



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
MINUTES**

Thursday, January 14, 2010

9:30 a.m.

**Four Points by Sheraton Hotel – Limestone City Ballroom
Kingston, ON**

In Attendance:

County	EOWC CURRENT MEMBERS AND INCOMING MEMBERS	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Janet Gutowski-Past Warden Gary Davison-Warden	Liz Savill-CAO
County of Haliburton	Dave Burton-Warden	Jim Wilson-CAO
County of Hastings	Ron Emond-Chair Jo-Anne Albert - Warden	Cathy Monzon-Bradley - Support
City of Kawartha Lakes	Ric McGee- Mayor	Jane Reynolds - CAO
County of Lanark	Paul Dulmage-Past Warden John Fenik- Warden	Peter Wagland-CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Mel Campbell-Past Warden Bill Thake-Warden	Steven Silver-CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	Gord Schermerhorn-Past Warden Henry Hogg - Warden	Larry Keech-CAO
County of Northumberland	Linda Thompson-Past Warden Peter Delanty-Warden	Bill Pyatt-CAO
County of Peterborough	J. Murray Jones-Warden	Gary King-CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	M. Robert Kirby-Past Warden Conrad Lamadeleine- Warden	Stéphane P. Parisien-CAO
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan- Mayor	Dick Shannon-CAO
County of Renfrew	Donald Rathwell-Warden	Norm Lemke-CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Chris McDonell-Past Warden Bryan McGillis-Warden	Michael Waddell-CAO

Other guests:		Steve Seller – MMAH Pat Vanini – AMO Present Peter Hume – AMO Marianne Love – AMO
Regrets:		
County of Peterborough	Ron Gerow–Past Warden	
County of Hastings	Jim Pine – CAO, Secretary-Treasurer	

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Chair Emond welcomed everyone to the Inaugural meeting of the EOWC. Chair Emond advised the group that Jim Pine, Secretary-Treasurer would be joining the meeting via teleconference for the first part of the agenda as he is attending the Assembly of First Nations in Thunder Bay to assist in the Duty to Consult work that is on-going for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network. Chair Emond welcomed special guests Steven Seller and Senior Municipal Financial Adviser, Allison Faith-York Municipal Affairs and Housing, Pat Vanini Executive Director of the Association on Municipalities of Ontario and Marianne Love, AMO OMERS Sponsors Corporation Representative. Chair Emond advised that AMO President Peter Hume would join the meeting after lunch to provide an update.

2. Introduction of Past and New Wardens

Chair Emond asked that the past wardens introduce themselves the new wardens as well as staff who are present.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Burton

THAT the minutes of December 17, 2009 and the Closed Session minutes of the same date be approved. Carried.

4. Approval of Agenda – January 14, 2010

Chair Emond requested that agenda items 8 and 9 be moved up on the agenda to immediately follow item # 5 to allow Mr. Pine to speak to the items while he is joining via conference call.

Moved by: Warden Rathwell
Seconded by: Mel Campbell

THAT the agenda for the January 14, 2010 meeting be approved as amended. Carried

5. Orientation Review

Jim Pine advised that the Orientation binders have been provided to each incoming member of EOWC and he reviewed the information included. He asked members to review the binder at their leisure noting that it included meeting dates and location for the year, contact information as well as past briefing notes and pre budget submissions prepared by the Caucus.

6. Appointment of Auditors – J. Pine

Jim Pine advised that each year auditors are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation. It is recommended that as the County of Hastings manages the financial transactions for the Caucus, that the County of Hastings' auditors Collins Barrow be appointed again this year.

Moved by: Warden Burton
Seconded by: Paul Dulmage

THAT the Auditors appointed for the County of Hastings (Collins Barrows Chartered Accountants, Peterborough, ON) be appointed as auditors for the EOWC. Carried.

7. Financial Statements – EOWC and EORN

Jim Pine reviewed the Financial Statements of EOWC Inc from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009, as well as, the EORN working draft prior to contribution agreement costs. Jim noted that the EOWC Inc is in a good financial position and he anticipated that membership fees would not increase this year. He also noted that the EORN working draft is a summary of charges that have been incurred prior to the Contribution Agreement being signed and that these costs have been borne by the County of Hastings, County of Peterborough and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. He advised that it is the expectation that the costs being fronted by these three counties will be recognized as part of their financial contribution to the project. Paul Dulmage enquired about any outstanding costs and Jim Pine replied that costs continue to be incurred on the project and invoices are approved for payment as they are submitted. Jim Pine also advised that Minister Dombrowsky will be bringing good news to the meeting tomorrow regarding the application to the Provincial Government for additional funding. Minister Dombrowsky will announce an additional \$190,000 to help offset the costs the EOWC is incurring on the project until the contribution agreement is signed and funds start to flow. Jim added that Minister Baird was asked for additional funding as well but there has been no word on that ask.

Moved by: Mel Campbell
Seconded by: Paul Dulmage

THAT the Financial statements of EOWC Inc dated January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 as well as the EORN working draft – prior to contribution agreement be approved as presented. Carried.

Jim Pine left the meeting.

**8. Municipal Employers Pension Centre of Ontario (Update on OMERS)
Pat Vanini Executive Director and Marianne Love AMO OMERS Sponsor
Corporation Representative AMO's OMERS Sponsor Corporation representative.**

Pat Vanini introduced Marianne Love AMO's OMERS Sponsor Corporation representative. Pat explained that MEPCO (Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario) is a not-for-profit corporation formed by AMO to ensure that its employer representatives on the OMERS sponsors Corporation and Administrative corporation are informed on the plan. They advised that in 2008 the pension plan fell from a surplus of 82 million to a deficit of 279 million. They also advised that a contribution increase of 0.15% per side effective January 1, 2010 will address the \$279 million deficit but that the investment losses will result in a loss of \$6.4 billion which must be accounted for over the next four years. Ms. Love advised that without changes to the plan or an exemption from the solvency requirements, the 15.34% combined contributions rate that employers and employees currently share could grow to more than 22% by 2013. The funding challenges reviewed included; Normal costs – plan maturity, a declining number of employees and an increasing number of retirees; Investment returns - the economic downturn had huge effects on all pension plans, OMERS fared fairly well in comparison because of their plan diversification but the losses that occurred will cause the valuation of the plan to suffer for the next four years; Solvency Funding requirement, Impacts of Bill 236 as well as actuarial assumptions. The impact of rising contribution rates on municipalities was discussed and concern was voiced over the loss incurred in 2008. MEPCO (Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario) along with AMO are continue to lobby for the remove the solvency valuation requirement for the OMERS plan as one way to improve the health of the plan. As well, they are looking for input from municipal employers around a long term funding strategy. Questions were provided and the members were encouraged to review and submit any comments they may have on the sustainability and affordability issues of the plan in the future. Ms. Love explained that MEPCO's approach is about finding answers to strategic questions around the important principles of the plan: stability, affordability and longevity. Chair Emond thanked them for the presentation and for bringing this important issue to the Warden's attention.

9. MMAH Update – Steve Seller

Steve Seller provided a PowerPoint which outlined the relationship of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the services they provide to municipalities in Ontario. The office has a staff of 20 assigned geographically divided into three units: local government, land use planning and development and housing. Staff can provide training and information on a variety of subjects including; affordable housing, emergency management, financial management, governance, community planning, sessions on the line fences act and facilitation with strategic planning services are also provided. Mr. Seller attends all EOWC meetings and provides Ministry updates and information as well as providing information to the head office on the Caucus directions and initiatives. They also assist the Caucus greatly in the organization of conference delegations. Chair Emond thanked Mr. Seller for his support of the EOWC and our work.

10. New/Old Business

11. Correspondence

Moved by: Mel Campbell
Seconded by: Linda Thompson

THAT the information correspondence be received and filed. Carried

11.1 Incoming Correspondence pgs. 11-20

11.1.1 From the Township of Essa (November 5, 2009) Re: Residential-Farmland Property Tax Concerns

11.1.2 From Lanark County (December 15, 2009) Re: Electoral Riding – Lanark Frontenac Lennox & Addington)

11.2 Outgoing Correspondence pgs. 21-39

11.2.1 Letter from Chair Emond to the Honourable John Baird (December 21, 2009) Re: EOWC Inc. Broadband Project (EORN) – Request for Additional Resources

11.2.2 Letter from Chair Emond to the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky (December 21, 2000) Re: EOWC Inc. Broadband Project (EORN) – Request for Additional Resources

11.2.3 Letter from Chair Emond to the Honourable John Gerretsen (December 30, 2009) Re: Deadstock Collection System

LUNCH

(Old Stones Dining Room)

12. AMO Update – President Peter Hume

President Peter Hume provided a brief update on the activities of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. He reported that the work to assist municipalities on the mitigation funding issue recently and advised that AMO staff called each municipality in Ontario directly that was affected by the loss of Mitigation to request that the contact their MPP to discuss the issue. The effort resulted in 25 million dollars of assistance this year. President Hume spoke about the gas tax funding and in particular that there appears to be a high level of satisfaction with the model. He also advised that there will be some accrued interest paid out to municipalities this year.

President Hume also spoke about a Private Member's Bill on Water and Wastewater which could potentially have large implications for municipalities. The result would be the most significant restructuring of municipal water and wastewater systems ever. President Hume advised that AMO's concern with private member's bills are that issues

are often too complicated and important to be considered this way as there is no consultative process.

Moved by: Paul Dulmage
Seconded by: Warden Davison

THAT the EOWC opposes fundamental reform to government policy with a Private Member's Bill without pre consultation. Carried

Warden Fenik raised an issue around the Ministry of Labour and the responsibility and requirement for reporting an incident on municipality owned property. He advised that it is currently the municipality's responsibility to file a report with the Ministry of Labour if there is an incident on municipal property. He advised that it is extremely difficult for a municipality to adhere to this as often times there are injuries to a member of the public (ie. a sports related incident) and the injury is not ever reported to the municipality.

Mayor McGee raised a concern around the impact and the potential escalation of costs to municipalities as a result of the Green Energy Act. President Hume advised that he would provide a more in-depth report on the matter at the February meeting around the Green Energy Act's impact on the municipal sector and the role of LAS in solar panels and selling power back to the grid.

13. Proposed Priorities for 2010

Gary King provided a Power Point presentation which detailed the status and progress made on the 2009 priorities as well as reviewing the list of proposed 2010 priorities. The list of proposed priorities included:

- Growth Plan for Eastern Ontario
- Economic Development for Eastern Ontario
 - Eastern Ontario Economic Summit
 - Updated Regional Data Set
 - EODF Funding for Small Businesses (eligibility criteria)
- Algonquin Land Claim – Economic Potential/Effects
- EORN – Building the Network
- Mitigation Funding – Dealing with the financial impacts
- Land Ambulance Dispatch Protocols (MPDS)
- Long Term Care Rules and Regulations

Bill Pyatt provided an update on the work of the economic development sub-committee (Stéphane Parisien, Bill Pyatt and Jim Wilson). Bill advised that an issue of concern is the Fed Dev program and the fact the Eastern Ontario municipalities will be competing for funding against municipalities in Southern Ontario who are larger and have more access to resources to prepare and submit detailed proposals for funding. It was proposed that the EOWC meets with the directors at Fed Dev to foster a relationship and educate them to the issues that Eastern Ontario municipalities face.

It was agreed that although all of the issues were to be monitored that it was important to identify the top three priorities to focus the efforts of the Caucus.

Moved by: Linda Thompson
Seconded by: Mayor McGee

THAT Economic Development (encompassing the Growth Plan for Eastern Ontario), Eastern Ontario Regional Network – Broadband (EORN) and Mitigation Funding be declared the top three priorities of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus for 2010 and that the issues of the Algonquin Land Claim, Land Ambulance Dispatch Protocols and Long Term Care Rules and Regulations will continue to be monitored by the Caucus. Carried.

14. Ongoing Work in 2010

Included in the presentation Gary King reviewed a number of ongoing items that the Caucus will continue to work on during the 2010 year. These included:

- Provincial 2010 Pre-Budget Submission
- Federal 2010 Pre-Budget Submission
- Report card on recommendations of the prosperity plan
- Report on SODA
- Roads and Bridges Task Force
- Crown Land
- Endangered Species Act
- Loss of Best Start Funding
- Co-ordinated Collective Bargaining Initiative

15. Delegations at OGRA/ROMA Conference – 2010

It was agreed that the EOWC Inc. would request delegations for the top three priorities at OGRA/ROMA.

Moved by: Warden Jones
Seconded by: Mayor McGee

THAT the EOWC Inc. request delegations to the Ministers affiliated with the issues contained within our top three 2010 priorities; Economic Development, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network and the financial affects of the loss of Mitigation Funding. Carried

16. Meeting with WOWC at OGRA/ROMA Conference – 2010

It was agreed that the EOWC Inc. would invite the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus to participate in a joint meeting at OGRA/ROMA. The meeting will be held immediately following the EOWC meeting scheduled for Sunday February 21, 2010 at 2:00 pm. The invitation will be sent by the new Chair.

17. New Business

Warden Fenik enquired whether other Counties have been experiencing difficulty in securing delegations with various Ministers at conferences. It was advised that many

Counties and municipalities have been very successful in attaining the delegations they request and have not noticed any trend to avoid granting delegation requests.

Norm Lemke addressed the group regarding the Addresses by the Candidates for Chair topic on the agenda. He advised that as there had not yet been nominations for the positions and that perhaps members of the EOWC would like tonight to consider putting their name forward, that this item will be held over until Friday morning's meeting. He advised that once the meeting is called to order, nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair will be received, candidates will have the opportunity to address the group at that time and if required a vote will then take place.

It was agreed by the group that this change in procedure be followed and the agenda be changed to reflect this.

18. Confirmatory By-Law # 10-01

Motion

Moved by: Warden Albert
Seconded by: Warden Jones

THAT the Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus hereby enacts as follows:

- 1. THAT the action of the Board of Directors at its meeting held on the 14th day of January 2010 in respect to each motion, resolution, by-law and other action passed and taken by the Board of Directors at its said meeting, except where prior approval of any other body or agency is required, is hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.**
- 2. THAT the Chair and the proper officers of the Corporation of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be necessary in that behalf and the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to affix the Corporate Seal to all such documents. Carried**

19. Adjournment

Moved by: Warden Rathwell
Seconded by: Mayor McGee

THAT the meeting of Thursday January 14, 2010 be adjourned. Carried.

Ron Emond - Chair/President

Jim Pine - Secretary-Treasurer

Date

Date