

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Minutes
Friday, April 18, 2008
9:00 a.m.
The County of Northumberland Administration Building
555 Court House Road, Cobourg, ON**

Present

COUNTY	WARDEN	CAO
County of Frontenac	Jim Vanden Hoek	Elizabeth Savill
County of Haliburton	Eleanor Harrison	Jim Wilson
County of Hastings	Ron Emond	
City of Kawartha Lakes	Ric McGee (Mayor)	Jane Lunn
County of Lanark	Bob Fletcher	Peter Wagland
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Doug Struthers (Past Chair)	Steven Silver
County of Lennox and Addington	Gordon Schermerhorn	Larry Keech
County of Northumberland	Christine Herrington	Bill Pyatt
County of Peterborough	Ronald Gerow (Chair)	Gary King
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Ken Hill (Vice-Chair)	Stéphane P. Parisien
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan (Mayor)	Dick Shannon
County of Renfrew	Janice Visneskie	Norm Lemke
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Estella Rose	Michael Waddell
Other guests:		Matt MacDonald, MMAH

Absent

COUNTY	WARDEN	CAO
County of Frontenac	Jim Vanden Hoek	
County of Hastings		Jim Pine
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Jim Pickard	

Warden Gerow welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the County of Northumberland for their hospitality.

Mr. Pyatt provided a brief overview of the newly constructed County Administration Building and offered to take anyone interested in seeing the building on a tour after the meeting.

There are approximately 70 staff in total in the building. The building was constructed mostly from renewable and recycled products and it operates on a geothermal system. Roof gardens have been incorporated into the design as well. Showers and locker facilities are available for staff to assist in the promotion of healthy lifestyles during working hours. Mr. Pyatt remarked that staff and council enjoy the new facility immensely and the support from the public has been very favourable.

Warden Harrington welcomed the EOWC to Cobourg and commented that the area of Trent Hill had issued a state of emergency due to flooding.

1. Approval of Minutes

January 17, 2008 – Inaugural Meeting

January 18, 2008 – Inaugural Meeting

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Schermerhorn

THAT the minutes of the January 17, 2008 and January 18, 2008 Inaugural meetings be approved as circulated. Carried.

February 24, 2008 – OGRA/ROMA Conference

February 24, 2008 – Closed Meeting

Moved by: Warden Emond
Seconded by: Warden Hill

THAT the minutes of the February 24, 2008 meeting and the February 24, 2008 closed meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

2. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. King requested that a verbal update on a Growth Plan for Eastern Ontario be added to the agenda.

3. Approval of the Agenda – April 18, 2008

Moved by: Warden Rose
Seconded by: Warden Fletcher

That the EOWC agenda for April 18, 2008 be approved as amended. Carried.

4. Chair's Update

4.0.1 AMO Update

Mr. Wilson provided a brief AMO update to the Committee which included:

- Review of the provincial funding of approximately \$21 million dollars for infrastructure, which was lobbied for by the municipalities.
- Annual AMO Conference will be held in Ottawa from August 24 to 27, 2008. Early bird registration required prior to the end of April.
- An AMO Alert has been issued requesting volunteers for an Economic Development Task Force.
- AMO resolution calling for both the federal and provincial governments to sign the Building Canada Agreement as soon as possible.
- AMO Executive Committee will petition the provincial government for an MOU in relation to a second radio for EMS crews. It was requested that the resolution from Frontenac County supporting this endeavor be forwarded to AMO.
- Nominations for the AMO Board are now open and will close June 20, 2008.

Mr. Struthers inquired if there was an update on surface rights re: Tay Valley and Timmins. At this time there was no update from AMO.

Chair Gerow inquired if there was an update on the Crown Land issue. No update was available at this time.

4.0.2 Consideration to request EOWC meeting with Federal Eastern Ontario Caucus on the subject of Build Canada Service Agreement

To date there has been no movement on this issue. Mayor Finnegan offered to coordinate a meeting with MP Kramp and MPP Leal to discuss the issue. Mr. Wilson will make available AMO's brief on the subject. It would be beneficial to try and coordinate a meeting prior to the AMO Conference if time permits.

Moved by: Mayor McGee
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the EOWC coordinate a meeting with both provincial and federal representative to assist in the progression of the Building Canada Service Agreement. Carried.

5. MMAH Update

Mr. MacDonald extended regrets on behalf of Mr. Sleeth and provided the EOWC with a brief MMAH update. Mr. MacDonald reported that the Eastern Inter-ministerial Committee has formed a sub-committee to review the Prosperity Plan. Work will begin after the Eastern Ontario Development Program is rolled out.

6. Broadband Initiative

A copy of the Rural Connections update was distributed. Mr. Wagland, on behalf of the Caucus, submitted on April 15, 2008, an application to the EOCFDC for funding to complete a gap analysis of the EOWC geographical area on broadband connectivity. If this funding is approved the analysis will assist the EOWC members in further applications with future provincial and federal broadband initiatives. On May 30, 2008 the EOCFDC will be making their decision.

7. Social Housing Reform

This item is an informational item. A brief summary prepared by Mr. Pine outlines the province's stance as part of the Poverty Agenda and the impact of social housing costs on the tax base.

8. AMO Initiatives - Blue Box/Producer Pays

Background information was provided to the members from Mr. King on the AMO initiative – Blue Box/Producer Pays discussion paper.

Moved by: Warden Visenskie
Seconded by: Warden Emond

THAT the EOWC provide its support to AMO's and the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators recommendation contained in their *Discussion Paper For an Alternative Approach to Ontario's Blue Box Funding Model*; and

THAT the Province of Ontario take a strong leadership role in monitoring and eliminating cancer causing products which affect the health and well being of residents and ultimately become part of the waste stream in municipal landfill sites. Carried.

At 10:00 a.m. Chair Gerow welcomed MPP Rinaldi to the meeting. M.P.P Rinaldi welcomed the EOWC to Northumberland County. He thanked the Caucus for their work on the Eastern Ontario Development Fund Program which was presented by the Caucus to the province at OGRA and commented that the program is expected to role out in May 2008. M.P.P. Rinaldi commented that the funding will be fairly flexible but there is a need for accountability for its allotments. The final program will try and incorporate ideas and suggestions from many different organizations, hopefully bringing a well balanced program that will meet the needs of everyone. Chair Gerow thanked M.P.P. Rinaldi for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the EOWC meeting. M.P.P. Rinaldi left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

9. Provincial Submission on Business Education Taxes Acceleration

Mr. King presented a report prepared by Mr. Pine outlining the possibility for Eastern Ontario to be eligible for the Business Education Tax to be accelerated to four years versus seven years. He stated that the Ministry of Finance would entertain a submission from the EOWC to promote the acceleration of this program similar to that of Northern Ontario.

Moved by: Warden Emond
Seconded by: Warden Schermerhorn

THAT direction be given to the EOWC CAOs to prepare a submission to the Minister of Finance requesting the acceleration of business education tax reductions on the same four (4) year schedule as Northern Ontario. Carried.

A draft of the report will be presented at the June meeting.

10. Incorporation Of EOWC Information

A draft, generic By-Law related to the EOWC Incorporation was reviewed. Minor changes were made to the By-Law to including the addition of members and charters of the incorporation. The articles of the incorporation will need to accompany the By-Law. It was agreed that each County would present the By-Law for the Incorporation of the EOWC at there next regularly scheduled Council Meeting for ratification.

11. Meeting with Non-government MPPs from the Region at June Meeting

Moved by: Warden Schermerhorn
Seconded by: Warden Rose

THAT the EOWC invite the non-government M.P.Ps from the region to the June 20, 2008 meeting being held in County of Lennox and Addington to provide the opportunity for the EOWC and the non-government M.P.P.s to share information with each other. Carried.

12. Duty to Consult

Direction was given to the CAOs to develop a set of criteria of guiding principals for Duty to Consult for submission to the province. The CAOs question whether AMO should be developing this type of policy work as Duty to Consult affects the entire province, not just Eastern Ontario. In the future AMO has indicated they will be undertaking an analysis of this issue but due to time restrictions and resources they are uncertain when this will take place. Chair Gerow indicated that M.P.P. Leal is looking forward to the EOWC's assistance on this issue.

Moved by: Warden Hill
Seconded by: Warden Fletcher

THAT the EOWC CAOs prepare a draft set of criteria in relation to Duty to Consult to present to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs as soon as possible. Carried.

13. MEDT/EODP Update

Warden Emond responded to a letter to Diana Britina, Chair, Economic Development Commission Tourism Investment Committee from Bob Seguin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Trade related to the MEDT/EODP meetings. Warden Edmond's letter clarified that there were a number of points left out of the "high level" notes circulated to Ms. Britina and wanted to ensure that these points were not missed.

14. Bank Tower ARB Decision – MPAC (AMO Alert and MPAC Correspondence attached)

Moved by: Warden Harrison
Seconded by: Warden Emond

WHEREAS the Assessment Review Board (ARB) issued an Interim Decision on February 22, 2008 regarding an appeal of the assessments for six downtown Toronto properties know as the "Bank Towers";

AND WHEREAS the Interim Decision found that current assessment practice of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is not consistent with the definition of "current value" as the "fee simple if unencumbered" in the *Assessment Act*;

AND WHEREAS if the decision stands a dramatic change in assessments policy in Ontario will have occurred;

AND WHEREAS such a change will result in billions of dollars of reduction in commercial assessments across Ontario placing a further burden on all other classes of property particularly residential assessments;

AND WHEREAS the financial well being of municipalities across Ontario will be put at risk if this Interim Decision stands;

AND WHEREAS it is the opinion of AMO that the Provincial Legislature did not intend for this situation to occur when it amended the *Assessment Act* in 1998;

AND WHEREAS the most effective and efficient method to deal with this ARB decision and the extremely negative financial impact that it will create, is for the Minister of Finance to immediately introduce whatever regulatory or statutory amendment(s) is necessary to support MPAC's current methods of assessment;

NOW THEREFORE the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus wishes to advise the Province of it's support for AMO's position in this matter, and the EOWC hereby petitions the Minister of Finance to enact the required regulatory or statutory provisions to make null and void the ARB's Interim Decision;

AND FINALLY that the Chair of the EOWC be directed to correspond to the Minister of Finance, the local M.P.P.s and the Premier of Ontario advising of the Counties' serious concerns about the Interim Decision with copies to all Eastern Ontario and AMO.
Carried.

15. New/Old Business

15.0.1 Meeting with PIR

Mr. King reported that in August 2006 direction from the Caucus was given to the EOWC CAOs Working Group to pursue discussions with PIR to investigate the possibility of a Growth Plan for Eastern Ontario similar to that of Northern Ontario. Hannah Evans from PIR is available to meet with the EOWC CAOs Working Group in July. The Wardens are in agreement that the CAOs should continue to investigate this avenue, but should be mindful of the issues and challenges which have resulted in Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan.

15.0.2 Application for 750,000 Landfill Site – Lennox and Addington

Warden Schermerhorn indicated that an application for a 750,000 Landfill site in the County of Lennox and Addington has been filed. A motion will be forth coming to the EOWC and the province to examine alternative methods of waste disposal.

15.0.3 Impact on Beef Farmers Due to Closing of Gencorp

Warden Schermerhorn remarked that the closing of Gencorp due to financial difficulties will have a dramatic affect on the beef and dairy farmers of Ontario. Gencorp produces meat hooks which the agricultural industry uses.

16. Correspondence

16.0.1 Incoming Correspondence

16.0.1.1 Resolution from Frontenac County (16-Apr-08)**Re: Second Radio for EMS Crews****Moved by: Warden Viseneskie****Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan****County of Frontenac Resolution – Second Portable Radio For All Ambulances in Ontario**

THEREFORE be it resolved that the EOWC support the County of Frontenac's Resolution (Resolution Number 126-08) to petition the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to act on the Whitmore recommendation by issuing a second portable for all ambulance in the Province of Ontario, as well as, that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ensure that adequate backup communications devices are made available in areas of the province with the full cost borne by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Carried.

16.0.1.2 Resolution from United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (10-Apr-08)**Re: Endorsement of the Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Resolution for Build Canada Funding for Port of Prescott****Moved by: Warden Schermerhorn****Seconded by: Warden Hill**

THEREFORE be it resolved that the EOWC endorse the request from the Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal with respect to the Port of Prescott capital needs plan and the Building Canada Fund. Carried.

16.0.1.3 AMO Alert (02-Apr-08)**Re: Municipal Infrastructure Funding – Building Canada Fund****Moved by: Warden Harrison****Seconded by: Warden Fletcher**

THEREFORE be it resolved that the EOWC endorse AMO's resolution for the Governments of Canada and Ontario to make a commitment to renewed, dedicated negotiations that will see a Building Canada Framework Agreement signed expeditiously. Carried.

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- 16.0.1.4 Letter from Warden Visneskie, County of Renfrew to Lou Rinaldi MPP, Northumberland-Quinte West from (27-Mar-08)**
Re: Eastern Ontario Development Fund
Moved by: Warden Emond
Seconded by: Warden Hill
- That the EOWC support the resolution made by Renfrew County in regards to their support of the EOWC's recommendations for the EODP Funding Program Initiative; and**
- THAT recommendations presented by Mayor Bob Sweet, City of Petawawa be considered in administration and equitable distribution of the funds. Carried.**
- 16.01.5 Letter from The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Chair Ron Gerow, EOWC and Chair John Oosterhof, Chair, WOWC (20-Mar-08)**
Re: Thank you for Opportunity to Meet at OGRA/ROMA
- Received and filed.
- 16.0.1.6 Letter from The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Chair Ron Gerow, EOWC (20-Mar-08)**
Re: Thank you for Opportunity to Meet at OGRA/ROMA
- Received and filed.
- 16.0.1.7 Letter from the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to Chair Gerow, EOWC (19-Mar-08)**
Re: Thank you for 2008 Pre-Budget Submission
- Received and filed.
- 16.0.1.8 Letter from Tim Abray-Nyman, Manager Issues Management Media Relations and Correspondence to Mr. Gary King, EOWC (17-Mar-08)**
Re: Receipt of Email to the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal
- Received and filed.
- 16.0.1.9 From Brenda Hamilton, Township Clerk, Loyalist Township to Chair Ron Gerow (13-Mar-08)**
Re: Farm Tax Rebate

Received and filed.

- 16.0.1.10 AMO Alert (12-Mar-08)**
Re: Proposed Bill would Direct 2007/08 Provincial Budget Surplus to Municipal Infrastructure

Received and filed.

- 16.0.1.11 Letter from the Premier of Ontario to Chair Gerow (15-Feb-08)**
Re: Thank you and Acknowledgment of the EOWC 2008 Pre-Budget Submission

Received and filed.

- 16.0.1.12 Letter from the Premier of Ontario to Chair Gerow (14-Feb-08)**
Re: Thank you and Acknowledgement of the EOWC's work on the EODP Fund

Received and filed.

- 16.0.1.13 Letter from the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources to Chair Gerow (09-Apr-08)**
Re: Meeting with Ministry to Discuss Crown Lands

Received and filed.

16.0.2 Outgoing Correspondence

- 16.0.2.1 Letter from Chair Gerow to The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance (14-Mar-08)**
Re: Assessment Review Board (ARB) "Bank Towers" Decisions

- 16.0.2.2 Letter from Warden Gerow to The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (13-Mar-08)**
Re: Thank you for Preparation of Ministers Panel

- 16.0.2.3 Letter from Warden Gerow to The Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (13-Mar-08)**
Re: Thank you for Delegation at OGRA/ROMA

- 16.0.2.4 Letters from Warden Gerow to the following Ministers and MPP (Jim Bradley, Carol Mitchell, Jean-Marc Lalonde, Leona Dombrowsky, Donna Cansfield, Lou Rinaldi, David Caplan, Jim Brownell (13-Mar-08)**
Re: Thank you for Delegations at OGRA

- 16.0.2.5 Letter from Warden Gerow to The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources (07-Mar-08)
Re: EOWC's Request to Meet – Crown Lands**
- 16.0.2.6 Letter from Chair Gerow to Linda Dean, CAO, Dufferin County (29-Feb-08)
Re: OGRA/ROMA Follow-Up**
- 16.0.2.7 Letter from Chair Gerow to AMO (16-Apr-08)
Re: New Provincial Holiday – Family Day**

All outgoing correspondence was received and filed.

Warden Hill requested a list of all upcoming golf tournaments. Please forward this information to Lisa Severson who will compile and send out to all members.

17. Adjournment

Moved by: Warden Emond
Seconded by: Warden Hill

THAT the EOWC Meeting adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Carried.