

FINAL DRAFT
O.S.P.E. LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, January 25, 2007
Best Western Lamplighter Inn
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: Dana Boyter, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Sid Vander Veen, OMAFRA

Absent: Leo Christl, MNR; Art Groenveld, MTO; Davin Heinbuck, ABCA; Melanie Prosser, Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph; Brett McDermott, O.S.P.E.

Chairman John Spriet called the meeting to order at 10.05 a.m.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

3.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

Motion by Jeff Dickson, seconded by Mike DeVos that the minutes of the October 26, 2006 O.S.P.E. Land Drainage Committee Meeting and the October 26, 2006 Drainage Practitioners Meeting be accepted. Carried.

4.0 Business Arising From The Minutes

Jeff Dickson commented that February 2, 2007 is the deadline for commenting on the formulation of the Source Water Protection Committee initiated by the Clean Water Act.

5.0 Correspondence

5.1 Letter dated January 12, 2007 Carol Baran, O.S.P.E.

5.2 E-mail from Davin Heinbuck, A.B.C.A. – due to conflicts Davin was unable to attend our meeting. He is targeting a late March 2007 Workshop for area Contractors and Drainage Superintendents.

5.3 A copy of the 2006 Drainage Engineers Conference proceedings from Melanie Prosser.

6.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Sid Vander Veen

6.1 Drainage Act Grants

ADIP (Agricultural Drainage Infrastructure Program)

- The ADIP policies were introduced in Sept. 2005 and were applied to grant applications for drain construction/improvement, maintenance/superintendent and for the cost of employing a drainage superintendent for the 2005/06 fiscal year.
- Section 5 of the ADIP policies promised a review before the end of 2007
- Details not known at this point; encourage drainage engineers to begin accumulating your comments.

Grant Statistics-2005/06

- \$3,337,621 in maintenance/superintendent grants
- 1356 maintenance/ repair projects and 218 construction/ improvement projects
- \$4,566,457 in construction/improvements grants

Grant Applications – 2006/07

- Deadline for maintenance/superintendent grant applications is January 31/07 –Based on our problems from last year OMARA will no longer accept incomplete applications. If a complete application is not received by the deadline, it will not be processed. We will not contact any municipality to provide missing information. If provided information requires clarification, we will contact the municipality only once.
- Deadline for submitting grant applications for construction/ improvement projects is February 15/07

Program Budgeting – 2007/08

- Allocation or budget requests for grants for drain maintenance and superintendent activities for the 2007 year must be submitted by the end of February, 2007

6.2 Other Legislation

Conservation Authority – Generic Regulations

- CA's have passed new regulations that give them expanded powers – still not clear how this will be applied to municipal drain projects or to tile drainage activities
- May require permits and fees for drain maintenance; may restrict activities
- Talk to your CA representative

MOE – Clean Water Act

- Legislation now passed but the regulations still have to be developed
- Expect there to be an implication to agriculture and drainage
- Consider involvement at the Conservation Authority level

Fisheries Act

- From the number of conflicts that have occurred in 2006, it appears that the “cooperative approach” to drainage and fisheries is disappearing
- A committee will be established to respond to fisheries/drainage issues

-Fisheries Act is undergoing a legislative review; may be an opportunity to provide comments/suggestions

6.3 Tile Drainage Activity

Tile Loan Program

- Maintained the 6% interest rate and \$50,000 loan limit in 2006/07
- About \$4 million in loans processed to date, with another month to go

Results of 2005 Tile Sales Survey

- 2005 sales of 108.7 million feet; down from 132.4 million feet in 2004
- Expect 2006 sales will be lower; survey forms recently sent out
- With rising corn costs, expect more tile activity in 2007

Tile Drainage Licensing

- In 2006, 92 licensed contractors, 176 machines and 395 operators
- In 2005, 98 licensed contractors, 178 machines and 403 operators

6.4 Courses

- Superintendents will be offered this course March 5-9/07 in Guelph.
- Rural Municipal Drainage Course/Calculation Drainage Assessments will be offered:
April 11/12 – Fort Frances April 18/19 – Brockville
April 24/25 – New Liskeard May 2/3 – London
- Primary Drainage Course: February 6-16/07 in Marden; 15 registered; room for a few more
- Agricultural Erosion Control Structures Training Workshop – offered from February 26 to March 9, 2007 – this year restricted to contractors only.

6.5 Other Items of Interest

Tile Outlet Markers

- Environment Canada is offering free tile outlet markers to drainage superintendents. By signing up, a superintendent can expect at least 25 markers (approx. value - \$500). Conditions: a) the receiving landowner must be given a tip sheet; b) the markers must be installed at tile outlets on municipal drains within the next year; and c) at least one digital photo showing an installed marker must be sent to OMAFRA

Drainage Guide for Ontario

- This project was started in 2004 but was suspended because of the changes to the Drainage Act grant program. This project was restarted in 2006 and OMAFRA hope to have the revised and updated publication sent to the printer by early spring.

Drainage BMP (Best Management Practices)

- OMAFRA has published a number of “BMP” booklets on a variety of subjects.
- OMAFRA has approval and funding to develop and publish a “Drainage BMP” for this year. The project is only in the initial stages, but drainage organizations should expect an opportunity to review.

Controlled Drainage

-A proposal has been submitted to the Canada Ontario Water Supply Enhancement Program (COWSEP) by the land Improvement Contractors of Ontario (LICO). If accepted, LICO would receive funding to promote controlled drainage and sub irrigation in Ontario by (a) developing GIS maps that show areas in Ontario where this could be applied (b) developing a training manual and (c) developing an internet site where design data could be obtained.

7.0 Liaison Report – Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dana Boyter

- 7.1 Amendments to the Fisheries Act are in the House of Commons and the next step in the process will be an opportunity for public comment. Dates and time periods for this are not yet available.
- 7.2 DFO is currently in the process of examining the Class Authorization Process including the Notification process for maintenance works and drain classification updates. We are doing this as a form of internal “audit” so that we can continue to make the process transparent and effective with better communication between the drainage community and the agencies. We have retained Jane Sadler-Richards of Cordner Science on contract to help us with this. A phone survey, written survey, face to face meetings and a workshop are planned to get comprehensive feedback from the drainage community.
- 7.3 A new committee will be organized within a few weeks to replace the Ag sub-committee of the old FHAG (Fish Habitat Advisory Group). There will be representation from LDC, DSAO, OMAFRA, OFA, CA’s and DFO. The format of the committee will include an open forum for discussion on a range of drainage issues.

8.0 Sub-Committee Report; OSPE

Brett McDermott; OSPE by conference call

- 8.1 The OSPE Land Drainage Committee’s expenses for 2006 was approximately \$1,700. The budget was \$1,200. OSPE covered all expenses submitted to them from the Land Drainage Committee in 2006.
- 8.2 For 2007 the allocated amount from OSPE for use by the Land Drainage Committee is \$800.
- 8.3 OSPE will incorporate the current Land Drainage Committee website into the OSPE website and the committee will no longer bear any costs with regards to website maintenance.
- 8.4 Any issues with respect to financing should be directed to Carol Baran, Director of Finance and Administration, OSPE, 416-223-9961 x 233

8.5 LDC is to forward to Brett contents of all information to be posted on the OSPE website.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Specifications Committee Meeting – Chris Allen attended this meeting and made the following report.

-A Drainage Guide is soon to be completed and he asked for all changes that were made be highlighted.

-Amount of recycled material in the manufacturing process of corrugated plastic tubing was discussed.

-The product must meet the specifications and therefore no need to include a maximum amount of regrind or recycled material

-Some concerns that design standards for header tiles vary and a minimum standard should be enforced

-Jim Myslik will write an article on drainage coefficient recommendation for subsurface drainage systems.

9.2 A motion by Jeff Dickson and seconded by Mike DeVos to pay LICO the LDC share of the costs incurred on our behalf by Don Lobb for the submission to MOE on the Clean Water Act. This amounted to a total of \$1997.42. Carried.

9.3 A motion by Jeff Dickson and seconded by Tim Oliver that all expenses from the LDC are to be submitted to the secretary. The secretary will forward the expense forms onto OSPE. Carried

9.4 Jeff Dickson will follow up with a letter to Andy Kester (chairman of the Specifications Committee) regarding the concerns with regards to specifying equivalent materials as options in an engineer's report. See item 14.4 January 2006 minutes.

9.5 Jeff Dickson will finish completely the LDC content from Active Webb and send it to Brett McDermott for posting on the OSPE website.

9.6 Mike DeVos will be our representative on the new committee being organized by DFO to replace the Ag sub-committee of the Fish Habitat Advisory Group. This committee will meet 2 or 3 times a year to deal with DFO issues and drains. Chris Allen will be Mike DeVos' replacement when required.

9.7 The Land Drainage Committee supports Wray Ramsay with respect to Public Safety and the maintenance of Municipal Drains. It was also noted that the DSAO should directly address any issues with the DFO regarding drain maintenance.

9.8 The LDC members are to review the policies developed for the ADIP and submit comments and recommendations for policy changes to the LDC secretary prior to the June meeting. The LDC will summarize these comments and submit a report to OMAFRA with recommendations for changes to the ADIP Policies. Drainage Practitioners are encouraged to submit comments directly to Sid Vander Veen, Drainage Co-ordinator. OMAFRA.

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LDC will be held on Friday, June 1, 2007 at 9:00 am at the DFO office, 73 Meg Drive, London, Ontario.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. Moved by Mike DeVos. Seconded by Chris Allen.

John Spriet, Chairman

Bill Dietrich, Secretary