



RAISE PROFILE OF OCSI BY NETWORKING AND MEETINGS

On March 26th, 2014, OCSI met with Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Drew Fagan and Scott Pegg to discuss Bill 141 (Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2014) which is in its second reading in the legislature. There has been eight and a half hours of debate in the legislature so far on this bill. After second reading, they will decide whether to take it to committee and accept amendments to the bill.

OCSI participants at this meeting included:

- Carl Bodimeade – OCSI Chair
- Darla Campbell – OCSI Executive Director
- Christine Hill (WEAO President)
- Reg Russwurm (MEA) – The Blue Mountains
- Sam Sidawi (OPWA) – City of Burlington
- Abhay Tadwalkar (OWWA Vice President) – City of Toronto

It was interesting to discover that the proposed act is non-binding on municipalities. The main purpose of the proposed legislation is to provide guidance for the province in its role of managing infrastructure that is the direct responsibility of the province. Of course, municipalities could choose to follow the lead of the province in managing infrastructure as outlined in the proposed act. A key component of the act is the requirement for the province to develop a 10 year capital plan that is reviewed and approved on a 5 year rolling basis. The government has already tabled its first plan and this act would mandate the delivery of 10 year capital plans in the future.

Reg Russwurm, a member of MEA, asked the question on why architects were specifically mentioned in the proposed act, whereas the act was silent on the role of engineers. The response was that other legislation already covers the role of engineers in infrastructure and the purpose of identifying architects in Bill 141 is related to design excellence in non-building structures, such as a bridge.

Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure

Municipal Engineers Association (**MEA**), Municipal Finance Officers' Association (**MFOA**)
Ontario Good Roads Association (**OGRA**), Ontario Public Works Association (**OPWA**)
Ontario Water Works Association (**OWWA**), Water Environment Association of Ontario (**WEAO**)



Christine Hill, President of WEAO wondered why the act mentions drinking water specifically but is silent on wastewater and stormwater (as well as roads and transit). The response was that the province does not own infrastructure in these categories but does own and operate drinking water treatment at provincial parks.

At the meeting we also discussed in general revenue tools that municipalities need to finance their infrastructure programs, as raised by Sam Sidawi of OPWA, as well as the need expressed by municipalities for predictability in funding.

We also touched on the opportunity for OCSI to work together with MOI in a joint project.

Infrastructure Forum

OCSI is in the early stages of planning an Infrastructure Forum, a one-day consultation about a subject of importance to everyone such as sustainable funding models and/or identifying affordable levels of service. Look for announcements with more information about this event in the near future.

New Project for 2014

In January 2014, OCSI commenced an exciting project which will support municipalities in their asset management process. As part of this project called “Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Assessment”, we are reaching out to municipalities to establish peer-to-peer groups on sustainable infrastructure planning and coordinating workshops for feedback on the project. Later in the year, OCSI will be hosting a technology transfer workshop where the results of the project will be shared.

Outreach

In the area of outreach, we have given presentations on Feb 18th at a WEAO board meeting and on February 21st at a meeting of Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO). On January 30th we attended the OPWA Annual Meeting and Climate Change conference. On February 12th we participated in a pre-budget consultation that was hosted by the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO), on February 25th attended the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) conference and on March 25th attended the TRIECA stormwater conference

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hosted by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Great Lakes Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA).

Through articles such as this, I will keep you apprised of OCSI's progress. If you wish to know more about OCSI, please view our website at www.on-csi.ca or contact Darla at ExecutiveDirector@on-csi.ca . If you feel there are issues which OCSI should examine, please let the Executive Director of your respective organization know so that they can bring them to our attention.

Carl Bodimeade
Chair, OCSI

OCSI brings together the combined resources of six well-established organizations to work toward sustainable infrastructure in Ontario. The Coalition comprises:

*Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)
Municipal Finance Officers' Association (MFOA)
Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)
Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA)
Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA)
Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO).*

The mission of the Coalition is the promotion of "Safe and Sustainable Infrastructure".