



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus  
Minutes  
February 25, 2007  
2:00pm  
Alberta Room - Fairmont Royal York, Toronto**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>HEAD OF COUNCIL 2007</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
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	Mr. 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) Matt McDonald (MMAH) Doug Reycroft, ANO Pat Vanini. MMAH

## **1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome**

Chair Struthers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Introductions of all in attendance commenced.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

- January 18, 2007
- January 19, 2007

**Moved by: Mayor Leo Finnegan**  
**Seconded by: Warden Janice Visneskie**

**THAT the EOWC meeting minutes from January 18, 2007 and January 19, 2007 be approved, as circulated. Carried**

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by: Mayor Ric Mcgee**  
**Seconded by: Warden Terry Clemens**

**THAT the agenda is approved, as presented. Carried.**

## **4. Chairman's Updates**

### **4.1 Meeting with the Federal Eastern Ontario Caucus (21-Feb-07)**

Chair Struthers provided the Caucus with a brief update on a meeting held with the Federal Eastern Ontario Caucus on February 21, 2007 in Ottawa. Mr. Struthers stated that the meeting was very positive and that the Federal Eastern Ontario Caucus understands and acknowledges the issues facing Eastern Ontario. The Federal Eastern Ontario Caucus would like to work with the EOWC in the future.

### **4.2 MUND**

Chair Struthers announced Ed Jacyno, Mayor, City of Pembroke has been elected as the new Chair of MUND. With the election of Mayor Jacyno it provides the MUND with more of a rural identity. Chair Struthers stated there may be opportunities to work with MUND in the future.

### **4.3 Prosperity Plan**

Chair Struthers has met with Kathryn Wood, Consultant, on two occasions to review the Prosperity Plan. Chair Struthers met with the Eastern Ontario Interministerial Council and received a positive update on the Prosperity Plan. The Prosperity Plan Launch is scheduled for March 22, 2007 in Merrickville.

#### **4.4 Full Liberal Caucus**

Chair Struthers reported that he has had an invitation to meet with the full Liberal Caucus in late April or early May. The arrangements for this meeting will be coordinated through M.P.P. Jim Brownell. Chair Struthers will try to coordinate a similar meeting with the Conservatives and New Democratic parties as well.

#### **4.5 Guests**

Guest joining the EOWC for their meeting included:

Ron Van Horne, CAO, Lambton County

Doug Reycroft, President of AMO

Pat Vanini, Executive Director of AMO

### **5. AMO Update**

Mr. Reycroft highlighted AMO activities as follows:

- Ontarians pay the highest property tax in Canada (\$295.00 more per person)
- Infrastructure throughout Ontario is deteriorating rapidly
- Federal budget is being released on March 19, 2007
- AMO requesting response to electronic survey (due February 28, 2007). Will assist in preparing a report to the province regarding health care and social services
- ODSP and drug plan (\$800 million per year) would be perfect programs to upload to the province

### **6. Prosperity Plan Consultant Update**

The Prosperity Plan Consultant was not available to attend the meeting.

### **7. MMAH Update**

Mr. Sleeth stated the EOWC has a delegation scheduled with the provincial caucus (5 members) for Monday, February 26, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Sleeth commented that the meeting held in the summer with the CAOs regarding economic development and also the meeting in February regarding Crown Lands (PLI) were very useful and a good exchange of information.

### **8. Employee Benefits – End of Mandatory Retirement**

Mr. King, CAO, County of Peterborough stated that for the past four weeks he and his HR staff have been in negotiation discussions with CUPE regarding mandatory retirement at age sixty-five. A MOU has been signed between CUPE and the County of Peterborough which states the County will continue to extend benefits six months after retirement subsequent to the next round of negotiations. Windsor is now facing similar negotiations. Windsor does not provide benefits after the age of sixty-five but provides the premium and is unable to secure these premiums on a long term basis after the age of sixty-five. Ms. Fulton inquired if the language in Peterborough's contract states the

actual age sixty-five. Mr. King replied it does and when this contract was negotiated it was completed in good faith with the mandatory retirement age set at sixty-five (65). Mr. King stated that CUPE will challenge any contract with the age sixty-five in it as discriminatory. Mr. King will forward a short synopsis to the CAOs for review.

## **9. Development Strategies (Pre-Budget Submission)**

### **9.1 Conservative Delegation – John Tory**

Monday, February 26, 2007 2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Fairmont Royal York -Salon 2, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor

### **9.2 Provincial Delegation – Five Members of Caucus**

Monday, February 26, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Fairmont Royal York - Alberta Room – Main Mezzanine

Mr. Pine stated that the members of both the Provincial and Conservative delegation have received copies of the Pre-budget Submission which lists the main priorities of the EOWC.

- Payment-in-lieu program for Crown Lands
- Action to reduce Education Tax Rates on commercial and industrial lands
- Creation of an Eastern Ontario Economic Prosperity Fund
- Provincial Gasoline Tax revenues made available to municipalities without mass transit systems
- Amending the Assessment Act to make clear that permanent trailers are accessible

The EOWC will speak briefly on each priority and would like Conservative delegation to speak to how they would address these priorities. Mr. Struthers commented that the EOWC has been in place for four years. The federal government is listening to the EOWC hopefully the Conservative delegation is listening as well.

It was determined that there would be no PowerPoint presentations made at the delegations. Chair Struthers and Vice-Chair McEwen will address the delegation and the other members will be in attendance providing support. The delegations need to know that these are not new priorities being presented and that the EOWC wants answers.

Mr. Pine suggested that the EOWC recognize what the government has done for Eastern Ontario.

Mr. Lemeke stated the provincial budget may be “themed” budget as seen in previously by this government. The EOWC should try to build a municipality theme which the government could adopt.

Mr. Sleeth and Mr. Vince Fabiilli left the meeting at this point to allow the Caucus to discuss strategies for the upcoming delegation and Bear Pit session privately.

The Caucus agreed that a press release would be completed and distributed prior to the end of the conference on the outcome of the presentation of the five priorities in the Pre-Budget Submission and the feedback on these priorities from the provincial government.

Mr. Pine commented the provincial delegation may not release any information which is related to the budget. This may be the last opportunity for this government to initiate action on the five priorities set by the EOWC and the EOWC will hold the government to the implementation of these five priorities.

Warden Visneskie asked if there was a plan in place if the response from the provincial government is not what the EOWC is expecting. Chair Struthers stated the EOWC will remind the government of the EOWC's expectations and state we are not happy with the answers received. There will also be the opportunity at the Bear Pit session to focus on the EOWC's priorities and the outcome will be expressed to the municipalities through a press release.

By a show of hands the members of the EOWC agreed to the proposed outline being used for both the Provincial and Conservative delegations.

### **9.3 The Bear Pit**

Questions for the Bear Pit session will be formalized after the delegation with the provincial caucus.

### **9.4 Correspondence Item – Letter from London Re: Solid Waste Management in Southwestern Ontario**

Chair Struthers stated he has read the letter from the City of London regarding Solid Waste Management in Southwestern Ontario and understands that there is an issue with solid waste across the province. Warden Struthers stated he would be hesitant to support the letter on a municipal level. This item will be deferred to the next meeting. AMO was also copied on this letter and is preparing a response to the City of London.

Past-Chair Sweet described the solid waste system in Renfrew. The system is a four stream system and has achieved a 65% reduction in solid waste and generated \$200,000. The cost of the system was \$12 million with five counties sharing that cost. Past-Chair Sweet extended an invitation to all members to view the process.

### **9.5 Provincial Offences Court – Uncollected Fines and Overhead Fines Chatham-Kent**

Warden Struthers stated the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville on behalf of the EOWC has prepared a report on the uncollected fines and overhead fines for Eastern Ontario and this information could be combined with the WOWC data. Mr. Fournier, CAO, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville stated that the Ministry has just released a new computer program for the POA courts to utilize

for address searches etc. It was recommended that this new tool from the Ministry be used for six months and evaluated. A report will be forwarded to the EOWC as to whether the tool from the Ministry has improved the ability of POA offices to receive payment of fines.

### **9.6 Crown Lands**

A delegation to meet with Minister Ramsay has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 from 11:20 am to 11:35 a.m. in the New Brunswick Room. It was suggested that staff and elected officials from the areas most affected by Crown Lands should attend the delegation. Mr. Reycroft was invited to attend the delegation and Past Chair Sweet will be the spokesman at the delegation.

The dollar amount per acre of unpatented Crown Land was suggested to be \$2.00 for interim coverage until a formula to calculate the actual costs can be developed. It must be stressed that the \$2.00 figure is an interim amount only. The request for the interim amount may act as a catalyst to resolve this issue. *(Note: This figure was adjusted to \$5.00 by the CAOs subsequent to this meeting).*

The point was raised that the government may not wish to explore compensation for unpatented Crown Lands until the Algonquin Land Claim is resolved. The Algonquin Land Claim is an issue which could take years to resolve.

Past Chair Sweet thanked AMO for bringing the issue of Crown Lands to the Ministry level. This is an issue which is unique to Eastern Ontario.

By a show of hands the members of the EOWC agreed to the proposed \$2.00 per acre as an interim amount until a formula can be developed and implemented by the province for unpatented Crown Land. This will be presented at the delegation meeting with Minister Ramsay.

### **9.7 EMS Lunch Breaks**

A delegation to meet with Ministry representatives has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 from 1:45 pm to 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room – Main Mezzanine, Fairmont, Royal York.

## **10. Correspondence**

The correspondence was reviewed by the Caucus.

**Moved by Mayor Leo Finnegan**  
**Seconded by Warden Hector Macmillan**

**THAT the correspondence be received and filed. Carried**

## **11. New/Old Business – Nil**

## **12. Next Meeting(s)**

### **CAOs Working Group Meetings**

March 23, 2007	County of Peterborough
April 19, 2007	United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
May 24, 2007	County of Kawartha Lakes

### **Wardens' Caucus**

April 20, 2007	United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
June 15, 2007	County of Renfrew

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.