

# DSAO Chatham-Kent/Essex Chapter

## Minutes of Meeting

Date Tuesday, December 11, 2007  
Time 11:00 am  
Location Lighthouse Inn, Lighthouse Cove

### Present

Alice Drewery	Steve Piche	Mike Demers
Eric Westerberg	Dan Boudreau	Tim Dick
Janice Goodreau Rivard	Ed Dries	Frank Byrnes
Alan Gray	David Neely	
Matt Deline	Dwayne Grondin	
Eric Chamberlain	Connie Blair	
Tim Oliver	Lynn Tyhurst	
Pete MacMillan	Andrea Winter	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Assigned to
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*Meeting was called to order by Eric Chamberlain at 11:00 am.*

Eric Chamberlain introduced the guest for the meeting; Santino and Jessica from Maccaferri Canada Ltd. to speak about erosion control products and some of the products they have to offer. Main points of presentation as listed below:

- The Maccaferri company started as blacksmiths in Italy in 1879. They originally made bed springs and started using wire baskets to fill with rock as the need can up.
- They are an international company now that provides solutions to many problems and not just gabion baskets as many people think.
- The baskets are still a part of the companies business. The sizes are still offered in 2m, 3m & 4m lengths and 0.5 m or 1.0 m width.
- The baskets can be galvanized or PVC coated. The PVC coated wire is estimated to last for 60 years or more.
- The wire opening sizes are 80 mm x 100 mm and the typical stone used inside is 150 mm x 200 mm sized.
- If building a vertical wall, the baskets should either be stepped back on each row like a

pyramid or the whole wall should be tilted back to prevent any structural problems.

- Maccaferri can design any of the structures with their own Engineering staff or it can be done with an outside consulting company.
- Maccaferri has been in Ontario for approx. 50 years now and are very experienced in problems faced in Ontario.
- The quality of the erosion control is completely dependent on the construction crew completing the work. They need to be experienced in the work or have very detailed instructions or supervision if they are new.
- The main benefits to using Gabion baskets for erosion control are: low cost, flexible, allows free drainage, and can covered in vegetative growth to provide a “green” solution.
- The “green” solution can be used as a feature that CA’s and DFO may like and approve.
- The company also offers Geo Grids for unstable slopes. These can be used on slopes up to 1 vertical :1 horizontal and can be a lower cost solution than installation of stone, gabion baskets, concrete blocks, etc.
- Geo Grids are covered with Engineered materials and topsoil and are seeded with vegetation so that the slope looks natural.
- Gabion Mats can also be a solution. These are a good fit for bottom of ditches, swales and spillways where a steep slope or vertical drop needs attention.
- MacMat (N10 & N20) - are synthetic (nylon) mats than can be stapled to slopes. Place topsoil over the mat and seed. Approx. material cost is \$5 per square metre and generally costs about \$50 per square metre to supply and install. Can be used on slopes of 1:1
- MacMats with wire – are stronger than regular MacMats and are generally about \$10-15 more per square metre than regular MacMat.
- BioMats- are offered in straw or coconut blankets. The straw lasts for about 1 year before it breaks down and the coconut lasts for approx. 3 years. Vegetation needs to be established before they break down.
- Software packages are available which can

be downloaded from the internet or it can be sent to you on CD or DVD.

General Meeting

1	Minutes of the September 11, 2007 meeting were reviewed and no changes were requested. Eric Westerberg motioned to accept and Tim Dick seconded.	Approved as circulated	
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2	The treasurer gave a verbal report. The provincial membership is 136 people for this year. Currently \$1482.82 in bank account. (See attached) Steve Piche moved to adopt the financial update and Alan Gray seconded. Minutes adopted.	Approved	
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3	Eric Chamberlain gave an update of the executive:		
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- LICO is coming up in London
- This is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the DSAO and shirts are available. Contact him if anyone wants an order sheet. Also look on website.
- DAWG committee is meeting regularly. Anyone that has issues they want discussed, please bring them forward to Eric Chamberlain.
- They have been concentrating on getting DFO to stop saying "No" with little or no guidance or reasoning. This leaves us with little or no options.

4	<i>New Business</i>		
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General Discussion

- Tim Dick mentioned that Richard Moore is the new guy for DFO in much of the area that Joe D. had dealt with before.
- We need DFO to be consistent with their answers from any representative and that way we can stop guessing at what they want to include on drainage works.
- Eric C. brought forward the issue of Asset Management for the purposes of Municipal Drainage. Should Municipal Drains be included in the assets of Municipality? We need a direct answer from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.
- Tim Dick stated that C-K is taking the point of view that drains do not meet the criteria. C-K

owns the drain but not the land the drains are located on.

- Asked for nominations for the position of chapter "Director". Pete M. nominated Mike Demers and it was seconded by Steve Piche. All members were in favour of this and Mike agreed to stand as "Director".

Motion to end meeting was moved by Steve Piche and seconded by Tim Dick.