

FINAL DRAFT
DRAINAGE PRACTITIONERS ANNUAL MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2004
Pinetree Room, Ramada Inn
Guelph, Ontario

1.0 Attendance And Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

An attendance sheet was passed around and there were 29 people in attendance of which 19 were Practitioners.

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

Motion by Eric Westerberg, seconded by Andy McBride, that the minutes of the October 23, 2003 meeting be accepted. Carried.

3.0 Resignation of Committee Member

Ken Graham (Vice Chair) has submitted his resignation of the LDC. Ken is employed by the Township of St. Clair and is no longer practicing as a drainage engineer. There is one year remaining on his 3 year term that will require a replacement member to serve the one year term.

4.0 Chairman's Report

Chairman Ray Dobbin reported to those present on the activities of the Land Drainage Committee for the past year. Topics included the following:

- OSPE Board of Directors decided the LDC's modified terms of reference did not conform or was not an appropriate fit with OSPE's mandate which is to advance the interests of Professional Engineers in Ontario. Further revisions are required to the terms of reference prior to acceptance by OSPE.
- MOD grant program cancellation July 27, 2004
- Meeting with Lambton County officials and Agriculture Minister Steve Peters on October 8, 2004
- Meeting of LDC members in London (office of Spriet & Associates) on October 8, 2004
- The Ministry has been developing a new model for rural infrastructure and is seeking input from stakeholders from groups such as ROMA (Rural Ontario Municipality's Association) and AMO (Association of Municipalities Ontario). Discussions with the Ag Minister indicated a united front consisting of DSAO, LICO & LDC would be considered a stakeholder to deal with drainage aspects in developing a new drainage program under the new model for rural infrastructure.

5.0 OMAF report

Sid Vanderveen

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

- The same rules are in effect since the July 27 announcement.
- August 22, 2004 - Provincial Gov't News Release involving transitional funding however no specifics on what this funding is.
- New model for Rural Infrastructure being considered and feedback being accepted from stakeholders. One concern rising from the stakeholder meetings (raised by AMO) was the escalating costs of engineering fees.
- Canada / Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure program in the new Federal budget announcing approx. \$900 million of which \$298 million for each of the three governments (Federal, Provincial, Municipal) geared towards more of the major infrastructure projects like roads and bridges.
- Tile loan program increased to maximum \$50,000 annual loans available at a fixed lower interest rate at 6% versus previous 8% over a 10 year plan. Expect increased use of the loan program.
- Source Water Protection Act (new legislation) with the implementation committee focusing on tile drains & municipal drains program established through the Walkerton inquiry..
- OMAF courses offered this year were as follows: Advanced Drainage Course, Drainage Superintendents Course, Rural Municipal Drainage Course & Calculating Drainage Assessment Workshops for Drainage Superintendents.
- Tribunal Decisions examples this year involving Common Law drainage cases were passed around. On case ruled a ravine as a low-lying area. Referee O'Brien officially retires Nov 20, 2004.
- Total demand for the Municipal Outlet Program was approximately around \$7 million again this year including the carryover amount of \$884,587 when \$850,000 was budgeted as a carry over from last year. Extremely close to budget projections within 0.5%.
- The deadline for grant applications on maintenance projects is again January 31, 2005 and Feb 15, 2005 for Engineer's reports.

6.0 New Business

- Discussion amongst practitioners regarding the affiliation with OSPE. Alternatives to stand alone or investigate affiliation with the CEO or consideration of other sub-technical committees. A motion made by Andy McBride and seconded by John Kuntze that the Memberships directs the Committee as follows:

1. To solicit a contribution of approx. \$100.00 from the “practicing engineer” to fund the 2004 year.
2. To solicit a contribution of approx. \$100.00 from the “practicing engineer” to fund the 2005 year.
3. To negotiate with OSPE regarding becoming a Committee of that organization and
4. failing successful negotiations with OSPE that CEO be approached for affiliation and
5. finally to make a recommendation to the members at the annual practitioners meeting in October 2005.
 - Drainage Conference is in the Pinetree Room at the Ramada Inn not at the Arboretum.

7.0 Election of Members to Committee

New members nominated for three year terms were Jeff Dickson and John Spriet. New member nominated for one year term to replace Ken Graham is Bill Dietrich. For the Drainage Industry meeting in Jan 2005, Jeff Dickson and Bill Dietrich have volunteered to attend.

8.0 Open Discussion

Discussion centred around several items as follows:

Three issues highlighted to be addressed for LDC’s position paper suggested by Minister Peters.

1. New program for Rural Infrastructure funding decided by each municipality how to spend the money on infrastructure not just drainage,
2. Pot of money option for municipality to spend on drainage projects of utmost priority.
3. Involve more non-engineers in preparing drainage reports.

Response should focus on leaving the program the way it is with some tweaking to save costs. The concern of high engineering costs expressed by AMO should be addressed by educating AMO the engineering fees have been consistent and have not fluctuated or increased dramatically over the past 5 years, as is evident in the comparison of drainage costs statistics prepared by OMAF each year.

Practitioners were asked to submit any additional info they would like to see included in the position paper by e-mail before Nov 1, 2004 to be forwarded to any of the LDC members.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Ray Dobbin, Chairman

Tim Oliver, Secretary