



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Minutes – April 21-22, 2005
County of Renfrew

In attendance:

UPPER TIER	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF	TREASURER
County of Frontenac	Bill MacDonald Central Frontenac	Elizabeth Fulton, CAO	
County of Haliburton	Jim McMahon Township of Minden Hills	Jim Wilson, CAO	Laura Janke
County of Hastings	Charles Mullet Bancroft	Jim Pine, CAO	Susan Horwood
City of Kawartha Lakes			
County of Lanark	Susan Freeman Tay Valley Township	Peter Wagland, CAO	
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	J. Douglas Struthers Merrickville-Wolford	Stephen Fournier, CAO	Nigel White
County of Lennox and Addington	Clayton McEwen Loyalist	Larry Keech, CAO	Stephen Fox
County of Northumberland		Bill Pyatt, CAO	
County of Peterborough	Neal Cathcart Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan	Gary King, CAO	Bryce McLean
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Denis Pommerville Municipality of the Nation	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO	Louise Lepage-Gareau
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan (Mayor)	Dick Shannon, CAO	Gayle Frost
County of Renfrew	Bob Sweet (Mayor) Petawawa	Norm Lemke, CAO Rose Gruntz Lorna Knight	Jim Kutschke
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Alvin Runnalls Township of North Dundas	Mike S. Waddell, CAO	Vanessa Bennett
Municipal Affairs and Housing		Warren Sleeth Ian Smith Alison Fath-York	
Ministry of Finance		Allan Doheny Helen Leroy Will Langstroth	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Sweet at 1:15pm.

General Introductions were conducted.

2. Presentation on CRF Reconciliation and the new Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Presented by Jim Kutschke with second presentation by Ministry of Finance Allan Doheny.

Presentation by Mr. Kutschke is attached

Presentation by Mr. Doheny

Issues identified:

- 2003 & 2004 reconciliation addressed by province as requested
- Many counties are “losers” in overall pictures
- 2005 “one-time funding” is actually just an advance on 2006 funding
- Long term impact (2008) will leave EO counties short at least \$56 million

3. National Capital Resources Inc. Presentation, which was conducted by Kathy Woods

This presentation was e-mailed to all members of the Caucus (attached)

Presentation on the Eastern Ontario Opportunities Action plan conducted by Dan Borowic

This presentation was e-mailed to all members of the Caucus (attached)

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

April 22, 2005

1. Call to Order

Chair Bob Sweet called the meeting to order at 9:00am

2. Minutes

Moved by Warden McMahon
Seconded by Mayor Finnegan

THAT the minutes of February 20th, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Warden Cathcart
Seconded by Warden Struthers

THAT the agenda of April 22, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Welcome by Chair Bob Sweet

Chair Bob Sweet welcomed all individuals and introduced MPP John Yakabuski, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke, and Ian Smith, Acting Director Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Kingston Regional office.

MPP John Yakabuski commented that he appreciated the opportunity to join the EOWC for this meeting.

Ian Smith (MMAH) also commented that he was pleased to be here and spoke of the OMPF. He believes that it is their role to work through the allocations and numbers and try to figure them out so that the municipalities can get on with their budgeting. In regards to the Ontario Municipal Act, MMAH is expecting legislation by the fall. Most of the amendments will be adjustments to make the act work more efficiently. There have been 4 training sessions run across Ontario in regards to the Provincial Policy Statements and they are currently working with staff on some of the major issues. The Planning Act Reform is being reworked to streamline the process and amendments will be based on meetings that were held last year. They expect to have more information throughout this summer with legislation in place spring/summer of next year. COMRIF is still accepting applications for spring projects and they expect to have an announcement before any possible election.

4. CRF/OMPF Follow-up from presentation

Chair Bob Sweet asked Jim Kutschke and Steve Fox to provide a quick overview of the presentation yesterday to remind the caucus of what was covered.

Jim Kutschke:

1. Suggests Allan and Partners Inc. continue with the Future Directions Update
2. Continue to lobby to increase funding (municipalities are actually receiving a 6.7% decrease in funding from 2004)
3. One-time funding in 2005 is meant to "manage the pace of change" (what does this mean?)
4. Rural social programs have the taxpayer in the two tiered municipalities treated the same as a single tier which works in one part of the equation but not within the capping process. There appears to be an inequity between the two tier and single tier households.

Stephen Fox:

1. Continue to build on strengths of Future Directions Report
2. EOWC continues to be \$21 million short in OMPF which doesn't include Land ambulance, roads/bridges, social housing capital
3. Social housing is frozen at 2002 levels
4. Seeing rapid increase in town levies with no end in sight

It is the intent caucus to have a press release go out today. The CAO's were directed to update the Future Directions. CAO's were directed to determine the appropriate means to gather information and data from other areas of Ontario to compare CRF/OMPF outcomes and develop a position paper on same.

5. Opportunity Action Plan-follow up from Presentation

Discussion.

Moved by: Warden McEwen

Seconded by: Warden Struthers

THAT the CAO's include the Opportunities Action Plan on the agenda for their next meeting and work towards making recommendations for the caucus on this issue

CARRIED

6. Recommendation: MUND

CAO's identified two issues, one is that there are conflicting priorities between the two groups, two, that the size of the group would also affect the effectiveness of the meetings. Recommend partnering on specific strategic issues.

Moved by: Warden Struthers
Seconded by: Warden McMahon

THAT the EWOC and MUND groups consider partnering on strategic issues as deemed appropriate.

CARRIED

7. Recommendation: WOWC

Moved by: Warden Cathcart
Seconded by: Warden Mullet

THAT we will continue to keep the WOWC informed and will be open to partner with them on strategic issues as deemed appropriate.

CARRIED

8. Employments Standards Act and Emergency Services

The issue is that the Employment Standards Act impact on land ambulance services-meal breaks. Attempts are underway to establish a meeting with Minister of Labour to remove paramedics from application of statutory break.

Moved by: Warden MacDonald
Seconded by: Warden Runnalls

THAT the EOWC petition the Minister of Labour to exempt paramedics from the provisions for mandatory break periods as required under the Employment Standards Act.

CARRIED

9. Future Directions Report- Allan and Partners Inc.

Mr. Howard Allen of Allan and Partners Inc, was present and confirmed his firms interest in continuing the Future Directions Update at an estimated fee of approximately \$5000.00 plus 2% increase, due to inflation. .

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Struthers

THAT the EOWC engage the services of Allan and Partners Inc. for the 2004-2005 Future Directions Update.

CARRIED

Mr. Allen discussed the potential benefit of a slightly expanded review to determine the impacts felt by some Counties in other parts of Ontario.

Moved by: Warden McMahon
Seconded by: Warden Struthers

That the CAO's will recommend to the Caucus if the scope of the report, to be completed by Mr. Allan, will remain the same as past Future Directions Reports or be expanded to include other areas in Ontario. This recommendation will be brought forth to the Caucus at the next meeting.

CARRIED

10. Aggregate Fees and Royalties

The caucus acknowledged that fees and royalties on aggregate, has an impact on a number of Counties in eastern Ontario.

Moved by: Warden Freeman
Seconded by: Warden Struthers

THAT the EOWC will continue to support municipalities and their endeavor to address the issue of increases to fees and royalties on aggregate.

CARRIED

11. Nutrient Management

Warden Neal Cathcart of Peterborough stated that in March letters were sent to both ministers and they were asked for a suspension of the nutrient program. It has been noted that some of the conditions of the nutrient management act were tough for the farmers. The new act will be a complete realignment of the current act, changing from 132 regulations to less than 100. The ministry wants this dealt with by the end of May, so further discussion will not be necessary until this time.

12. Managed Forests (See letter from County of Haliburton)

Moved by: Warden McMahon
Seconded by: Warden Struthers

THAT the EOWC send a letter to the Minister of Finance advising that Ontario Government take over the financial administration and accountability of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program so as to assist municipalities facing unmanageable costs, allow the Province to regulate its own costs in the Program by determining an annual allocation for MFTIP and eliminating the open ended nature of the current Program and further, that municipalities with managed forest properties are not financially disadvantaged by any proposed changes to the methodology used to further discount the assessed values of this class of property.

CARRIED

13. Federal Gas Tax (See submission by Hasting County)

It is recognized that there are two gas tax initiatives-federal and provincial.

- Provincial dedicated on a per capita basis for urban transit only
- Federal also dedicated on a population basis to all municipalities

Concern was expressed that there is an inequity in a population based funding model- more advantageous to higher populated areas (also disadvantageous to higher populated areas (also disadvantages high seasonal populated areas). Warden Sweet noted that AMO supported the population-based model.

Concern was also expressed over potential delays if there is a federal election called. It was recommended that Counties contact their MPP's to urge them to pass the 2005 budget.

14. EOWC website

The CAO's identified that a website is a positive endeavor and it will be an excellent communication tool to keep our lower-tier municipalities informed as well as our provincial counterparts. There is a technical start-up fee of \$600.00 and then an annual maintenance fee.

Moved by: Warden McEwen
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the caucus move forward with the creation of an EOWC website.

CARRIED

15. Alternative Waste Management Options-Leeds and Grenville

Some municipalities have had some presentations on alternative approaches and the results of some of these new approaches appear to have beneficial by-products. The question was posed: How many counties are looking at alternatives and are there any interest in inter county cooperation? There were several counties including, Hastings, Lanark, Peterborough and Prince Edward.

16. Bill 118-Ontarians with Disabilities Act

Moved by: Warden Freeman
Seconded by: Warden Cathcart

THAT the information provided be received as information and will be dealt with at the individual municipal level.

CARRIED

17. OSUM Conference

The Mayor of Collingwood had initiated a meeting of small urban municipalities hosted by Federal PC Critic members in Ottawa on March 23/05. There was an apparent interest to attempt the formation of an association of small urban municipalities with a population of 25000 or less. Various Wardens' who attended spoke against the idea of fragmenting

existing associations. The general view was that there was very little support for the initiative.

18. Southeastern Ontario Health Care Network

One issues for hospitals is the budget implications when performing inter-hospital transfers. Hospitals have been strongly suggesting that these be municipal costs, however municipalities see them as health care costs and that municipalities are only performing emergency transfers. The EOWC needs to be careful that their municipalities are not supporting any of these programs, especially with land ambulance not receiving any funding through the OMPF.

Moved by: Warden McEwen
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the EOWC agrees in principle that the Counties should develop a Terms of Reference for an advisory committee with the Health Care Network of Southeastern Ontario to consider the urgent medical transportation issues of the community. Liz Fulton is asked to report on the progress of the transportation committee at the next meeting of the EOWC.

CARRIED

19. Correspondence

E-mail received from Norm Sterling MP, Lanark, for establishment of Economic Development Fund- see e-mail attached.

General discussion ensued on the MP's initiative of the private members bill. (copy attached)

Moved by: Warden Freeman
Seconded by: Warden McEwen

THAT the EWOC acknowledge the efforts of MP Norm Sterling toward the establishment of an Eastern Ontario Economic Development Fund, through a private members bill.

CARRIED

20. New and/or Old Business

-It is recommended that when meeting with the Ministers that the EOWC decide on one topic for discussion **only** due to the short period of time allotted for discussion of issues.

-Provincial Wind Farms to be on the next agenda

-Deal with adequate capacity for treatment plants as next meeting

-Land Owner's Association, concern is how others are handling this? There is the concern that we are paying twice?

-If a federal election is called before the next meeting the four forefront issues will be used when questioning candidates

-Impact of new Provincial Planning Policy statement that requires municipalities to confirm sufficient reserve sewage system capacity to treat hauled septage and adequate municipal or private communal water service capacity before approval is given for the creation of new un-serviced lots at next meeting

21. Next Meeting May 27, 2005

May be a change of this meeting due to the Chair and Norm Lemke possibly being out of the country at the time of the next meeting. All caucus members will be kept informed of any meeting change.

22. Adjournment

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan

Seconded by: Warden MacDonald

CARRIED

Chair
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Secretary/Treasurer
Norm Lemke