

FINAL DRAFT
2008 DRAINAGE PRACTITIONERS MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday October 23, 2008
Ramada Conference Centre – Pinetree Room B
Guelph, Ontario

1.0 Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. An attendance sheet was circulated at the meeting and there were 45 people in attendance of which 16 were practitioners.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion by Tom Pridham and seconded by Andy McBride that the minutes of the Thursday October 25, 2007 meeting (as distributed) be accepted. Carried.

3.0 Old Business

No old business.

4.0 Chairman's Report

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

- Jeff Dickson has prepared a history of the LDC for the past 40 years and he will present it tomorrow at the conference.
- DAWG committee has been active in 2008. Mike DeVos is the LDC member. Unresolved DFO issues may be presented to this committee
- OSPE – LDC assembled and sent a review and recommended changes to the ADIP policies to OMAFRA
- Drainage Act Resource Team (DART) was established. John Kuntze is the LDC member. This committee will deal with Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and conflicts with the Drainage Act. Terms of Reference will be finalized at the next meeting in October 2009.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed on June 30, 2008. LDC sent in a submission to MNR with concerns.
- Drainage Act Work Group (DAWG): Drain Maintenance Document being dealt with at DAWG. Jane Sadler Richards is retained by DFO to review this document.
- 2008 Conference has a speaker from MNR to review the ESA.
- Office of Open Learning at the University of Guelph: Melanie Prosser has left the University and Pat Shaver is our contact for the LDC. Pat will be setting up a website for LDC.
- LDC has not received any expenses from OSPE for 2007/2008.

5.0 OMAFRA Report - Sid VanderVeen

A summary of the OMAFRA activities are listed below:

Ministry Changes:

- Jim Richardson is the new Director of the Environmental Management Branch in OMAFRA. He comes to OMAFRA from the Ministry of the Environment.
- Jim Myslik has retired last March. He has been replaced by Andrew Jamieson, an engineering graduate of McGill University.
- The 2009 Drainage Superintendents Course will be held from March 2 to 6, 2009 in Guelph.

Drainage BMP (Best Management Practices)

- OMAFRA is in the initial stages of developing a Drainage BMP.
- The target completion date for the Drainage BMP is February 2010.
- Members on the working group include: Don Lobb, Ken McCutcheon, Peter Darbyshire, Jim Myslik, John Fitzgibbon, Tom Hoggarth, Davin Heinbuck, Dave Richards, John Warbick, Harold Ruby, Greg Nancekevill, Wade Morrison and some OMAFRA representatives.

Drainage Website

- A public drainage website is being developed by MNR on behalf of OMAFRA.
- The public will be able to access municipal drains, tile drainage, road and railway network, areas with potential for controlled drain, soils information, woodlands, orthophotography, etc
- Bob Steiss (OMAFRA GIS) will be giving a live demonstration of the new website at the annual LICO/DSAO convention.

WRIP Rural Drainage Project

- Andrew Turvey and Colleen Fuss from our GIS Unit, in conjunction with MNR, are working on a pilot project to integrate tile drainage and constructed drains into a watershed model.
- Currently working on three watersheds, Holland River in the Lake Simcoe Region, Kerry's Creek in Huron County and Oswego Creek in Haldimand County.

Agricultural Drainage Infrastructure Program (ADIP)

- The results of the review will be summarized and the document will be updated. A copy of the review summary and revised policy document will be sent to municipalities engaged in Drainage Act activities and to the involved organizations.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- MNR administers the Endangered Species Act: www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species.

- The Endangered Species Act prohibits activities that threaten the lives and habitat of endangered species (including plants)

Clean Water Act, 2006

- Act was passed in 2006 with the goal to establish measures that mitigate existing and prevent future significant drinking water threats.
- OMAFRA is working to ensure that MOE understands rural drainage practices.

Drainage Stats for 2007/2008

- See 40th Drainage Conference proceedings for details

6.0 Ontario Drainage Tribunal Update

Kirk Walstedt, Chairman

- 22 hearings in 2007/2008
- 10 appeals were withdrawn
- Appeals were under Section 48, 54 and 64 of the Drainage Act
- 14% of the appeals retained legal council
- Advice to practitioners – make sure everyone has a say and input into the process
- Tribunal will be assisting in developing new petition forms

7.0 Election of New Members

Sid VanderVeen presided over the nominations for new members.

Bill Dietrich and Chris Allen were nominated as new members and each were acclaimed.

8.0 Open Discussion

- Drainage Tribunal – Jack Young gave a brief overview of procedures.
- Tribunal members don't go to the site. The members must be together and see and review evidence together.
- Use photos – date and description necessary
- Need 6 copies of evidence
- Section 26 of the Drainage Act - discussions were held with respect to buried utilities and conflicts with municipal drain construction. Practitioners should investigate any agreements the utility company may have with the Municipality including any Federal Regulations that may conflict with Section 26.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Tim Oliver, Chairman

Bill Dietrich, Secretary