



FINAL
O.S.P.E. LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Friday, May 31, 2019
O.M.A.F.R.A. Building Board Room 503 (South Tower)
1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario

1.0 Attendance and Call to Order

- 1.1 Members Present: Jeff Dickson, Chairman; Stephen Brickman, Secretary; Gerard Rood; John Kuntze; Tony Peralta; Brandon Widner
- 1.2 Liaison Members Present: Tim Brook, O.M.A.F.R.A. (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs); Patricia Shaver, Open Learning & Educational Support (University of Guelph); Davin Heinbuck, Conservation Ontario (Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority);; Stuart Atkinson, OSPE (Ontario Society of professional Engineers) (by conference call at 9:16)
- 1.3 Regrets: Art Groenveld, M.T.O. (Ministry of Transportation Ontario); Richard Kavanagh, D.F.O. (Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada); Tom Hoggarth, D.F.O. (Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada); Dave Richards, MNRF (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry)
- 1.4 Chairman Jeff Dickson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

- 2.1 The committee reviewed the agenda prepared by Jeff Dickson. Motion by Stephen Brickman, seconded by John Kuntze, that the agenda as prepared by the chairman be accepted. Carried.

3.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

- 3.1 Moved by Tony Peralta to accept the L.D.C. meeting minutes as circulated, seconded by Brandon Widner. Carried
- 3.2 Final minutes are to be sent to Pat Shaver by Steve Brickman for posting to the L.D.C. web site. **Action by Steve and Patricia.**

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

- 4.1 Jeff reviewed the summary of action items from the last minutes. Final minutes of the October meeting were sent to Pat Shaver and she posted them on the L.D.C. website (www.landdrainageengineers.com).
- 4.2 Tony is continuing to get more for William Settington, P.Eng. **Action by Tony.**
- 4.3 Jeff has provided the most up-to-date contact information for OSPE. In addition, Jeff has forwarded corrections to Pat regarding contact information on the website.
- 4.4 Gerard has redistributed names of lawyers familiar with drainage to the LDC.
- 4.5 Gerard forwarded his completed draft for the introduction for the biographies to Pat to be included on the website.
- 4.6 Later in the meeting, Tim will comment and provide update on the status of issues raised by OMAFRA with respect to MPAC.
- 4.7 Davin provided the LDC with the DAWG Terms of Reference.
- 4.8 Steve contacted the DSAO directors and passed on the LDC motion inviting the DSAO to appoint a liaison member to the LDC.
- 4.9 Note that the date of the June meeting was adjusted from June 7th, 2019 to May 31st, 2019.

5.0 Correspondence

- 5.1 Jeff was contacted by Stuart Atkinson of OSPE. Stuart indicated that he will not be attending the meeting in person but will be phoning in using the conference call instructions. Stuart also provided information on the OSPE 'All Committee's Meeting' (ACM). The ACM is being held on June 26, 2019 in North York. This led to brief discussion about the LDC sending a representative to the ACM. Tony supports the idea of having the LDC represented at the ACM. Given that John Kuntze has participated in several advocacy events on behalf of the LDC, John will attend the OSPE ACM. John will notify Stuart of his intended attendance. **Action by John.** Jeff may also attend, depending on his availability.
- 5.2 Jeff received a receipt from Environmental Registration of Ontario (ERO) regarding the LDC's submission and participation in 'Focusing Conservation Authority development permits on the protection of people and property'. At this time, there is no further action required regarding this ERO.

6.0 Liaison Report – OSPE – Stuart Atkinson (by conference call at 9:16am)

- 6.1 Stuart introduced himself and his history with OSPE. Stuart has been with OSPE for about seven months. He is involved in the environmental industry, and research and innovation taskforces.
- 6.2 Recently, OSPE has been heavily involved in advocacy projects relating to their energy task force, where OSPE released an energy report. A recent MPP reception included a large focus on this report. Further to the energy task force, OSPE has completed meetings with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), and is waiting to schedule a meeting with the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and political parties.
- 6.3 OSPE is providing feedback on the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, with reference to the 'Made in Ontario' environmental plan.
- 6.4 Consulting Engineers Ontario (CEO) sent a letter to the Attorney General stating the importance of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) to focus on its role of regulatory issues for the engineering profession; not advocacy. The following day, OSPE sent a letter to the Attorney General in support of the CEO correspondence.

- 6.5 Stuart discussed the All Committee's Meeting (noted earlier) which is scheduled for June 26, in North York. The primary purpose of the meeting is to address overlapping issues among OSPE committees, as well as providing a general sense of the direction in which OSPE is moving in.
- 6.6 Jeff asked a question about the status of the Limited Engineering License (LEL)/Licensed Engineering Technologist (LET) issues that the LDC had previously discussed in detail with a predecessor of Stuart. As an industry, we need more engineers, and the limited licensing option is an opportunity for helping with workload. Steve and Jeff explained that there is an issue with the evaluation committee not being populated properly for technologist hoping to achieve a license in the drainage engineering industry.
- 6.7 Stuart discussed advocacy at a student level. Stuart mentioned that OSPE has a dedicated events person who can assist with coordinating presentations for schools. Tony noted that the curriculum doesn't acknowledge the drainage profession very well. Jeff also noted that OSPE previously stated that they will be preparing promotional materials. Stuart indicated that he will investigate the LEL/LET issue and will report back to the LDC on its status, along with advocacy at the student level. **Action by Stuart.** The LDC will locate a previously prepared brochure and other content for promotional materials and forward onto Stuart. **Action by LDC.** Tony will locate a previously prepared blog posting and forward to Stuart. **Action by Tony.**

7.0 Liaison Report – MNRF – Dave Richards

- 7.1 Dave could not attend and no report was provided.

8.0 Liaison Report – Conservation Ontario – Davin Heinbuck

- 8.1 Davin circulated the flyer for the Drainage Innovation Field Day and briefly described the innovative techniques that the partners will be demonstrating.
- 8.2 Davin discussed the recent flood funding cuts from the Provincial Government. In general, conservation authorities will receive approximately 50% of what was historically received from this fund.
- 8.3 The following areas may be impacted by further changes to the Conservation Authorities Act:
- Core role in hazard management (Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act)
 - Four key mandates including hazards; drinking water source protection; Lake Simcoe; and management of CA lands
 - Left out are extension programs (eg. Stewardship, water quality, etc.)
 - Boards may need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for non-core programs. CAs do not know if member municipalities will be asked to contribute more to make up for cuts, or if programs offered by CAs will be reduced.
 - Rural CAs will be more affected by the changes.
 - On a positive note, there seems to be more federal opportunities, but CAs could have less resources to properly apply for these opportunities.
- 8.4 Davin discussed the ERO postings (previously noted in the minutes under 'Correspondence'). There were two EROs posted for comment. The following are topics noted in the EROs
- There are 36 CAs in Ontario. The intention is to harmonize the 36 sets of regulation under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act

- Definitions – Wetland, pollution, development, hazard land, interference, conservation of land
 - Some (not all) CAs have gone beyond the limitations of Section 28 (eg. natural heritage).
 - Regulation limits around wetlands may be reduced
 - Low risk drainage activities may be exempt
 - More public consultation on policies and changes to regulation mapping. Text supersedes mapping.
 - Flood event standards and are the current standards resilient to climate change?
- 8.5 Davin discussed DART and noted that Conservation Ontario in their response to the registry postings has asked that DART (DART2) be reconvened to look at further efficiencies specific to Sections 4 and 78 of the Drainage Act.
- 8.6 CAs operate under two ministries; hazards fall under the MNRF; CA operations and drinking water source protection will be under the MECP.
- 8.7 DFO is continuing to classify drains. The Ausable Bayfield CA (ABCA) has received funding for classifying 15 drains in the ABCA and 15 drains in the Maitland Valley CA (MVCA). Davin believes that DFO (with CA assistance) classifies approximately 250 drains per year.

9.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Transportation – Art Groenveld

- 9.1 Art Groenveld was not present and there was no report.

10.0 Liaison Report – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs – Tim Brook

- 10.1 Tim noted that the Minister is Ernie Hardeman. Tim added that the Minister is supportive of drainage.
- 10.2 With respect to the Agriculture Drainage Investment Program ADIP budget, Tim noted the following:
- There are no changes to this year's budget.
 - Tim explained that typically grant demand is high compared to the budget. Tony asked about reducing some grants for certain projects in order to reduce the pressure.
 - OMAFRA is continuing to process grants.
 - OMAFRA is continuing to transition to Grants Ontario for submissions under the ADIP program. Grants Ontario was selected to improve efficiency.
 - OMAFRA is transitioning existing queue notifications over to the Grants Ontario format for projects initiated under Section 4 and 78 of the Drainage Act. John noted that the new queue notification format prompts the municipality to indicate if environmental permits have been received. Tim added that there has been comments received about the Drainage Superintendent 'signing off' of environmental permits at this stage. Tim explained that the Township is the applicant of environmental permits, and likewise a Township representative should sign off on permitting.
 - Tim indicated that grant applications for capital projects (Section 4 & 78) will not be processed using the paper application forms used in previous years. OMAFRA will have electronic application forms available through Grants Ontario by the fall of 2019.

- Tim explained that information on ‘Environmental Costs’ will be collected. This information is being used to assess the burden of environmental requirements.
- 10.3 Tim updated the LDC on the status of MPAC issues which were discussed at previous LDC meetings. OMAFRA is preparing proposals to brief the Minister on drainage issues, and the MPAC issues are included in these proposals.
- 10.4 Tim indicated that OMAFRA is engaged with the MNR and MECP to re-engage DART.
- 10.5 Tim discussed the possibility of the Government opening the Drainage Act to changes to address burden reduction. John commented on Section 75 (3) of the Drainage Act which makes note of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) which no longer exists. Tim stated that if anybody has any comments similar to John’s, to please direct those comments to Tim. This led to brief discussion about the PEO guidelines for Engineers working under the Drainage Act. John asked if the Engineer’s Guide should replace the PEO guidelines. The LDC will ask OSPE how to notify the PEO about the need for updating their drainage engineers’ guide.
- Action by LDC.**
- 10.6 Tim updated the LDC on the status of the Drainage Superintendent’s Guide. The guide is progressing. It is Tim’s goal to have a draft of the document available for peer review in the fall of 2019. He would like the LDC to review the document as well.

11.0 DART – John Kuntze

- 11.1 No report was received. The DART committee is largely inactive at this time.

12.0 DAWG – John Kuntze

- 12.1 A meeting took place; however, John was unable to attend. No update was received.

13.0 Liaison Report Office of Open Learning - University of Guelph - Pat Shaver

- 13.1 Pat reviewed the conference budget.
- 13.2 The conference proceedings from 2003 to 2018 are posted on the LDC website. Pat explained that Open Ed is posting proceedings beginning with the most recent conferences, and working backwards
- 13.3 Pat will be posting the introduction to the Biographies section of the website
- 13.4 Open Ed is assessing the Table of Contents for the conference proceedings. The table of contents may need to be completely reformatted.
- 13.5 While reviewing the course evaluations from last year, Pat noted that there were some tech problems. Pat asked if Alex should be hired for the day to assist with IT during the course. **The LDC supported hiring Alex for IT assistance during the Conference. Moved by Gerard, Seconded by Tony.**
- 13.6 Pat reviewed and compared the Delta Hotel to the Holiday Inn for a potential venue. After discussion, it was determined that the Holiday Inn will continue to be the venue for the Course and Conference.
- 13.7 The **Thursday agenda** was reviewed by Pat. After reviewing comments from last year’s formal banquet, it was decided to continue with a meal option at the venue. Instead of a formal venue, the LDC decided upon organizing a Drainage Engineers’ Reception. John suggested having dinner in the larger room and holding the practitioner’s meeting in the smaller room. A discussion took place about having a buffet dinner or setting up meal stations during the social.

It was decided to set up various meal stations to promote a more “mix and mingle” setting. Exhibitors will have their booths set up during the Drainage Engineers’ Reception. Exhibitors will not be in attendance at the Friday conference. This will provide more space at the conference and increase the traffic for the exhibitors. It should be noted that a format similar to this was recommended by one of the exhibitors. The Practitioners meeting will be held in the Trillium room (as suggested by John). Pat will revise and prepare a new draft for the Thursday Schedule. **Action by Pat.** Steve will talk to the DSAO about attending the Drainage Engineers’ Reception on Thursday. **Action by Steve.**

13.8 Much discussion took place regarding the **Drainage Engineers’ Course** on Thursday. The LDC decided to continue with Year 2 of the three year course program. Year 2 focuses on calculating Allowances and Assessments. The last time Year 2 was held was in 2012. The LDC decided to do two or three case study presentations to highlight and demonstrate various methodology for calculating allowances and assessments. Steve will send out an email to the LDC to prompt everybody to brainstorm ideas for the Course. **Action by Steve.** The LDC will decide by June 28th as to what will be included in the Course. Jeff will set up a conference call on June 21 in the afternoon to discuss further. **Action by Jeff.**

13.9 **Drainage Engineers’ Conference.** The LDC revisited the ‘parking lot’ of ideas previously brainstormed. Pat suggested that she contact Dave Ryan regarding his presentation on Managing Municipal Drains in an Encroaching Urban Environment. Brandon stated that he could contact Gillier Contractors about presenting on their technology for plowing up to 24” HDPE dual wall pipe. It was noted in several instances from the last Drainage Engineers’ Conference survey that attendees appreciated a more comical presentation. Tim will contact Alex Barrie about presenting on a topic which highlights the lighter side of the drainage industry. Tim will also contact Charlie LaLond about a possible presentation on the Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative. Tribunal Cost Awards was discussed as a possible topic idea. Steve will search for a possible presenter from Dietrich Engineering Ltd to present on Tribunal Award of Costs. Jeff and other LDC members noted that once again many of last year’s attendees highlighted the case studies. Through discussion, the LDC thought it was best to have presentations on two case studies. Jeff will contact Jeremy Taylor about presenting the McNain Drain. The LDC will brainstorm ideas for presenters on the second case study.

14.0 New Business

14.1 Gerard briefly discussed an article highlighting possible changes to the ESA and CA Act, which referenced several EROs (one of which the LDC participated in).

14.2 Tim brought up some ideas for promoting the drainage industry. He discussed University capstone projects and suggested that students may be enticed to do a drainage project as a capstone. Tim has been an industry judge at the University of Guelph, and he may be able to connect with a U of G contact person to discuss options. Pat mentioned that the RIPPN program at U of G may be an excellent opportunity to put projects forward from the drainage industry, and a student could complete the design work.

14.3 Jeff and Tim reminded the committee of correspondence received from Ridgetown College where they are looking for instructors (OLSs, CETs, P.Eng.s) to teach the advanced drainage course for contractors.

14.4 Sid VanderVeen provided an email regarding how things don’t change. The email contained a reference to a document from the Department of agriculture from 1968. The document said that some councils have waited up to three years to receive a report from drainage engineers!

15.0 Next Meeting

15.1 The next meeting of the L.D.C. will be Thursday, October 24th, 2019 commencing at 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Guelph.

16.0 Adjournment

16.1 The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m. Moved by Brandon Widner and seconded by Tony Peralta. Carried.

Jeff Dickson, Chairman

Stephen Brickman, Secretary

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Final minutes are to be sent to Pat Shaver by Steve Brickman for posting to the L.D.C. web site. **Action by Steve and Patricia.**
- 2) Tony is continuing to get more for William Settington, P.Eng. **Action by Tony.**
- 3) Given that John Kuntze has participated in several advocacy events on behalf of the LDC, John will attend the OSPE ACM. John will notify Stuart of his intended attendance. **Action by John.** Jeff may also attend, depending on his availability.
- 4) Stuart indicated that he will investigate the LEL/LET issue and will report back to the LDC on its status, along with advocacy at the student level. **Action by Stuart.**
- 5) The LDC will locate a previously prepared brochure and other content for promotional materials and forward onto Stuart. **Action by LDC.**
- 6) Tony will locate a previously prepared blog posting and forward to Stuart. **Action by Tony.**
- 7) The LDC will ask OSPE how to notify the PEO about the need for updating their drainage engineers' guide. **Action by LDC.**
- 8) Pat will revise and prepare a new draft for the Thursday Schedule. **Action by Pat.**
- 9) Steve will talk to the DSAO about attending the Drainage Engineers' Reception on Thursday. **Action by Steve.**
- 10) Steve will send out an email to the LDC to prompt everybody to brainstorm ideas for the Course. **Action by Steve.**
- 11) Jeff will set up a conference call on June 21 in the afternoon to discuss further. **Action by Jeff.**