

FINAL DRAFT
O.S.P.E. LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, October 26, 2006
Ramada Conference Centre - Pinetree Room B
Guelph, Ontario

1.0 Attendance And Call To Order

Members Present: Jeff Dickson, Chairman; Tim Oliver, Secretary; Ray Dobbin; Chris Allen, Bill Dietrich, John Spriet

Liaison Members Present: Sid Vander Veen, OMAFRA; Dana Boyter, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Davin Heinbuck, ABCA; Melanie Prosser, Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph

OSPE Member Present: Brett McDermott, O.S.P.E.

Absent: Leo Christl, MNR; Art Groenveld, MTO

Chairman Dickson called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion by Dobbin, seconded by Allen, that the agenda as prepared by the chairman be accepted. Carried.

3.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

Some minor corrections to the minutes of June 9, 2006 discussed.

Action Item: Ray Dobbin moved that all “draft” minutes of meetings be prepared by the secretary and circulated to committee members within a maximum of 2 weeks of the meeting date. Any comments from the committee are to be returned to the secretary within a maximum of 2 weeks. The Final Draft minutes are to then be posted on the website within 2 weeks. Seconded by Chris Allen. Carried

4.0 Business Out Of The Minutes

Item 13.1 - Chris Allen requested clarification that the Registration Fee and Student Fee for this year’s conference had increased \$5.00 to \$165.00 & \$75.00 respectively. General consensus was the increase was minimal and necessary to ensure the expenses of the conference were covered. There was a minor deficit last year.

5.0 Correspondence

No items of formal correspondence. Brett McDermott indicated his direct contact number at OSPE is 1-866-763-1654 Ext. 226

6.0 Liaison Report – Office of Open Learning, University of Guelph

Melanie Prosser

- 6.1 96 registrants including exhibitors however as of this morning the late registrants brings total to 102 with 26 engineers/surveyors and 9 exhibitors.
- 6.2 Coloured flyer handout to registrants is new this year including bio's and photograph of the speakers. An attractive flyer provides a professional taste to the Conference.
- 6.3 Registration table being moved into the Conference Room this year instead of outside the main doors.
- 6.4 Room is full this year as a result of all the exhibitors.
- 6.5 New this year there is a limit of one additional exhibitor pass per exhibitor space.
- 6.6 New this year exhibitors contributed to a handout sample bag to give to each registrant.
- 6.7 New draft flyer for next year's 39th Drainage Engineer's Conference will be given to each exhibitor to give each the opportunity to early book and obtain a \$50 discount (\$210 versus \$260).
- 6.8 Need to confirm booking for Ramada again next year (Fri. Oct 26, 2007) **Action Item:** Bill Dietrich moved that Melanie Prosser proceed with booking the Ramada for Oct 25 & 26, 2007 for the committee meetings and Conference. Seconded by: John Spriet. Carried.
- 6.9 An e-newsletter being established by the U of G Open Learning Centre. Melanie offered it to the Land Drainage Committee if they would like to make use of it in the future. Brett M. sees no problem with it from OSPE's perspective should the LDC intend to utilize it. General consensus from OSPE LDC is there would need to be at least one or two individuals on the committee to consider being editors and it may require too much time demands to research and develop interesting reading useful to Drainage Practitioners.

7.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Natural Resources

Leo Christl - absent (no report)

8.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Transportation

Art Groenveld - absent (no report)

9.0 Conservation Ontario

Davin Heinbuck (ABCA)

- 9.1 Fall 2006 was a very busy time for drain maintenance in the DSAO Chapter 3 area (South Huron, Huron Perth, Middlesex municipalities. However, very few maintenance notification request forms were submitted.

- 9.2 October was a really wet month in the ABCA watershed recording double the average precipitation.
- 9.3 ABCA still planning to have a workshop for Drainage Superintendents to explain the Drain Classification system with assistance provided by DFO. At the workshop the emphasis will be on the Notification Forms. A previous workshop was last held in 2003 at the office of the UTRCA. Important to emphasize still that a Class Authorization is required prior to any works being started.
- 9.4 Katie Stamler (grad student) continuing to study impacts of drain enclosures (tile drains) on fish habitat with some setbacks this year acquiring data. Belinda Ward Campbell (grad student) continues to study impacts of drain cleanouts (loss of bottom sediments, substrate and vegetation) and the rebound effects on fish habitat.
- 9.5 There are a few concerns raised relating to the Generic Regulations such as the definitions of "waterway" and "watercourse" being very vague. Concerns were also raised on the increased jurisdiction giving power to CA's especially around wetlands and buffers surrounding wetlands. It is not intended for the Conservation Authorities Act to override the Drainage Act when it comes to municipal drains.

10.0 Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Dana Boyter

- 10.1 DFO still looking for permanent GIS- Geomatics person to wrestle with the data for the Drain Classification System.
- 10.2 DFO revamping the process so that Drain Notices go the DFO Biologist at the same time as the DFO planner to help speed up the process. Problem was discovered that the process got caught up with the planner before the biologist's review. Complaints received of inexperienced staff and misplaced documents. DFO Sarnia office is in transition being located to a new London office location. Only one DFO Biologist in Sarnia office presently.
- 10.3 FHAG (Fish Habitat Advisory Group) now disbanded however recent discussion between DFO & OMAFRA about establishing a new committee to deal with Drainage Issues with representation from MNR, DFO field rep, Conservation Ontario, and the OSPE LDC to deal with non specific problems first like notification system, drain enclosures etc. For this new committee being formed, consideration should be given to a designated member or rotation of members to attend the meetings (3-4 per year).
- 10.4 DFO requires the proponent to complete the assessment of fish habitat and the impact assessments including compensation and mitigation plans. This requires a qualified consultant to complete this. This will greatly increase the processing rate of applications

to obtain authorization and facilitate the EA process. A physical description of the work plan at the start is insufficient to keep the approval process moving.

- 10.5 DFO stresses that all Engineers reports should have a section in report on Fisheries concerns even for culvert installations to mention embedment and restore substrate (stone in culvert etc.).
- 10.6 Reclassifying the drains usually is left with the CA's. To change the classification requires hard data (monitoring flows to determine if intermittent, electro fishing etc.). The DFO's biologist's assessment from just observing the features on a drain does not permit the change in drain classification.

11.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Sid Vander Veen

- 11.1 Sid advised that he is forwarding general information e-mails that he deems to be of interest to the committee members. If you wish not to receive the information, please advise him to remove your e-mail address from the contact group.
- 11.2 Clean Water Act legislation recently given third reading this month in Parliament. Check the Legislative Assembly website (<http://www.ontla.on.ca/index.htm>) to find out the status of bills and for the Hansard record on the debate of bills. The Committee is encouraged to stay involved because the regulations still have to be developed. It is not over yet as now the start of developing the regulations begins. Contact your representative MP to voice your concerns.
- 11.3 Ontario Regulation 97/04 Generic Regulations. Each CA has now developed their own regulation since the red tape amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act.
- 11.4 LICO convention Jan 24-25/2007. Some of the speakers include Katie Stemmler (Do Agricultural Drains Provide Fish Habitat?), Ron Lester (ground penetrating radar to find tile), and Don Lobb, Jack Imhoff, and Peter Bryan Pulham on "The Pros and Cons of Environmental Enhancement – a panel discussion".
- 11.5 DFO & OMAFRA held meeting in Fall 2006 and outcome of meeting was to establish a committee earlier mentioned by Dana Boyter.
- 11.6 Latornell Conference being held in Alliston on Nov. 15-17, 2006. Information on speakers and presenters found on website www.latornell.ca . The conference is attended by mainly CA and MNR staff. This year OMAFRA has been invited to provide information on agricultural drainage.

11.7 March 5-9, 2007 Drainage Superintendents Course. Calculating Drainage Assessments Course to likely be held in April - May timeframe. Dates not yet established.

13.1 2006 with OSPE; Website; expenses etc.

Brett McDermott, OSPE

- Land Drainage Committee web page on OSPE website is required to match OSPE colour scheme and the format the same as other committees under OSPE. The surveyor logo will disappear. There is no extra charge with Web Provider with a number of updates to the site done annually.
- Expenses - mileage and food expense claim forms sent directly to Brett at OSPE (fax or e-mail is fine). No alcohol expenses are permitted. A copy should be forwarded to the OSPE LDC secretary for tracking purposes.
- Clean Water Act debates. Brett attended the hearing in Toronto. OSPE lobbied to have a licensed professional engineer as a designated member on each Source Water Protection Committee enacted by the Clean Water Act. The Act is enabling legislation. Submissions can be made to MOE for cabinet member to bring forward in the legislature with the change made through the Regulations preparation (Regulatory Stage).

14.0 New Business

14.1 Clean Water Act - update

Jeff Dickson.

- John Johnson made a presentation at one of the hearings on the Clean Water Act on behalf of LICO/DSAO. The LDC was not “specifically” mentioned to ensure the committee was not perceived to be in conflict with OSPE regarding the property rights issue (expropriation without compensation) and other issues.

14.2 New Business - Action Item

- Ray Dobbin questioning the limitations of the Privacy of Information Act as it relates to a copy of the design information of the engineer being requested by the Drainage Tribunal at a Hearing. Brett McDermott will research this matter and report to the committee at the meeting in January 2007. Brett will finalize the web address for the new LDC web page on the OSPE website. Considering it to be www.ospe.on.ca/landdrainage

15.0 Next meeting

The meeting date will be confirmed once the LICO convention schedule is finalized and to minimize overlap with other important seminar/presentations. Possibly Jan 24th or 25th.

16.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. Moved by Ray D. Seconded by John S. Carried.

Jeff Dickson, Chairman

Tim Oliver, Secretary