Project Scoping Meeting

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“When the music changes, so does the dance”

_African Proverb quotes_
THE MUSIC HAS CHANGED!

For Engineers Practising under the Drainage Act:
- Increased public involvement of drainage work; greater likelihood of challenges
- Greater municipal and public accountability (e.g. purchasing policies, F.O.I.)
- Agricultural Drainage Infrastructure Program policies
- Fisheries Act
- Conservation Authorities Act & regulations
- Endangered Species Act
- Species at Risk Act
- Provincial Policy Statement - Wetlands
- Ontario Water Resources Act
- Clean Water Act
- Ontario Heritage Act
Because the music has changed, we need to make sure we’re dancing to the right tune.

How?

Project Scoping Meeting
The purpose of the scoping process is to determine the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure that issues are identified early and properly studied. The end result of scoping is to ensure that the draft EIS produced for public review and comment is thorough and balanced. The scoping process should identify concerns of both the agencies and the affected public and should clearly define the environmental issues and alternatives to be examined in the EIS. If there are important environmental or social impacts that the public wants considered, the time to raise these issues is at the scoping meeting. If there are alternatives to be considered, the scoping meeting is the place to ask that they be analyzed. If there are concepts for minimizing environmental harm that the public would like to see evaluated, these alternatives should be raised at the scoping meeting. In this way, the EIS can be structured to better address public and agency concerns and help lead to better decisions in the end.
The Issues:

• Projects are initiated by landowners; very little detail provided on what the owners
• Some representatives from environmental agencies assume the worst and react accordingly
• Sometimes engineers are appointed to respond to a petition but are given very little direction on the project; occasionally the engineer will initiate work & incur costs only to discover that the project cannot proceed
Our Objectives:

• Have a clear understanding of the issues from the landowners’ perspective
• Have a clear understanding of the resources and environmental issues
• Develop direction or a terms of reference for the appointed engineer
• Minimize cost and duplication
What Should Trigger a Project Scoping Meeting?

- New drain affecting a regulated wetland
- Drain improvement affecting a regulated wetland
- Project affects species at risk and/or habitat
- Project affects significant fish habitat
- Other?
Who Initiates the Meeting?

• Municipal drains are municipal projects
• Need for project scoping meeting can be identified by environmental agencies
• Meeting can only be called by the municipality

When Should the Meeting Be Held?

• After response received from environmental agencies
• Before the engineer is appointed
Suggested Meeting Participants

• Municipal representative (drainage superintendent)
• One or two key property owners
• Depending on the issue(s), representatives from:
  – Local conservation authority
  – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
  – Ministry of Natural Resources
• Optional participants:
  – OMAFRA representative
  – Municipal council member
  – Interest groups
  – The engineer (if already appointed)
Meeting Agenda/Format

To be addressed by Bryan Boyle
“If you don’t create change, change will create you.”

“There are things I can’t force. I must adjust. There are times when the greatest change needed is a change of my viewpoint”.

Denis Diderot quotes
(French man of letters and philosopher, 1713 - 1784)

“When you’re finished changing, you’re finished.”

Benjamin Franklin quotes (American Statesman, Scientist, Philosopher, Printer, Writer and Inventor. 1706 - 1790)