

D.A.W.G
Drains Action Working Group

Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2007

Present: Eric Chamberlain-Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario (DSAO), Andy McBride-DSAO, Sid Vander Veen-OMAFRA, Joe deLaronde-DFO; Mike deVoss – Land Drainage Committee (LDC); Davin Heinbuck-ABCA; Dana Boyter-DFO; Chris White, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA); Peter Jeffrey –Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

Absent: none

Agenda

1 Welcome

2 Review and Acceptance of Feb 22, 2007 Minutes

3 Additions to Agenda
Operational Statements

4 Terms of Reference

4.1 Membership, Welcome to; Chris White-Mayor Twp of Guelph Eramosa; Peter Jeffrey- OFA

4.2 Use framework from ARMAC for TOR and Sid's draft "common purpose". Work on draft today?

-wording for common purpose to include: "recognize and respect the requirements and mandate of the Drainage Act and the application to municipal drains, and the Fisheries Act and the protection of fish and fish habitat".

Terms of Reference to include;

A. Common Purpose

B. Meeting Minutes to include **Action** items and draft Minutes to be prepared and distributed within 1 week.

C. Policy Issues – clarification done principally through updated *Guidance Document*

i.e. Procedure for reclassification of drains and Review and Notification Process as identified on Drain Poster

D. Specific Issues and Concerns

i.e. Project specific and Common types of drain issues

E. Proactive Initiatives and Approach

i.e. Work with funding partners (OMAFRA and AG Canada) to develop framework to apply funding to municipal drain projects.

G. Applicable Policies – general understanding of *Drainage Act* and *Fisheries Act*.

- 4.3 Committee member rep – Conservation Ontario, MNR Rep, ROMA,
- Mike wanted to confirm that Davin has the authority to speak on behalf of Conservation Ontario. Davin responded that CO is interested in having representation on this committee and that they want to see TOR and Guidance Document. Bonnie Fox is the CO contact person and is part of the Planning and Policy staff.
 - **Action** – once TOR are set, Davin to forward to Bonnie F.
- 4.4 Minutes-due out in within 1 week after meeting
- oh crap!
- 4.5 Reclassification/Verification Process – Joe
- included in above TOR – workload issue, need to set realistic target dates for work. Further discussed as new Item 5.8 below.

5 Discussion Topics

- 5.1 Status of document “Agricultural Drain Maintenance in Southern Ontario Guidance to Meeting the Requirement of the Fisheries Act”.
- Andy had a question about the reference to Public Safety and Emergency Works in the *Guidance Document*. What is the DFO definition of Emergency Works
 - Discussed 3 levels
 - 1. emergency works
 - 2. Public health and safety
 - 3. Private landowner
 - where would something like road flooding fit into this?

Action – Dana: Provide DFO’s definition and approach wrt Emergency Works and Public Safety concerns when dealing with a fish habitat issue or referral.

- Chris commented that no reference is made to Northern Ontario in the *Guidance Document*. DFO – so few drains in the north, review is done on a case by case basis.

- 5.2 Drains Questionnaire (Jane SR). soon to go. Next steps – joint workshop-DFO/OMAFRA/DSAO/LDC?
- Eric commented that in his trial run of the Survey he found that he would have different answers for different CA’s.

Action – Dana: Will forward this comment to Jane Sadler-Richards final survey revision.

- 1 day Workshop should likely include DSAO and LDC members, but other municipal reps likely not interested. Workshop could be co-

sponsored between OMAFRA/DFO and LDC/DSAO and could be held in Guelph - maybe in the fall. Let the survey results dictate the need for the workshop.

-Workshop dates – 1. October Drain Eng conference? (this would include E. Ontario) or 2. January 2008 LICO

5.3 Drain enclosures – Headwater Drainage Features workshop –
May 2, Conservation Halton – attendance

Action –Dana: To forward email invite to committee

5.4 APF (Ag Policy Framework) and contact with funding partners, Re; Drain Projects and Engineer's Reports

- Peter commented that rural non-farmers won't have an EFP when it comes to funding applications.
- Mike commented that the equivalent to EFP plan may be a good fit for municipal drain projects (and offered to do most of the work associated with this initiative!)

Action-Mike: To contact Peter Bryan-Pulham to get some ideas on his approach with funding proposals

Action-Dana: To forward to Mike the information on the *Equivalent to EFP Process*

5.5 Question from DFO staff Re: application of Drainage Act for nuisance flooding

- Sid responded saying that the history of the *Drainage Act* was to serve agriculture but was not restricted to Agriculture. In some areas it applies to entire villages.

5.6 What is DFO's role in CA's with Level 3 agreements?

-There was a question around CA inconsistencies. What are the checks and balances for DFO to ensure CA consistency? Is there any control over level III CA's that may impose stricter review standards?

Sid – e.g. Agreements between DFO and Municipalities.

5.7 Review of the Fisheries Act

- LICO has sent a letter to DFO indicating their interest in commenting on the Fisheries Act renewal process.

5.8 Reclassification/Verification Process – Joe

- Joe – current process is in the *Guidance Document*.
- Sid's questions – What triggers a Re-Class of a drain? A request for maintenance should not be a trigger for Re-Classification of a drain. Why is the classification different?
- Timing Windows – Agency inconsistencies?

- What do we do when we can't proceed i.e. SAR or change in class?
- We need accurate and updated mapping!
- DSAO member must make sure mapping is the same as the CA
- DFO does pay each CA up to \$1000 a year for classification and reclassification work.
- For Type D and E drains – DFO will make it a priority to reclassify these where needed

6 New Agenda items

6.1 Supplemental Forms – City of Sarnia through Dillon Consulting (Andre W.) has adapted the Supplemental Form for their use and have submitted.

As a reminder the forms are:

- 1) Project Evaluation Form and
- 2) Supplemental Form

Action- Sid: To get final electronic versions of these forms. We need them as a Word document and word protected. They need to be put on the following websites – OMAFRA, DSAO and LDC-OPSE. Then emailed to all DSAO members and Drainage Engineers.

This is a follow-up form Jeff Dickson's presentation at the Eng Conf. Fall 2006.

7 Next meeting

Rescheduled to June 5, 2007.

Agenda items;

1. Timing Windows – MNR- Chatham
2. Class F drains –LOA's. We need to talk about this process.
3. Does improved habitat in drains mean increased restrictions