



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Minutes**

Sunday, August 19, 2007

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Alberta Room – Westin Hotel, Ottawa – AMO Conference

COUNTY	HEAD OF COUNCIL 2007	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Ron Maguire	Elizabeth Fulton
County of Haliburton	Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson
County of Hastings	Terry Clemens	Jim Pine
City of Kawartha Lakes	Ric McGee	Jane Lunn
County of Lanark	Al Lunney	Peter Wagland
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	J. Douglas Struthers (Chair)	Stephen Fournier
County of Lennox and Addington	Clayton McEwen (Vice-Chair)	Larry Keech
County of Northumberland	Hector Macmillan	Bill Pyatt
County of Peterborough	Ronald Gerow	Gary King
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Jean-Yves Lalonde	Stéphane P. Parisien
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan	Dick Shannon
County of Renfrew	Janice Visneskie	Norm Lemke Lorna Knight
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Dennis Fife	Mike S. Waddell
Other guests:		Warren Sleeth (MMAH) Mike Elms Vince Fabililli

1. Call the Meeting to Order/Welcome

Chair Struthers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2007

Moved by: Warden Visneskie
Seconded by: Warden Macmillan

THAT the EOWC meeting minutes from June 15, 2007 be approved as circulated. Carried.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Warden Visneskie
Seconded by: Past-Chair Sweet

THAT the agenda be approved, as presented. Carried.

4. MMAH Update

Mr. Mike Elms and Mr. Vince Fabililli thanked the EOWC for allowing them to participate in the EOWC meetings and expressed the hope that the two groups would continue to work together in the future.

5. AMO Update

Mr. Reycroft was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments at the AMO Conference.

Susan Freeman, AMO County Caucus, thanked the EWOC members for their support of her last year and hoped that they would once again support her bid to sit on the AMO County Caucus.

6. Chairman's Updates**6.1.1 Delegations**

Chair Struthers referenced item 8.3 of the agenda for information related to the EOWC's delegations at the AMO Conference.

6.1.2 Broadband

Chair Struthers commented on the value of the one regional application related to the Broadband Initiative and thanked Mr. Wagland and the Eastern Ontario Broadband Coalition for their efforts. Although appreciative of the \$10 million funding initiative for broadband from the province, Chair Struthers stated that it is not enough and that efforts for federal funding will continue.

6.1.3 Prosperity Plan

Chair Struthers stated that the Prosperity Plan is an excellent management tool and it should be utilized in the future.

6.1.4 EODP

Chair Struthers stated that the announcement made by the provincial government of \$20 million in a four year time frame will be granted if the provincial Liberal government is reelected is positive news. Minister Gerretsen will be attending the EOWC meeting at 3:30 p.m. to discuss various matters.

7. Broadband Update

Mr. Wagland thanked everyone for their efforts in completing the application for the broadband initiative. He noted that those municipalities which indicated they were including possible federal funding may have impeded their chances of being awarded funding.

8. Where Do You and Your Party Stand

8.1 Analysis of Press Release

Mr. Pine indicated that press releases in Belleville, Lindsay and Renfrew were very positive to the EOWC's Where Do You and Your Party Stand document.

At this point Mr. Ellis and Mr. Fabililli left the meeting.

8.2 Review of Responses from the Political Parties

Responses received by the EOWC were reviewed.

The group recognized that the announcement for additional EODP funding of \$20 million was made differently throughout the province. The members questioned the way in which the announcement was made and how many of the EOWC Wardens were not privy to the announcement first hand. Chair Struthers remarked that the EODP funding could be added to Bear Pit questions by the EWOC. Mr. King recommended that the EOWC wait until the Leaders Forum being held on Wednesday to ask questions instead of at the Bear Pit. Mr. Pine added that the EOWC has not prepared anything for the Bear Pit and should wait and see if it is even warranted. Warden Clemens stated that the provincial government should be recognized for their promise to upload the ODSP and health care to the province and that the EOWC offer assistance to work with the government on other issues.

8.3 Meeting Schedules with Political Parties at AMO

- Meeting with John Tory, Leader, Progressive Conservative Party Tuesday, August 21, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Capital Room, Congress Centre

- The Honourable John Gerretsen has tentatively requested to join the EOWC meeting at 3:30 p.m.

8.4 Press Release After AMO Conference

The EOWC has not yet determined if there is a need to have a formal press release completed after the AMO Conference. The need for a press release will be dependant on delegations and other activities at the AMO Conference.

9. Mayor Miller's One Cent Campaign Update

Mr. Pine stated that there is interest by Mayor Miller to meet with the EOWC to discuss similar issues facing both the City of Toronto and Eastern Ontario. The date Mayor Miller is available to meet is September 21, 2007 in Belleville. The agenda will be completed by both the EOWC CAOs and Mayor Miller's office. This meeting will be covered by the Toronto press and will give the EOWC exposure. This is the EOWC's opportunity to educate big cities on Eastern Ontario.

After a lengthy discussion around the meeting the EOWC agreed to meet with Mayor Miller on September 21, 2007 in Belleville.

10. Post Election Strategy

10.1 Queen's Park Day Meeting

Chair Struthers stated that after the election a full caucus meeting with the incoming elected party would be scheduled in advance of a throne and pre-budget speech.

10.2 Pre-Budget Submission

Staff was given direction to draft a Pre-Budget Submission for 2008 by the Wardens.

10.3 Prosperity Plan

The Prosperity Plan will be used as a management tool and the question was raised as to how it will be utilized in 2008.

By a show of hands the EOWC supported staff meeting with the Inter-ministerial committee to develop a growth plan for Eastern Ontario similar to Northern Ontario's growth plan. Mr. King will coordinate this effort on behalf of staff.

11. Future Directions Update

Mr. Wagland and Mr. Wilson stated Future Directions will be ready later this fall.

12. EOWC Financial Statement

A financial statement was provided to the Caucus. It was agreed that the EOWC would pay Ms. Kathy Wood, Consultant, fees for work performed on the Prosperity Plan prior to the funding approval was completed. The amount to be paid to Ms. Wood is \$3566.

13. Correspondence

14. New/Old Business

14.1 Representation at EOWC Meetings by Rural Chair – AMO

By a show of hands it was agreed that the Rural Chair of AMO would be invited to the EOWC meetings in the future.

15. Next Meeting(s)

Wardens' Caucus

October 21 to 24, 2007 CRST Conference – Cornwall

CAOs Planning Meetings

September 21, 2007 Hastings County
November 23, 2007 Lanark County

Minister Gerretsen joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Minister Gerretsen apologized for no warning related to the proposed EODP announcement. He recognized the hard work of the EOWC.

Minister Gerretsen commented that the fiscal capacity and service delivery review was going well and the Premier would speak to this at the AMO Conference.

Chair Struthers inquired as to whether Minister Gerretsen had a response to the Where Do You and Your Party Stand document. Minister Gerretsen stated his stance is the same as the Premiers'.

Warden Lunney stated the bridge collapse in Minnesota had hit home with many of the municipalities and their infrastructure concerns and asked where the funding will come from to repair Ontario's infrastructure. Minister Gerretsen responded that this is an MTO issue and with COMRIF funding the focus has been on bridge repair. The statement was made by the EOWC that the competitiveness of the COMRIF applications needs to be reviewed by the province.

Chair Struthers thanked Minister Gerretsen for attending the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.