



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus



**Joint Eastern and Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus
MINUTES**

Sunday, February 21, 2010

3:30 pm

Alberta Room – Royal York

In attendance:

County	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Gary Davison- Warden	Elizabeth Savill - CAO
County of Haliburton	Dave Burton-Warden	Jim Wilson-CAO Tamara Wilbee – Clerk
County of Hastings	Jo-Anne Albert – Warden Ron Emond – Past EOWC Chair	Jim Pine-CAO Cathy Monzon-Bradley - EA
City of Kawartha Lakes	Ric McGee- Mayor	Jane Reynolds - CAO
County of Lanark	John Fenik- Warden	Cathy Ritchie – Acting CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Bill Thake-Warden	Steven Silver-CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	Henry Hogg - Warden	Larry Keech-CAO
County of Northumberland	Peter Delanty – Warden	Bill Pyatt-CAO
County of Peterborough	J. Murray Jones – Warden	Gary King – CAO
County of Renfrew	Donald Rathwell – Warden	
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Conrad Lamadeleine- Warden	Stéphane P. Parisien
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan- Mayor	Dick Shannon-CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Bryan McGillis-Warden	Michael Waddell-CAO
Brant County	Mayor Ron Eddy	Don Glassford
Bruce County	Mike Smith – Warden Bill Goetz – Past Warden	Wayne Jamieson
Chatham-Kent		
Dufferin County	Allen Taylor - Warden	
County of Elgin	Bonnie Vowel - Warden	

Essex County		
Grey County		Gary Wood
Haldimand County		
Huron County	Bert Dykstra – Warden Ken Oak – Past Warden	
Lambton County		
County of Middlesex	Jim Maudsley – Past Warden	Bill Rayburn
Oxford County	Paul Holbrough - Warden	
Perth County	Julie Behrns - Warden	Bill Arthur
Simcoe County	Cal Patterson - Warden	
Wellington County	Joanne Ross-Zuj - Warden	
Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Chair	Kevin Eccles	
x - AMO County Caucus Chair	Carolyn Jamieson - Lambton	
Regrets:		
Lanark County	Peter Wagland - CAO	
Renfrew County	Norm Lemke - CAO	
Guests:		
OGRA	Eric Rutherford Joe Tiernay Scott Butler	President Executive Director Policy Advisor
AMO	Peter Hume Pat Vanini	President Executive Director
MMAH	Vince Fabilli Warren Sleeth	

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Chair Burton called the meeting to order and welcomed the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Chair Kevin Eccles and members of the WOWC to the meeting.

2. Welcome and Introductions of EOWC and WOWC Wardens and CAOs

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Chair Burton asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none noted.

4. Approval of Agenda – February 21, 2010

Moved by: Warden Bill Thake
Seconded by: Mayor Ric McGee

Be it resolved that the agenda for the February 21, 2010 Joint Meeting of the EOWC and WOWC be approved.

Carried.

5. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Warden Ron Eddy
Seconded by: Warden Bryan McGillis

Be it resolved that the minutes of the February 22, 2009 Joint Meeting of the EOWC and WOWC be approved.

Carried.

6. EOWC Chair's Update

EOWC Chair Burton noted that the EOWC have identified several priorities to address during the coming year that will be outlined during a later presentation. He noted that the Eastern Caucus members are looking forward to working with members of the WOWC in the coming term to enhance the impact that the Wardens' groups have on provincial and federal decision making.

7. WOWC Chair's Update

WOWC Chair Kevin Eccles reported that there are a number of past Wardens' from Western Ontario in attendance as they have chosen this route as a means to transfer knowledge. They've also changed their structure to allow past wardens' to be appointed to executive positions within the WOWC.

Mr. Eccles noted that the WOWC has identified three top priorities for 2010. Lambton County is leading an initiative regarding the LHINs; Middlesex County is focusing on OMPF funding and Simcoe County is working on Economic Development on behalf of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus.

8. OGRA Update

EOWC Chair Dave Burton introduced Eric Rutherford, President; Joe Tiernay, Executive Director and Scott Butler, Policy Manager from OGRA. The OGRA representatives provided an overview of current initiatives including their Municipal Dataworks programme. It was noted that OGRA recently received \$450,000 to build a province wide data base.

Monitoring changes to Provincial Minimum Maintenance Standards is another major initiative currently underway and a workshop is scheduled during the conference to provide training to staff to prepare for the new regulations.

It was noted that the backbone of OGRA is the education programme as they generate \$2 million per year through their education programs. Municipalities were thanked municipalities for their support in utilizing these programmes.

A new initiative will be launched this year relating to a new electronic tendering and procurement solution. The package will allow the entire process up to and including award of the tender to be completed electronically. This has been designed with input from municipal staff and a contract will be awarded for this project next year.

9. AMO Update

AMO President Peter Hume welcomed the EOWC and WOWC Caucuses and thanked them for the opportunity to provide an update from AMO.

Mr. Hume touched briefly on electricity and indicated that AMO continues to research this subject and will report to both Caucuses by way of a formal report in the near future.

With regard to water and waste water treatment, Mr. Hume noted that Bill 237 which is a Private Member's Bill, has just passed second reading with the intention to consolidate local water and waste water systems creating a Water Board or other provincial authority that may prove to be a threat to local autonomy in managing water. It is hoped that Bill 237 will die, but noted that it can be reintroduced in subsequent sessions, so it will not entirely disappear as an issue to monitor.

Mr. Hume noted that hospital funding is becoming a growing concern and was raised at a Regional Chairs' meeting recently. AMO has agreed to consult with municipalities to determine what level of funding they are providing throughout the province upon the request of hospital boards and hospital foundations. At a time when property taxes are high, these funding requests put additional pressure on municipalities.

Bill 236 is the first Bill on pension reform. AMO has had an ongoing issue with how OMERS has been changed in terms of potential cost increases for both members and employers. AMO is very concerned that this Bill, if not amended, will result in increased funding pressures, when we can least afford them. The fund is in transition and we need to balance the need to fund the plan currently and sustain it for the future. He noted that the EOWC took a position at the January meeting to support this effort.

Mayor McGee noted that the City of Kawartha Lakes is embroiled in a legal battle with the Province of Ontario concerning an oil spill by a private company that occurred at a private home and eventually leaked into storm sewers and into Sturgeon Lake. Mayor McGee reported that he has sent a letter to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario asking for their assistance in obtaining a commitment by the Province that municipalities are not responsible for the clean up of spills caused by a private business. A member of the WOWC noted that she was not comfortable voting on this motion without the benefit of a background report.

Moved by: Mayor Ric McGee
Seconded by: Mayor Leo Finnegan;

That both the Eastern and the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucuses support the position of the City of Kawartha Lakes in asking the

Ministry of Environment to develop standard operating practices and enact legislation that does not require Ontario municipalities to pay for the cost of environmental clean up created by private business pollution.

Carried.

10. EOWC 2010 Priority Presentation

Jim Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer of the EOWC presented a power point presentation outlining the 2010 Priorities for the EOWC.

11. MMAH Update Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Chair Burton welcomed and introduced the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to the meeting.

Minister Bradley noted that he had met with the Western Caucus members earlier in the day, but that he was delighted to be here with both as he'd be meeting with the EOWC separately tomorrow morning. He introduced MPP Lou Rinaldi, Parliamentary Assistant.

Minister Bradley congratulated Chair Dave Burton and Chair Kevin Eccles on taking on an onerous but important responsibility as newly elected Chairs.

He commended the EOWC for their efforts with the broadband project which has been successful as a result of the group exercising coordinated efforts and creating good relationships along the way. He stressed the need for collaboration and encouraged members to take the opportunity to meet with cabinet members and parliamentary assistant colleagues who may be able to assist with various issues including First Nations consultations, Building Green, Rural Economic Development, etc. He noted that each Ministry is looking for ways to enhance the working relationship between the Province and municipal government

12. Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Broadband Project

Jim Pine provided an update highlighting the goals and objectives of the Eastern Ontario Broadband Project. He introduced the Project Team of David Fell, Lisa Severson and Sheridan Graham. It was noted that when completed, the network will have enough data capacity for at least the next 14 years.

He further noted that the group also has the opportunity to meet with the Chiefs of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs as part of an integral consultation component of this project. He noted that this is an ambitious three year project, further challenged by the diverse topography and geography throughout Eastern Ontario.

13. Other Business

There was no other business to report.

14. Adjournment

EOWC Chair Dave Burton thanked everyone for attending the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Warden Gary Davison
Seconded by: Warden Bryan McGillis

Be it resolved that the February 21, 2010 Joint Meeting of the EOWC and WOWC be adjourned.

Carried

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus,
Chair Dave Burton**

**Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus,
Chair Kevin Eccles**