



**FINAL**  
**O.S.P.E. LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Thursday, October 24th, 2019**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Centre – Wellington Room**  
**6011 Scottsdale Drive, 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); Pat Shaver, Open Learning & Educational Support (University of Guelph); Davin Heinbuck, Conservation Ontario (Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority); Lu-Ann Marentette, DSAO.
- 1.3 Regrets: Art Groenveld, M.T.O. (Ministry of Transportation Ontario); Stuart Atkinson, O.S.P.E. (Ontario Society of Professional Engineers); Dave Richards, M.N.R.F. (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry); Sara Eddy & Jen Thomas DFO. Note that Sara and Jen joined us after the meeting had adjourned.
- 1.4 Chairman Jeff Dickson called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

**2.0 Approval of Agenda**

- 2.1 The Committee reviewed the agenda prepared by Jeff Dickson. Motion by Gerard Rood, seconded by Tony Peralta that the agenda as prepared by the Chairman be accepted. Carried.

**3.0 Minutes of Last Meeting**

- 3.1 There were no comments or requests for changes. Stephen Brickman moved to accept the May 31, 2019 L.D.C. revised draft meeting minutes as circulated, seconded by Brandon Widner. There was no discussion. Carried
- 3.2 Final documents are to be sent to Pat Shaver by Stephen Brickman for posting to the L.D.C. web site. **Action by Steve and Pat Shaver.**

**4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

- 4.1 Jeff went through the action items shown in the June meeting minutes. Steve sent final minutes of last meeting to Pat and she posted them to the website.
- 4.2 Tony is still working on getting information for William Settington biography. **Action by Tony.**
- 4.3 John attended the OSPE ACM.
- 4.4 The LDC has not received a follow up from Stuart regarding the LEL/LET issue. Tony will follow up with Stuart. **Action by Tony.**
- 4.5 The LDC located and forwarded promotional items to Stuart.
- 4.6 Tony located the previously prepared blog post and forwarded it to Stuart.
- 4.7 The LDC will ask OSPE how to notify the PEO about the need for updating their drainage engineers' guide. **Action by Tony.**
- 4.8 Pat revised and prepared a new draft for the Thursday schedule
- 4.9 Steve emailed the DSAO secretary about the Drainage Engineers' Reception.
- 4.10 And 4.11 Jeff set up a conference call on June 21 where the voting members of the LDC participated.

## **5.0 Correspondence**

- 5.1 Jeff received correspondence from Sara Eddy (DFO) which stated that Sara Eddy and Jen Thomas will be LDC liaison members representing DFO moving forward.
- 5.2 Jeff received correspondence stating that Art Groenveld is retiring on December 31, 2019, and the MTO will be searching for a new LDC liaison member.
- 5.3 An email was received from a practitioner regarding posting of meeting minutes. Discussion took place about when final minutes are posted, and if the LDC should post draft minutes to the website prior to final minutes. The LDC agreed to continue to post approved final minutes of the last meeting after the next scheduled LDC meeting.

## **6.0 Liaison Report – O.S.P.E. – Stuart Atkinson**

- 6.1 Stuart was not available, and no report was provided.
- 6.2 John Kuntze discussed his experience at the OSPE All Committee's meeting. John was impressed by the level of involvement of many practitioners. OSPE would like to roll the LDC into the Storm Drainage and Stormwater Management, Municipal Infrastructure group.

John thinks that the LDC should try to stay active in OSPE as it would help the LDC promote our industry.

- 6.3 John spent time talking to the CEO of OSPE, Sandro Perruzza. It appeared that Sandro thought the ongoing LEL/LET issue is important and Sandro believes it may be important to involve him (Sandro).
- 6.4 John also noted the rapid pace of urban drainage and the Drainage Act. There are problems with stormwater management pond discharging onto farms.
- 6.5 John also noted that some OSPE staff wanted to visit his firm and give a talk about what OSPE does. Gerard noted that OSPE is trying to make a distinction between regulating, and promotion.

## **7.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Dave Richards**

- 7.1 Dave was unable to attend, and no report was provided.

## **8.0 Liaison Report – Conservation Ontario - Davin Heinbuck**

- 8.1 Davin reported the Conservation Ontario (CO) has no update at this time as changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and regulations are unknown.
- 8.2 Davin addressed the letter from the Minister of Environment – Jeff Yurek. The Minister’s letter asked that CAs focus on their core mandate; those programs have yet to be determined. Many of the programs of the CAs have been locally mandated. CAs have the opportunity to meet on an individual basis with the Minister.
- 8.3 Davin will not be teaching at the Drainage Course this year as he has a scheduling conflict. Cari Ramsey (of the UTRCA) will be stepping in for this year.
- 8.4 Davin also discussed the DFO drain classifications which has been ongoing for about five years now. Approximately 200 segments of drains were classified this year. Davin approximates that the ABCA must have classified about 50 drains. There are still many unrated drains. Davin also mentioned that the website has some GIS issues which occasionally cause errors.

## **9.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Transportation Ontario - Art Groenveld**

- 9.1 Art Groenveld was not available, and no report was provided.

## **10.0 Liaison Report – Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Sara Eddy and Jen Thomas**

- 10.1 Sara and Jen were absent due to a scheduling conflict, and no report was provided. Subsequent to the meeting Sara and Jen made a point of introducing themselves to the LDC and provided a brief update on DFO's activities.

## **11.0 Liaison Report – Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs – Tim Brook**

- 11.1 Tim discussed a few staffing changes: Ernie Hardeman is OMAFRA's Minister (unchanged). Ernie is an MPP for Oxford County. Colleen Fitzgerald-Hubble is currently the Director of the Environmental Management Branch. Thom Hagerty will become the Director of the Environmental Management Branch. Len Senyshyn is currently the Manager of the Approvals, Certification and Licensing Unit (a component of the Environmental Management Branch). Len is retiring near the end of November. Len is responsible for the management of the Ministry's drainage programs. James Mitchell will become Manager of the Approvals, Certification and Licensing Unit. James has a farm-finance background. Drainage Contacts within the Approvals, Certification and Licensing Unit are included in the OMAFRA report.
- 11.2 As of April 1, 2019, the Environmental Commissioners Office (ECO) became part of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario.
- 11.3 DFO would like a record of what year the drain classification took place. There is a year on the GIS layer in the Ag Atlas now, but it is the year when the classification was posted.
- 11.4 Tim noted that as of December 31, 2018, the current contract for Engineer's working in the unorganized territories expired. The MERX's website will soon have an RFP posted. The contract may be a term for up to three years. Tim is aware of at least two projects in Northern Ontario.
- 11.5 Tim discussed the Program Audit for the Grant Program. Tim noted that this mostly affects Drainage Superintendents. Old queues for Capital projects are being transferred over to the new system. Engineers will have to digitally sign the form. Jeff asked what the Engineer attests to when the Municipality does the actual assessment. Tim stated that the Engineer only attests to Report content and the date (i.e. not the distribution of costs). The former Grant Application is now known as the 'Report Back'. Training will be available in December and January.
- 11.6 MECP
  - 11.6.1. Tim had a phone conversation with Paul Heeney of the MECP on Tuesday October 22, 2019. Tim felt that the conversation was very positive and productive. Paul is the Manager of Permissions and Compliance. Paul and Tim have arranged to hold quarterly phone conversations.
  - 11.6.2. The MECP has increased its participation in drainage projects that involve their parks. In some cases, the MECP does not believe their lands are eligible for assessment on the basis that their park land is not part of the Municipality. Regardless, if drainage systems are on Park lands, a permit is required. OMAFRA will be adding park lands to their GIS program.
  - 11.6.3. Tim asked about involvement with committees; Paul stated that due to staff limitations, they can only participate on an ad hoc basis.
  - 11.6.4. The MECP has not provided clarification for the exception to existing drains.
- 11.7 Tim discussed the 2020 Natural Channel Conference which is being held on July 6 to 8, 2020. This year's theme is 'Balance'. Jacqui Empson-Laporte is chairing a session on rural drainage

and would like drainage practitioners to consider submitting an abstract for the session. Abstracts are due in February or March 2020.

**12.0 Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario (DSAO) – Lu-Ann Marentette**

- 12.1 This is the first time that a member of the DSAO joined the LDC as a liaison member. Lu-Ann will be representing the DSAO.
- 12.2 DSAO has had a large focus on the LICO/DSAO January conference. Typically, in June the DSAO brainstorms ideas, and in October they finalize sessions.
- 12.3 Sid Vander Veen is the secretary for LICO, and he will be chairing the conference moving forward.
- 12.4 Paul MacIntyre will be presenting a case study on the Stienstra Drain. DFO will hopefully participate by making a presentation. Dave Moores may try to do a workshop. Tim discussed the OMAFRA workshop two years ago (January 2018) for the Drainage Superintendents Guide. The DSAO is considering a presentation on obtaining a sufficient outlet prior to tiling. This presentation would be a joint session. DSAO would like to know what other people would like from the DSAO. Lu-Ann will do a review of consent applications (severances) (Sec. 65). The DSAO is also considering a session on vegetation management (seeding, mulching, brushing).
- 12.5 The DSAO is finding procurement policy challenging as there are so many angles to look at (maintenance, engineers, capital contracts). The DSAO is considering preparing a table of what different municipalities are doing for procurement.
- 12.6 Some members of DSAO are having issues with how long DFO is taking to release the Letters of Credit back to the Municipality.
- 12.7 Lu-Ann asked if there's anything DSAO needs to know from the LDC. Tony and Jeff mentioned the LEL/LET issues. Jeff highlighted the importance of getting other people involved in our industry. John mentioned that we need to get MECP more involved, and that the DFO is very interested in what the provincial ministries are doing.

**13.0 Office of Open Learning - University of Guelph - Pat Shaver**

- 13.1 Pat reviewed the Thursday timeline.
- 13.2 Pat discussed that 77 people plus 15 exhibitors are registered for the Thursday evening reception. It will include a cash bar and one free ticket to each registrant.
- 13.3 Pat noted that 49 people are registered for the Training Course plus five presenters.
- 13.4 Pat advised that 109 people are registered for the Conference to date with 10 speakers.
- 13.5 Mistaya Langridge is the recipient of the Ross Irwin Scholarship this year
- 13.6 The 2020 dates were discussed, and it was decided to go with October 22nd and 23rd for the meetings and Conference.

**14.0 D.A.R.T. (Drainage Act Regulations Team) Update – John Kuntze**

14.1 John advised that the DART program is currently inactive. John noted that the MECP should co-chair the committee. It may be nice to have the MNRF to co-chair as well.

**15.0 D.A.W.G. (Drain Action Working Group) Update – John Kuntze**

15.1 John discussed the DAWG meeting from September 26<sup>th</sup>. Jen Thomas made a presentation on the new and modernized Fisheries Act (FA). The changes have made the Act very similar to 2012. Jen will be working with agricultural drainage stakeholders to make the FA work as efficiently as possible. DFO has added up to 200 new staff across Canada. Sara Eddy presented an update to the Federal Aquatic Species at Risk Act. DFO will prepare an information sheet on drain enclosures.

15.2 The next DAWG meeting will be December 12.

**16.0 D.S.A.O. / LDC Procurement Update – Jeff Dickson**

16.1 Jeff advised that there was no update regarding the procurement policy.

16.2 Jeff noted that the LDC should continue to hold a seat on the Procurement Committee.

**17.0 New Business**

17.1 Succession planning:

17.1.1. Jeff and John are completing their terms. Jeff will not be allowing his name to stand.

17.2 Tony made the LDC aware that an engineer would like to discuss the Tribunal at the Practitioner's Meeting.

**18.0 Next Meeting**

18.1 The next meeting of the L.D.C. will be Tuesday January 21, 2020 at 1 p.m. at the Lamplighter Inn in London.

**19.0 Adjournment**

19.1 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.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 Settingington, P.Eng. **Action by Tony.**
- 3) The LDC has not received a follow up from Stuart regarding the LEL/LET issue. Tony will follow up with Stuart. **Action by Tony.**
- 4) Tony will ask OSPE how to notify the PEO about the need for updating their drainage engineers' guide. **Action by Tony.**