



**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Minutes**

**Friday, June 20, 2008
8:30 a.m.**

**The County of Lennox and Addington Administration Building
97 Thomas Street East, Napanee, ON**

Present

COUNTY	WARDEN	CAO
County of Frontenac	Jim Vanden Hoek	Elizabeth Savill
County of Haliburton	Eleanor Harrison	Jim Wilson
County of Hastings	Ron Emond	Jim Pine
City of Kawartha Lakes	Ric McGee (Mayor)	Jane Lunn
County of Lanark	Bob Fletcher	Peter Wagland
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Jim Pickard Doug Struthers (Past Chair) Lisa Severson	Steven Silver
County of Lennox and Addington	Gordon Schermerhorn	Larry Keech
County of Northumberland	Christine Herrington	Bill Pyatt
County of Peterborough	Ronald Gerow (Chair)	Gary King
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan (Mayor)	Dick Shannon
County of Renfrew	Janice Visneskie	Norm Lemke
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Estella Rose	Michael Waddell
Other guests:		Warren Sleeth, MMAH Matt MacDonald, MMAH Dave Shoustal, EA, MPP Hillier Assistant Wendy Hill, Lennox and Addington

Absent

COUNTY	WARDEN	CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Ken Hill (Vice-Chair)	Stéphane P. Parisien

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chair Gerow welcomed everyone and thank Warden Schermerhorn, Larry Keech and their staff for their hospitality.

Warden Schermerhorn welcomed the EOWC members to the County of Lennox and Addington and offered a tour of the facility after the meeting.

Chair Gerow informed the group that MPP Randy Hillier's Assistant Dave Shoustal would join the meeting at 11:30 a.m. extending greetings on M.P.P. Hillier's behalf. Unfortunately the remaining non-governmental MPPs had conflicting commitments and are not able to attend the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes - April 18, 2008

Mayor McGee questioned the resolution related to AMO's Blue Box position paper and requested that the addition of lobbying the government to standardize packaging be included in the resolution. As Mover of the resolution at the April meeting, Warden Visneskie agreed to the addition.

Mayor Finnegan inquired as to what PIR meant. It is the abbreviation of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

Mr. Wilson noted that the minutes should reflect 750,000 tonnes, not 750,000 as written.

Moved by: Warden Fletcher
Seconded by: Warden Visneskie

THAT the minutes of the April 18, 2008 meeting and the February 24, 2008 closed meeting be approved as amended. Carried.

3. Additions to the Agenda - Nil**4. Approval of the Agenda – June 20, 2008**

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Schermerhorn

That the EOWC agenda for June 20, 2008 be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. Chair's Update

5.0.1 Meeting with Federal Eastern Ontario Government Caucus

Warden Gerow reported that the meeting with the Federal Eastern Ontario Government Caucus went very well. The M.P.s present appreciated the information presented to them related to economic development needs and initiatives in Eastern Ontario and requested to be kept informed on any further developments. They stressed the importance of completing the application process for federal funding for the Broadband initiative and it was agreed that the EOWC would have their application and relevant data to them for review for the Federal Eastern Ontario Government Caucus summer meeting in August. .

5.0.2 Eastern EMS Chiefs and Municipal CAOs Meeting

Mr. Pine informed the Caucus that the CAOs met with the Eastern Ontario Chiefs on June 5th and 6th. This was the first meeting between the two groups and it went very well. The Eastern EMS Chiefs are keen on continuing with similar meetings possibly on an annual basis. It gave the EOWC CAOs the opportunity to relay what the EOWC is and what they do and it provided the Chiefs with the opportunity as a group to discuss issues affecting them.

6. BET Submission

Mr. Pine provided an overview of the Draft BET Submission for the Wardens' consideration. It outlines the EOWC's desire to have the reduction of the Business Education Tax accelerated for Eastern Ontario similar to the acceleration for Northern Ontario. The submission cites the dismal economic situation in Eastern Ontario as the key consideration for the request for acceleration. In the past two years over approximately 11,000 jobs have been lost in Eastern Ontario and the effects on family incomes has been substantial. A request was made to explain the BET. Mr. Pine stated that the province levies the education tax on business. Rates reflect historical spending habits. The BET is higher in Eastern Ontario than in the rest of the province as the tax on capital money is not there to invest. Mayor McGee requested that the acceleration of the education tax become a priority for the EOWC and requested that the EOWC Chair coordinate a meeting with provincial government to advocate for the acceleration.

Moved by: Mayor McGee
Seconded by: Warden Emond

THAT the EOWC approved the BET Submission and request it be forwarded to the provincial government. Carried.

7. Federal Pre-Budget Submission

Moved by: Warden Visneskie
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the Federal Pre-Budget Submission be received by the EOWC and submitted to the Federal Government for review and consideration. Carried.

8. Duty to Consult

Mr. King provided an overview of a draft letter to the Honourable Minister Bryant regarding Duty to Consult. With limited resources and expertise knowledge it would be very difficult for the EOWC to provide the provincial government with a concise briefing on the topic of Duty to Consult. The issue is very complex and is not unique to Eastern Ontario. Mr. Reycraft remarked that AMO has not been asked by the province to participate in the development of Duty to Consult policies, etc. The EOWC would like to decline the invitation to prepare a brief, but would be very willing to review and provide comment on any draft policies the provincial government creates. Warden Visneskie is leery of not participating as this may be the EOWC's only opportunity for input and this issue greatly impacts Renfrew County. It was suggested that the letter be sent and a follow-up meeting at the AMO conference be requested with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. Input from Mr. Sleeth was requested and he stated he was not aware of the invitation by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to the EOWC on this topic and commented that by stating the EOWC would be willing to review any procedures/policies created by the province and provide comment it keeps the EOWC in the process. He recommended a second discussion with M.P.P. Leal may be in order.

Moved by: Warden Herrington
Seconded by: Warden Harrison

THAT the EOWC go forward with sending the letter to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and follow-up personally with Minister Bryant's assistant, M.P.P Leal on the matter. Carried.

9. Crown Land Update

Mr. Lemke reported that a meeting has been coordinated with Minister Cansfield in Renfrew on July 16, 2008. The County of Renfrew represented by Mr. Lemke and Warden Visneskie will meet with the Minister first to discuss the ecological footprint of Renfrew County and the second meeting will include Mr. King and Chair Gerow to discuss the issue of Crown Lands. Each meeting will last approximately 30 minutes.

10. AMO Update

Mr. Reycraft provided an update to the Caucus from AMO. Areas covered included:

- Fiscal Capacity and Service Review is nearing completion with frequent meetings of the various tables being held. Progress is being made and it is hopeful the report will be released by the end of July. When the report is ready AMO will be providing a detailed communiqué to the municipalities.
- AMO has announced the formation of an economic development task force. It will be seeking both municipal and other organization involvement. A climate taskforce is also being developed.
- Ontario is the only province that the federal government has committed permanent funding from the federal gas tax towards the rejuvenation of infrastructure. Mr. Reycraft reminded the Caucus that data is required to be

submitted to them for 2006 (4 outstanding municipalities) and 2007 (29 outstanding municipalities) as soon as possible. He reminded the Caucus that if anyone still has their first amount of federal gas tax monies in reserve it has to be utilized this year.

- Due to declining enrollment in Ontario school many schools are being slated for closure. A report is being developed to present to Minister Winn. If there are area groups in the region facing closure please send their information to Mr. Reycraft for the report.
- OMERS – reviewing the possibility of other organizations joining the group.
- Annual AMO Conference will take place in Ottawa in August. To date there have already been 1050 registrants compared to 758 at the same time in 2007.
- Mr. Reycraft stated that there will be a minor change in the provincial cabinet with Minister Smitherham moving to the Energy and Minister Caplain moving to Health.
- Build Canada Agreement has yet to be signed by the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec.
- AMO Board of Directors – final day for nomination is today – June 20th. To date the only nomination received for the position of President is Councillor Hume from Ottawa. Warden Pickard commented that he and other Wardens had attended the second annual Mayors Summit in Ottawa hosted by Mayor O'Brien. He stated that at this meeting Minister Watson stated that there would be no funding for infrastructure when posed the question.

On behalf of the EOWC, Chair Gerow thanked Mr. Reycraft for his hard work and dedication as President of AMO and praised him for his knowledge on rural issues and the time he dedicated to participate and interact with the EOWC.

11. MMAH Update

Mr. MacDonald provided the Caucus with a brief overview of training provided by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in relation to the EODP funding. A draft application and guide were discussed at the training session. The application will be web based and/or available in a hard copy format. Mr. MacDonald expects a quick turn around on applications (approximately 45 days). There will be two streams, a public and private application review process. Mr. MacDonald remarked there is no set date for release of the new program.

Mr. Shannon arrived at 10:20 a.m.

12. Broadband Initiative Update

Peter Wagland provided an update to the Caucus on both the provincial and federal broadband initiatives using a PowerPoint presentation.

Moved by: Warden Schermerhorn
Seconded by: Warden Fletcher

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is desirable of making application to the Federal Government to obtain Build Canada funding for broadband services in Eastern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus has made application for EO EODP regional funding to complete a business case to present to the Federal Government for Build Canada funding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus supports the approach of developing a standard RFP to be called individually by each County or single tier municipality, based on the application for EO EODP regional funding, and consolidating that information for purposes of presentation to the Federal Government for Build Canada funding. Carried.

Moved by: Warden Visenskie
Seconded by: Warden Rose

WHEREAS Lanark County is coordinating broadband research and applications on behalf of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus partners;

AND WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus partners have been asked to provide updated Gap Analysis mapping information to the provincial government as part of an update for the 2007/2008 Rural Connections Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus partners also provide their updated information to Lanark County, so as to facilitate the preparation of a broadband funding application to the Federal Government. Carried.

Moved by: Warden Emond
Seconded by: Warden Harrison

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus partners wish to create a consolidated Gap Analysis for purposes of developing a comprehensive plan to fill the broadband service gaps through the development of a business plan which identifies costs and opportunities to provide high speed internet coverage across Eastern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus partners agree to share their relevant information with each other;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Lanark County be authorized to request and obtain the provincially created and validated information on served and un-served mapping for purposes of preparing grant applications on behalf of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus partners. Carried.

13. Future Directions Update

Due to the impending Fiscal Capacity and Service Review Report it was recommended that the EOWC proceed with the financial report of Future Directions prepared by Howard Allen for 2008 and not complete the narrative portion of the report this year. By a show of hands the Caucus agreed to the recommendation.

14. Incorporation Of EOWC Update – S. Silver

Mr. Silver provided a brief review of the EOWC By-Law for the Caucus' consideration. The County of Lanark submitted comments on the incorporation of the EOWC which they would like to be considered.

**Moved by: Warden Fletcher
Seconded by: Warden Vanden Hoek**

THAT the comments from the County of Lanark be referred to the CAOs for consideration prior to the final draft of the By-Law being submitted to the Wardens for final approval. Carried.

**Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Schermerhorn**

THAT the By-Law be reviewed and revised by the CAOs and resubmitted to the Wardens at the next meeting for consideration and approval. Carried.

Mr. Dave Shoustal, Executive Assistant to M.P.P. Randy Hillier addressed the Caucus on behalf of M.P.P. Hillier. A copy of Mr. Shoustal's remarks are available upon request.

15. AMO Delegation Requests

Delegation requests are now open for the AMO Conference in August. The Caucus has received an invitation to meet with Mr. Tory's during the AMO Conference.

Suggestions for delegations include:

- Minister Smitherham – Health and Long-Term Care – EMS Radios
- Minister Watson – MMAH – Fiscal Capacity and Service Delivery Report
- Minister Cansfield – MNR (this may be subject to change after July 16th meeting in Pembroke) – Crown Land
- Ministers Papatello and Dombrowsky – Ministries MEDT and OMAFRA – EODP Program

It has been suggested to submit requests as soon as possible.

Chair Gerow indicated there will not be a joint meeting between the EOWC and WOWC at this time. Warden Rose commented the Farm Tax Issue is very important to the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and wants to ensure that it will be addressed and remarked that this is a key issue for the WOWC. Warden Vanden Hoek

cautioned the Caucus that a meeting with the WOWC should not be discounted as there are many common issues which the groups share and the "door should be left open" for a possible meeting.

16. Delegation Requests to the EOWC – G. King

Mr. King presented a draft set of guidelines for those seeking delegations with the EOWC for consideration.

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Herrington

THAT the EOWC only grant delegations to those individuals and/or organizations whose mandate or objectives are directly related to one or more of EOWC's stated priorities as determined annually. Carried.

17. New/Old Business

17.0.1 Land Claims

Moved by: Warden Emond
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT a letter be drafted and sent to Chuck Strahl, Federal Ministry of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non Status Indians, regarding the impact of Land Claims on EOWC membership especially areas such as Desoronto. Carried.

17.0.2 Places to Go

Mr. King reported that Ms. Hanna Evans from PIR would be attending the EOWC CAOs Planning meeting to discuss the possibilities of a growth plan, similar to Northern Ontario for this region. Mr. Pyatt cautioned the group as to what is included and restricted in a proposed plan as the County of Northumberland is included in the Golden Horseshoe and find it difficult to meet the allocations made for their growth allocations. Business and industry should be consulted as well for input prior to the development of a plan.

18. Correspondence

18.0.1 Incoming Correspondence

18.0.1.1 From the City of Ottawa – Joint Communiqué (13-Jun-08)
Re: 2nd Mayors Summit

18.0.1.2 From the Honourable Dalton McGuinty to Warden Ron Gerow, Chair, EOWC (22-May-08)
Re: Acknowledgement of EOWC's Support of AMO's Resolution – ARB Bank Towers

18.0.1.3 From John Sabo, Board Chair, OMERS Administration Corporation to Mr. Doug Reycraft, President of AMO (21-Apr-08)

Re: Supplemental Plan

18.0.1.4 From John Sabo, Board Chair, OMERS Administration Corporation to Mr. Bernie Morelli, President, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (21-Apr-08)

Re: Supplemental Plan

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan

Seconded by: Warden Vanden Hoek

THAT the incoming correspondence be received and filed.

18.0.2 Outgoing Correspondence

18.0.2.1 From Warden Ron Gerow, Chair, EOWC to the County of Frontenac (24-Apr-08)

Re: Support of Resolution – Second Radio for EMS Crews

18.0.2.2 From Warden Ron Gerow, Chair, EOWC to Mr. Doug Reycraft, President of AMO (24-Apr-08)

Re: Support of AMO's Resolution – Building Canada Agreement

18.0.2.3 From Warden Ron Gerow, Chair, EOWC to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (24-Apr-08)

Re: Support of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville's Resolution Supporting the Port of Prescott's bid for Building Canada Funding

18.0.2.4 From Warden Ron Gerow, Chair, EOWC to Mr. Doug Reycraft, President of AMO (24-Apr-08)

Re: Support of AMO's *Discussion Paper For an Alternative Approach to Ontario's Blue Box Funding Model*

18.0.2.5 From Warden Ron Gerow, Chair, EOWC to The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario (24-Apr-08)

Re: Support of AMO's Position on the ARB

Moved by: Warden Fletcher

Seconded by: Warden Visneskie

THAT the outgoing correspondence be received and filed.

19. Adjournment

Moved by: Mayor McGee
Seconded by: Warden Rose

THAT the EOWC meeting adjourns. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.