



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Minutes
June 15, 2007
9:00 a.m.**

The County of Renfrew Administration Building – Pembroke, ON

COUNTY	HEAD OF COUNCIL 2007	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Ron Maguire	
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
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 Bob Sweet – Past Chair	Norm Lemke
Other Guests:		John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew Doug Reycraft, President, AMO Barry Crampton, EOBC Jim Nubell, EOBC Dan Borowec, CFDC Karen Chan, OMAFRA Warren Sleeth, MMAH

Regrets

COUNTY	HEAD OF COUNCIL 2007	STAFF
County of Frontenac		Elizabeth Fulton
County of Peterborough	Ronald Gerow	Gary King
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville		Lisa Severson, (Recorder)
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Dennis Fife	Mike S. Waddell

Warden Visneskie welcomed the EOWC members and guests to the County of Renfrew and introduced the County of Renfrew MPP John Yakabuski.

MPP Yakabuski thanked the EOWC for their invitation to attend the meeting. MPP Yakabuski stated the EOWC is a very effective group who are highly respected throughout the province.

MP Gallant also welcomed the EOWC to Renfrew County and commended the members for "putting Eastern Ontario on the map". She stated her pleasure in the EOWC's efforts to bring broadband coverage to Eastern Ontario.

Mr. Lemke stated that Lorna Knight had delivered a healthy baby girl on June 3, 2007. Chair Struthers stated that flowers will be sent to Mrs. Knight to celebrate this happy occasion.

A presentation on the Provincial Broadband Initiative by Karen Chan, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs began at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Chan stated that any projects which receive provincial funding under the Broadband Initiative will have to be completed by March 31, 2008. A small portion of the allotted \$10 million will go towards research and development. The provincial Services Management Team (consisting of a five person panel) will review and approve the applications and a local support team has been created to assist in the completion of the applications. Key components of the application include the mapping and gap analysis and readiness of the municipality to complete the project. Applications are due July 13, 2007 and the announcement of successful applicants will be made in early August. If an applicant is successful a complete business and technical plan have to be completed and submitted to the province by October 2007.

Mr. Wilson inquired that if a project related to broadband (i.e. construction of towers) had been started, can enhancing that current project be included in the application. The response given stated it must clearly demonstrate how it will enhance new broadband coverage.

Mr. Wilson asked if an applicant already has a Request for Proposal in place, can it be used in conjunction with the funding. The response was that it would be difficult to use the current RFP as tender information will be required as sole sourcing for services is

difficult. This question will be further reviewed and an answer will be forwarded to the EOWC.

A presentation on the Broadband Implementation Plan by the Eastern Ontario Broadband Coalition (Peter Wagland, Barry Crampton and Jim Nubel) followed the Provincial Broadband Initiative Presentation. Mr. Nubel and Mr. Crampton reviewed the gap analysis for Eastern Ontario related to broadband coverage. They stated that the EOBC is aware of the tight timelines of the application process and feel they are able to provide the EOWC members with detailed maps, etc.

The timelines for the Broadband Initiative is:

- July 13, 2007 Application due to province
- August 2007 Project selection and announcement (EOBC will assist in completion of RFPs)
- October 5, 2007 Technical/Business Plan Submission

Ms. Chan stated that a resolution from Council must accompany all applications.

Warden Maguire asked if the fifty ISP providers are all on board for the project. Mr. Crampton replied that eighteen to twenty infrastructure builders are on board and the remaining ISPs will use existing or other existing infrastructure to mount their equipment.

Warden Macmillan asked if the March 31, 2008 date for completion of projects was realistic. Mr. Crampton replied that the EOBC feel that there is a great state of readiness, as there is already a good deal of infrastructure in place waiting to be used.

Dan Borowec, Regional Coordinator, EODP, updated the EOWC on the Federal involvement regarding Broadband Implementation. Mr. Borowec stated that he was hopeful of a positive response to the request made for federal funding to enhance broadband services in Eastern Ontario.

Mr. Wagland stated that a group application will be made by the EOWC members with subsets of municipal applications.

Chair Struthers opened the floor for discussion.

Warden Visneskie inquired about matching funding from the federal government and if that could be considered in the application. Mr. Wagland stated that the province will cover half of the costs and the rest would be up to the municipalities.

Mr. Keech asked if one consolidated application is submitted which projects will get priority for completion and who will make that decision. Mr. Crampton replied that a small working group would be formed to determine the priorities.

Mr. Wagland and Mr. Borowec provided an overview of the allocation methodology to the members.

Chair Struthers thanked the EOBC, Mr. Borowec and Ms. Chan for attending the meeting and providing them with valuable information which will be utilized in completing the application for provincial broadband funding.

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Chair Struthers called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2007

Moved by: Warden McEwen
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the EOWC meeting minutes from May 17, 2007 be approved, as amended.
Carried

3. Approval of Agenda – June 15, 2007

Moved by: Mayor Magee
Seconded by: Warden Clemens

THAT the agenda is approved. Carried.

Warden MacMillan requested an update on the status of the narrative piece being completed by Nigel Bellchamber for the Future Directions 2007. It was reported that Mr. Bellchamber is waiting for the financial piece from Howard Allan and Partners and feels the narrative section of the report will be completed prior to the AMO Conference.

4. MMAH Update

Mr. Sleeth stated that July 6, 2007 has been confirmed by the inter-ministerial group to meet with the EOWC CAOs to discuss the Prosperity Plan recommendations. The meeting will be in Kingston area. The CAOs are to confirm this date with Mr. Sleeth as soon as possible. Mr. Sleeth will work with Mr. Fournier on details for the meetings.

5. Chairman's Update

5.1 Contact from MPP Brownell's Office

Chair Struthers update the Caucus on contact made by MPP Brownell's office on May 31, 2007 to arrange a meeting between the EOWC and his government in Toronto on June 6, 2007. As per the decision made at the EOWC's May 17, 2007 meeting the Caucus at that time decided they would not meet with political parties until the AMO Conference in August.

5.2 AMO Update

Mr. Reycraft provided an update to the Caucus on AMO activities. Mr. Reycraft stated that with the upcoming provincial party AMO will need to work with all the

parties on various topics with the predominant issue being the Service Delivery and Fiscal Capacity Review. The provincial government has committed to an eighteen month time frame to review the process and expectations of municipalities are growing. Mr. Reycraft stated that it is extremely important that the Service Delivery and Fiscal Capacity Review be done correctly and the needs of both the province and the municipalities are met. The issue of POA collections is an issue which should continue to be advocated at the Service Delivery and Fiscal Capacity Review.

Mr. Reycraft stated that there is a vacancy on the County Caucus of the AMO Board.

5.3 WOWC Meeting – AMO

It was determined that the EOWC and WOWC would not meet at the AMO Conference.

5.4 Inter-ministerial Meeting

This item was discussed in Item 4. MMAH Update.

6. Prosperity Plan Priorities

Mr. Keech provided an overview of the preliminary summary of the infrastructure survey completed for the thirteen members of the EOWC. Three separated municipalities participated in the survey; the City of Cornwall, the City of Brockville and the Town of Prescott. Mr. Shannon inquired if the final report will be ready for the AMO Conference. Mr. Keech stated he will forward the Excel spreadsheet to all EOWC members when finalized.

7. Strategy for AMO Conference

7.1 Position Paper – WHERE DOES YOUR PARTY STAND

Mr. Pine provided an overview of the position paper “Where do You and Your Party Stand”. The document is another means in which the EOWC can communicate the EOWC’s priorities. Mr. Pine suggested the document could be circulated to the major political parties prior to the AMO conference. Warden McEwen stated he thought it was an excellent idea and that the document should be distributed, as soon as possible.

Warden MacMillan agreed with Warden McEwen stating that this document outlines the priorities of the EOWC and it can be used as a tool during delegations and the bear pit session at the AMO Conference.

Mr. Keech stated it could be forwarded to all candidates in Eastern Ontario. Warden Clemens stated it should also be distributed at the local MPP level.

Mr. Pine asked when the document is distributed should a press release be sent to the media regarding the “Where Do You and Your Party Stand Document”.

The members agreed that a press release should also be sent to the media to inform them of the document and the EOWC's expectations from the political parties.

7.2 Delegations at AMO

The members agreed that a full caucus approach to attend delegations is preferred versus individual delegations. If a full caucus is not available, the default would be for individual delegations. The priorities identified by the EOWC should be the focus for any delegations.

7.3 Bear Pit Session

Preparing for the Bear Pit session has been assigned to staff.

8. Property Tax Update

Mr. Pine provided an update on the Property Tax Campaign to the members.

9. One Cent Campaign Update

Mr. Pine stated that Mayor Miller received support for his One Cent Campaign at the FCM Conference. Mr. Pine will contact a member of Mayor Miller's staff to inquire if a meeting is still required between Mayor Miller and the EOWC.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Review of EOWC Policies - D. Struthers

- Requests for support
- Process to seek support on new "issues"

Chair Struthers stated that there would be value in clarifying the guidelines on correspondence which request the EOWC's support. Staff is directed to prepare draft guidelines on requests for support which the EOWC receives.

10.2 Incoming:

10.2.1 Resolution: The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes (07-Jun-07)
Re: Court Security

Mrs. Lunn provided an oral update on the issue of Court Security and its impact on Kawartha Lakes' budget.

**Moved by Mayor Magee and seconded by Warden McGuire
THAT the EOWC support the position and encourage municipalities to work towards and acceptable resolution on the issue. Carried.**

10.2.2 Resolution: The Corporation of the County of Simcoe (10-Apr-07)
Re: Increase to Funding for Residents in Long-Term Care Facilities

The EOWC suggest that the resolution be forwarded to each of the members Councils for consideration.

10.2.3 Letter from Mayor Ed Jacyno to Warden Struthers, Chair EOWC
(28-May-07)
Re: Thank you for correspondence

This item was received and filed.

10.2.4 Recommendation: The County of Renfrew (11-Jun-07)
Re: Lightening the Ecological Footprint of Logging in Algonquin
Provincial Park

Warden Visneskie requested the EOWC support the County of Renfrew's recommendation on Lightening the Ecological Footprint on Logging in Algonquin Provincial Park. Warden Macmillan asked if supporting this endeavour was part of the EOWC's mandate. Warden Visneskie responded that this topic is linked to the Prosperity Plan and should be considered by the EOWC. Warden McEwen voiced concern stating this recommendation affects more than one County.

**Moved by Warden McEwen and seconded by Mayor Finnegan
THAT the EOWC support the recommendation put forward by the County of
Renfrew related to Lightening the Ecological Footprint of Logging in
Algonquin Provincial Park. Carried.**

10.3 Outgoing:

10.3.1 Warden Struthers to The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of
Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (01-Jun-07)
Re: Broadband Initiative

10.3.2 Warden Struthers to The Honourable Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance
(01-Jun-07)
Re: Broadband Initiative

10.3.3 Warden Struthers to The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of
Ontario (01-Jun-07)
Re: Broadband Initiative

10.4 Joint Correspondence: Nil

11. New/Old Business

12. Next Meeting(s)

CAOs Working Group Meetings

July 6, 2007 – Inter-ministerial Meeting – Frontenac County
September 21, 2007 – Hastings County

Wardens' Caucus

August 19, 2007 – AMO Conference - Ottawa

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Warden McEwen
Seconded by: Warden Clemens

THAT the EOWC meeting adjourn.

Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.