 Conference, we should provide suggestions for topics to Melanie before July 2005. Discussion over a replacement for Lynda Pennington based on Melanie's previous comments from the conference survey was to consider Paul Rhodes (training instructor & president of Rhodes Consulting). Jeff D. to e-mail Melanie in regards to Paul Rhodes as a conference speaker this year.

Tentative date for this year's conference is Oct 28, 2005 to be held at the Ramada again, if available. If not available, Oct 21, 2005 would be the alternate date. Jeff D. will include this in his e-mail and follow up with Melanie.

7. Liaison Report – Ministry of Natural Resources

Leo Christl

- 7.1 MNR's website has information (handout provided) on Water Power Resources and Renewal Energy Opportunities.
- 7.2 \$13 million in funding provided to Municipalities for preparing Source Water Protection Plans. 19 lead CA's involved with the MOE and MNR's resource base expertise. The funding supports staff, resources, public outreach and technical studies.
- 7.3 Stream gauge data can be obtained from MOE. Approx. 111 stream gauge monitoring stations being added to the provincial hydrometric network. Construction of additional stations and upgrades to be completed by March 31, 2005.
- 7.4 Three conservation authority watersheds remain in Low Water condition. The Surface Water Monitoring Centre produces monthly publications on Low Water Conditions for major Ontario watersheds by MNR. Jeff D. receives this publication and will send to LDC members.
- 7.5 New Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act Legislation to deal with water and pipeline crossings. It affects water crossings done by private owners unless the work is being completed under the Drainage Act (exemption). Other exemptions are municipal roads or works on Crown Lands (Public Lands Act). Dams are constructed under the L.R.I.A.
- 7.6 Temperate Wetland Restoration Training Course offered again this year (one week course June 14-18, 2005). Early registration deadline for lower course fee is Apr 30/05. Contact is Leslie Collins at Trent University e-mail: lcollins@trentu.ca
- 7.7 MNR contributions to Source Protection Planning involve:
 - Policy and Program Framework Development
 - Water Budgets
 - Watershed Management Pilot projects
 - Provincial Surface Water Monitoring & Ontario Low Water Response
 - Provincial Water Resources Information Management
 - SPP Capacity Building
 - Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells

- SPP Implementation

8. Liaison Report – Ministry of Transportation

Art Groenveld (absent)

There was no report.

9. Conservation Ontario

This position currently vacant; however, Ray is attempting to procure a replacement for Joe Farwell.

There was no report.

10. Liaison Report - Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Dana Boyter (for Norm Smith)

10.1 Standardized field protocol to be in place this summer. Nothing out on drain enclosures yet.

10.2 Drain classification work is on-going.

10.3 On-going awareness of Fisheries Act. DFO's Norm Smith made a presentation in Nov/Dec 2004 for Municipalities in Southwestern Ontario.

10.4 Navigable Waters now under Transport Canada. Bridge projects are to be advertised in the Ottawa Gazette. DFO approval usually follows Transport Canada approval.

10.5 Typically emergency work approvals are fast once DFO is notified. DFO takes a Risk Management Approach and has streamlined it by eliminating low risk projects from the review process.

11. Liaison Report – Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Sid Vander Veen

Municipal Outlet Drainage Program

11.1 Grants for construction/improvement, maintenance/repair terminated by letters dated July 27 and August 5, 2004

11.2 Budget: 2003/04: \$7.0M 2004/05: \$4.65M 2005/06: \$3.7M 2006/07: \$1.5M

11.3 Minister made a commitment for new model for drainage assistance on August 22/04

- Since then, various alternatives investigated; preferred alternative selected
- Proposal is going to Cabinet for approval in February; if approved, would be in effect for next fiscal year

11.4 In the meantime, the rules announced July 27 are in effect

- Maintenance & superintendent grant applications must be submitted by Jan. 31/05, complete with supporting documentation
- If faxed, must follow-up with the hardcopy by mail

- Certification forms must be provided for projects completed after July 28/04 with a verbal contract
- Construction/Improvement must be submitted by February 15/05
- Terminated projects are eligible for a special one-time grant
- If already terminated, submit by February 15/05 with supporting documentation
- Deadline for terminated projects has been extended to June 30, 2005

11.5 Statistics: Review Stats Sheet

11.6 Tile Loan Program

- Program announced late: October 8, 2004
- Interest rate reduced to 6% and loan limit increased to \$50,000
- Currently slightly less than \$3 million used but not bad considering late announcement

11.7 Conservation Authority Fees:

- Some Conservation Authorities are now charging for review of maintenance projects
- C. A. Regulations allow them to charge fees for projects where the channel of a watercourse is altered, or where fill is placed
- Before paying these fees, I encourage you to investigate the validity of the fees
- With maintenance, the original channel of the drain is not altered
- Maintenance spoil is placed and spread in accordance with the law (*Drainage Act*); Do CA regulations have any authority to override a requirement of an Act?

11.8 Courses

- Primary Drainage Course: Feb. 1-10/05 in Fergus
- Currently 25 registered; room for a couple more
- Only going to be offering one course per year from now on
- Superintendents: Feb. 28-Mar. 4/05 in Guelph
- Rural Municipal Drainage Course/Calculating Drainage Assessments :
- April 11/12 – Sudbury
- April 14/15 – Ottawa
- April 20/21 – London
- Brochures available at OMAF display

11.9 Drainage Referee

- New Drainage Referee – Mr. Robert Waters from Strathroy
- Been involved in some drainage cases; past chair of Farm Practices Protection Board
- New Acting Drainage Referee – Marianne Orr
- Currently Deputy Mining and Lands Commissioner; also lawyer with

Attorney General

- Purpose is to serve as Referee for cases where Mr. Waters has conflict

12. Sub Committee Reports

12.1 DSAO/LICO - Sid Vander Veen

- a) Source Water Protection the main topic of discussion. OMAF has provided input into the Watershed based Source Water Protection Report (Nov 2004) that is now on the website as part of the consultation process.

12.2 Website update - Ray Dobbin

- a) New LDC members added to website. Previous LDC minutes added to website.

13. Old Business

13.1 Affiliation with O.S.P.E.

- a) LDC formally accepted by O.S.P.E. on Jan 10, 2005. There will be \$1,200 annual funding and use of the O.S.P.E. website.

13.2 LDC dues

- a) At the present time sufficient funds have been collected from a number of firms with practicing drainage engineers. Some firms only provided a total of \$100 despite having more than one drainage practitioner and some firms did not provide the requested \$100 for each the 2004 & 2005 years.
- b) Jeff D. motioned, seconded by Bill Dietrich, that the final arrangements with O.S.P.E. for the Land Drainage Committee be made to be ready to take a recommendation to the Drainage Practitioners Meeting in October 2005 as per the motion made at last meeting in Oct 2004. Carried.

13.3 Municipal Outlet Program

- a) Jeff D. summarized the contents of a letter provided to LICO. Letter attached to Minutes.

14. New Business

14.1 LDC should make a formal recognition and presentation to Del O'Brien and invite him to the LDC meeting in June 2005. Nothing was done at the Oct 2004 conference to follow up with this.

15. Next Meeting

June 3, 2005. Location to be determined (most likely the OMAF building)

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Ray Dobbin, Chairman

Tim Oliver, Secretary