

FINAL DRAFT
2007 DRAINAGE PRACTITIONERS MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday October 25, 2007
Ramada Conference Centre – Pinetree Room B
Guelph, Ontario

1.0 Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. An attendance sheet was circulated at the meeting and there were 30 people in attendance of which 17 were practitioners.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion by Jeff Dickson and seconded by Tom Pridham that the minutes of the Thursday October 25, 2006 meeting (as distributed) be accepted. Carried.

3.0 Old Business

No old business.

4.0 Chairman's Report

Chairman, John Spriet reported on the activities of the O.S.P.E. Land Drainage Committee for the past year.

- The Drains Action Working Group (DAWG) was formulated in 2007. The following organizations are represented on this group.
 - a) OFA
 - b) DSAO
 - c) OSPE LDC
 - d) DFO
 - e) Conservation Authorities
 - f) AMO
 - g) OMAFRA

Mike DeVos is our representative from the OSPE LDC on this committee. They have held five (5) meetings in 2007. A terms of reference has been developed. The members of this group have a common goal to recognize and respect the need for improved drainage through the Drainage Act and to recognize and respect the importance of fish and fish habitat through the Fisheries Act.

- Please refer to DAWG Minutes for further details.
- Please contact the DAWG committee to air your complaints with respect to fisheries issues and the construction of municipal drains.

- ADIP Policy Review
The OSPE LDC is summarizing recommended policy changes from practitioners and will be formalizing a response which will be forwarded to OMAFRA when completed.
- Grants not being paid for the cost of enclosing existing open ditches unless the pipe designed is a 300 mm dia. plastic pipe is a concern with most drainage practitioners and this will be addressed by the committee to OMAFRA.
- Updates of the Land Drainage Committee activity is available on the University of Guelph – Enewsletters as prepared by Melanie Prosser.

5.0 OMAFRA Report

Sid VanderVeen

A summary of the OMAFRA activities are listed below:

- Ministry changes – Peter Meerveld, new director
Len Senyshyn, manager of Nutrient Management Approvals
Drainage is now part of Environmental Management Branch
- Drainage contacts are the same – Sid VanderVeen, Andy Kester, Valerie Anderson
- Drainage Referee – Robert Waters
2 decisions in 2007 – 1) Ireland vs. the Municipality of West Elgin
2) Allan vs. the Township of Tay Valley
These decisions were circulated.
- ADIP policies will be reviewed in 2008 and adjustments will be made if improvements can be made.
- Four (4) occurrences on municipal drains that didn't comply with Fisheries Act. Work must comply with Fisheries Act in order to get the agricultural grants provided under the Drainage Act.
- Fisheries Act Issues
 - change of fisheries classifications without scientific and biological proof
 - DFO saying maintenance is not required
 - drain enclosures, decisions not consist
 - DAWG will attempt resolving disputes
 - Drain maintenance approvals - drain classifications
 - A,B & C – (5days)
 - D & E – (2 months after information is provided)
 - F – authorization not required
- Drainage Guide – completed
 - Ross Irwin published the first Drainage Guide in 1957.
- Drainage Stats for 2006/2007
 - were circulated at the meeting
 - see 39th Drainage Conference proceedings for details
- Nutrient Management Act and Regulations
 - Liquid Nutrient Transfer Systems must be designed by a professional engineer
 - contact Jim Arnold, P.Eng. for details - jimarnold@ontario.ca

6.0 LDC Affiliation with O.S.P.E.

LDC received notice from O.S.P.E. that the 2007 budget would be \$800.00

7.0 Election of New Members

John Spriet and Jeff Dickson have completed a 3 year term.

Jeff Dickson has completed two (2) consecutive 3 year terms and is not eligible for nomination. Sid VanderVeen presided over the nominations for new members.

Tom Pridham and John Kuntze were nominated as new members and each were acclaimed.

8.0 Open Discussion

- Drainage Tribunal – Sid VanderVeen informed practitioners that the new general manager/secretary at the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal is Lorne Widmer.
- The Ministry may be looking for another engineer on the Tribunal.
- Jeff Dickson is working on the history of the LDC. If you have information that Jeff is missing, send it to him.
- If you have fishery issues unresolved, send information regarding the projects to DAWG for their review.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

John Spriet, Chairman

Bill Dietrich, Secretary