

FINAL DRAFT
DRAINAGE PRACTITIONERS ANNUAL MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, October 27, 2005
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 20 people in attendance of which 14 were Practitioners.

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

Motion by Bill Dietrich, seconded by Eric Westerberg, that the minutes of the October 21, 2004 meeting be accepted. Carried.

3.0 Chairman's Report

Chairman Ray Dobbin reported to those present on the activities of the Land Drainage Committee for the past year. The details are being worked out with OSPE now to be known as the OSPE Land Drainage Committee.

4.0 OMAFRA report

Sid Vander Veen

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

- New Minister Leona Dombrowsky.
- OMAF is now back to OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs).
- Bruce Archibald is the new Deputy Minister for OMAFRA.
- 12 projects terminated through the new ADIP program amounting to \$226,000 in engineering fees where 1/3 grant was paid.
- 315 drainage reports over past year with \$350,000 carry over from previous year for a total \$4.1 million in grants for new construction or improvements under Engineer's report.
- Grant on maintenance work was \$3.7 million over past year.
- Nutrient Management Act regulations are still in flux.
- Water Resources Act now enforced by Ministry of Environment to require water taking permits.
- The full amount of the GST (7%) is now fully rebated on drainage works. Previously it was 4%.

- Environmental Cost Share Program is now available through the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan to provide federal grants for a portion of eligible project costs (30-50%) with funding caps anywhere from \$2,000 to \$30,000 through three separate programs (Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program, Greencover Canada, Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program). Program is a 3 year program (April 2005 - April 2008) covers numerous projects that enhance the environment from erosion protection works, vegetated buffer strips, improved manure handling and other related land stewardship activities as listed on the flyer provided as a handout. Ontario producers with an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) “deemed appropriate” through a peer review are eligible to apply for the cost share incentives through any of the three programs mentioned above. The applications are to be filled out and submitted to the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association in Guelph for final approval.
- Supplement Request form for DFO review of drain maintenance projects was sent to all municipalities. This is not a legislated requirement however was intended to improve the approval process.
- Drainage Superintendents Course had 18 participants this year.
- Drainage Course for Municipal Clerks and Assessments Course had 95 participants this year.
- Referee Delbert O’Brien has retired this year and was replaced by Rob Waters serving a three years term.
- DFO has 10 operational statements on a number of different works. DFO website allows you at access these operational statements.

5.0 Affiliation with OSPE

- Motion to accept the recommendation for the Land Drainage Committee to become a Committee of OSPE (Ontario Society of Professional Engineers). Moved by Bill Dietrich. Seconded by Paul Elston.
- Motion to accept revised OSPE Land Drainage Committee Terms of Reference. Moved by Ed Dries. Seconded by Jeff Dickson.

6.0 New Business

- No new business.

7.0 Election of New Members

The following five members were nominated of which two were to be elected for the committee: Chris Allen, David Grahman, Bill Dietrich, David Johnson, Andrea Winter were the nominees. Chris Allen and Bill Dietrich were elected. Motion to destroy the ballots. Moved by Jeff Dickson. Seconded by David Johnson.

8.0 Open Discussion

Discussion centred around several items as follows:

1. OSPE Land Drainage Committee will follow up with the new proposed Generic Regulation under the Conservation Authorities Act and will provide a letter to all the Conservation Authorities requesting that the OSPE LDC be invited to the meetings scheduled to be held at different CA's offices throughout the Province. The OSPE LDC will check the website of Conservation Ontario for further updates on the meetings, dates and locations prior to the implementation of the regulation on May 1, 2006. There are several concerns expressed regarding the proposed Generic Regulation such as the broad definition of a watercourse and a wetland.
2. New ADIP program does not pay grant on a municipal drain that is located within 120 metres of a designated wetland. A designated wetland established by Conservation Ontario does not necessarily mean a provincially significant wetland.

9.0 Adjournment

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

Jeff Dickson, Chairman

Tim Oliver, Secretary