



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Minutes – June 24, 2005

County of Hastings

In attendance:

UPPER TIER	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Bill MacDonald	Marian Van Bruinessen, Treasurer
County of Haliburton	Jim McMahon	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Charles Mullet	Jim Pine, CAO
County of Lanark	Susan Freeman	Peter Wagland, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	J. Douglas Struthers	Stephen Fournier, CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	Clayton McEwen	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Peter Delanty	Bill Pyatt, CAO
County of Peterborough	Neal Cathcart	Gary King, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell		Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Leo Finnegan (Mayor)	Dick Shannon, CAO
County of Renfrew		Norm Lemke, CAO Lorna Knight
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Alvin Runnalls	Mike S. Waddell, CAO
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing		Warren Sleeth
AMO-County Caucus		Doug Rayburn

Regrets:

UPPER TIER	HEAD OF COUNCIL	STAFF
City of Kawartha Lakes	Barb Kelly (Mayor)	Jane Lunn, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Denis Pommainville	
County of Frontenac		Elizabeth Fulton, CAO
County of Renfrew	Robert Sweet	

1a. Adoption of April 21 & 22, 2005 Minutes

Moved by: Warden Jim McMahon

Seconded by: Warden Bill MacDonald

THAT the minutes of April 21 & 22, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

1b. Adoption of May 27, 2005 Minutes

Moved by: Warden Jim McMahon

Seconded by: Warden Bill MacDonald

THAT the minutes of May 27, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Agenda (as amended)

Moved by: Warden Bill McDonald

Seconded by: Mayor Leo Finnegan

THAT the agenda as amended for June 24, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

Clayton McEwen, Vice-Chair welcomed Doug Reycraft, Chair of the AMO County Caucus.

A couple of things Doug wanted to remind the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus of:

1) Caucus members were recommended to attend the 2005 Counties, Regions and Single Tier Municipalities, and District Social Services Administration Boards Conference; this conference which will be held in Niagara Falls, at the Sheraton Falls View Hotel on October 16-19, 2005.

AMO has received notice that Haliburton County has offered to host the 2006 Conference. It is expected that the County Caucus and the Regional Chairs Caucus will approve and accept this invitation. At this time, it looks like Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry will be hosting the 2007 Conference

2) AMO has reactivated the CFR committee (to be renamed) to try to develop some recommendations to take to province to improve the situation.

3) Nomination period is open for individuals to be nominated to the AMO Board, check website for more details.

4) The federal gas tax deal was signed a week ago today. This represented a much-needed injection of dollars to municipalities to help to deal with infrastructure. AMO will take the role of transferring funds to the municipalities and cheques-will be issued in September. There will not be any applications for these funds and they will be allocated based on 2001 census data.

5) In terms of the Managed Forest Tax program- through the MOU process we share your concerns of impact of changes and we have addressed those directly.

The EOWC complimented the effort of AMO on the federal gas tax.

Vice-Chair-Clayton McEwen:

As a Caucus we are dealing with more and more agenda items, as each municipality wants to bring their issues forward, however, these issues may not impact all of the EOWC counties. As a result, when the CAO' s meet, every second month, they will be looking at the agenda items and determining which items are to be brought forward to the Caucus. Smaller items which do not affect all counties; can still be brought forward as information items, therefore, if more than one municipality or county shares an issue, they can collaborate outside of Caucus meetings. Unless the Caucus on a specific item has made a prior motion; only the most pertinent items will be brought forward. It was agreed upon by the Caucus to ensure that the agenda continues to be limited.

Moved by: Warden J. Douglas Struthers

Seconded by: Mayor Leo Finnegan

THAT the agenda will be limited to items of countywide importance and all supplementary data will be presented as information only. Authority will be given to the CAO' s, to determine whether items are brought forward to the Caucus as Agenda or Information items at their planning meetings.

CARRIED

3. Rural Ontario and Ontario Budget-Jim Pine

The Ontario government will be doing extensive review of the rural plan within the next year, and credit needs to be given, however there are some issues that need more focus.

Jim Pine stated that it is up to the EOWC to give influence and/or to participate in the formulation of the rural plan. When the rural plan came out, the EOWC gave it unqualified support in principle, however the Caucus needs more detail and is willing to work with government to reach a mutually satisfactory rural plan.

In order to assist the EOWC with these goals, the Caucus needs to develop short and long-term investment plans and use the Eastern Ontario Opportunity Action Plan as a tool to assist with reaching those goals.

In addition, the Caucus needs to also work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to create a plan and to meet with individuals responsible for Rural Ontario, the Ontario Government Rural Caucus itself as part of our advocacy program and continue to meet with MPP' s to keep focus on the key issues.

It was noted that the Action Plan for Government is not left out of this process, but rather will continue to be emphasized as part of the Rural Plan.

Moved by: Warden Jim McMahan

Seconded by: Warden J. Douglas Struthers

THAT the EOWC supports moving forwards in terms of creating a Rural Plan noting that costs for creating this report need to be brought to the Caucus for approval.

CARRIED

4. Opportunities Action Plan

The Working Committee has met and the working notes have been distributed to all Caucus members. The final report on the Eastern Ontario Opportunity Action Plan (EOOAP) has been passed and 8.2 million dollars have been approved for the next year. Copies of this report have been distributed and electronic copies of the plan will be e-mailed at a later date.

The working committee is asking for the Caucus to

1) Authorize the CAO's to form a small working committee with the Community Future Development Corporation's in order to create terms of reference for the steering committee. (Possible there will be a discussion on the choice of representatives; the working committee would suggest one political representative and one CAO) It was decided that the Chair would attend unless he appointed another to take his place.

2) Authorization to ask MUND to appoint staff liaison

3) Authorization to ask Eastern Ontario Commission to appoint staff liaison

4) Authorization to make application to EOEF to fund the terms of reference (approximate cost: \$5,000) and the larger study for the rural plan (approximate cost: \$60,000-\$80,000)

5) Endorse recommendations on pages 126 & 128

Moved By: Warden Neal Cathcart

Seconded by: Warden J. Douglas Struthers

THAT the EOWC supports the 5 recommendations listed above, to forward to priority of creating an Eastern Ontario Rural Plan.

CARRIED

It was noted that the priorities for creation of the Rural Plan is on process and structure. It is also notes that the recommendations on page 126-128 would be deferred for 4-6 months as a result of the creation of the Rural Plan.

5. CRF/OMPF – Jim Pine

The Caucus is encouraged that AMO will continue to address this issue.

6. Future Directions 2005 (scope and additions)

At the last meeting in Renfrew County, Howard Allan presented his thoughts on the next steps for Future Directions. He suggested that it would be valuable to draw numbers from similar counterparts from other parts of the province to be utilized for benchmarking purposes. As a result of the CAO's planning meeting, it is suggested to the Caucus that they request Howard Allan to increase the scope of the Future Directions with the

condition that it is not going to be a complete financial review for the WOWC, as was done for EOWC. Howard Allan would be limited to utilize public information that is available from the Financial Information Review's and the OMPF data (available from the MOF) which will keep the cost of this additional part of the report down, but still be able to give the Caucus an idea of where the Caucus stands in regards to other parts in Ontario. To engage WOWC in a full-blown data commitment for the Future Directions Report creates a high demand on staff time and the EOWC needs the 2005 Future Directions update as soon as possible to assist in the creation of a rural plan.

Moved by: Warden Peter Delanty

Seconded by: Warden Alvin Runnalls

THAT, " the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus requests an expansion of the scope of the 2004-2005 Future Directions Update to include the Western Ontario Counties and that the information collected will follow a similar template as the Eastern Ontario Counties; however the data utilized will only be collected form public information sources, including the Financial Information Return's and the OMPF data available from the Minister of Finance and that this data will serve primarily as a benchmarking tool."

CARRIED

7. EOWC Website- Norm Lemke (update)

The CAO' s viewed the draft website during the CAO' s Planning Meeting in May, On Tuesday June 21/2005, the website went active. The Caucus would like to acknowledge the efforts of the IT staff at Renfrew County for technical detail and content. The purpose of this website will be to serve as an information tool for counties and municipalities, as well as for municipal interests. The site will have current activities, past minutes and reports from the Caucus etc. It should serve to be a very informative site and it has a link to AMO. The website address is www.eowc.org.

Moved By: Warden J. Douglas Struthers

Seconded By: Warden Bill MacDonald

THAT the EOWC receive the website report as information

CARRIED

8. MOL/ESA Meal Break Update-Marian VanBruinessen- See Attachment #1

Multiple meetings have taken place between both the Minister and Labour Ministry staff, with the County of Frontenac, EOWC, WOWC, AMEMSO and AMO requesting that paramedics be fully exempted from the provisions of Part VII of the Employment Standards Act

The County of Frontenac will be passing another resolution in June requesting the Ontario Government to provide a full exemption for the paramedics from Part VII of the ESA. This resolution will be circulated to all municipalities for endorsement. It is hoped

that significant municipal support across the province can be gained prior to the AMO conference in August.

Moved By: Warden J. Douglas Struthers
Carried by: Warden Alvin Runnalls

THAT the EOWC Chair be authorized to sign the County of Frontenac letter regarding a total exemption of ESA, Section 7 provisions to paramedics.

CARRIED

9. Norm Sterling- Peter Wagland (update on hearings)

Bill 187 has received its' second reading, but it appears that it is not going to be supported beyond this reading. The EOWC is supportive of what had been done in regards to Bill 187 to date and the Caucus feels that it should be moved ahead into the face of the government when the government resumes its sessions in the fall.

Moved by: Warden Bill MacDonald
Seconded: Warden Neal Cathcart

THAT the EOWC receive this as information, and there is no further action at this time.

CARRIED

10. Provincial Planning Policy

The Provincial Planning Policy came into effect in March 2005 and the attached report prepared by Jim Wilson highlighted the issues that affecting rural planning and that the policy has come forward without any regulations on how to implement it. It is put forth by the Caucus that the Provincial Planning Policy should be part of the Rural Plan, and that it is important to keep this issue at the forefront of the Government.

Moved by: Warden Susan Freeman
Seconded by: Warden Alvin Runnalls

THAT the EOWC forward a letter to the Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting the Province acknowledges that the requirement for approval authorities "to be consistent with "Policy 1.6.4.1 (e) of the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement be deferred until legislation and regulations to address the disposal of hauled sewage and operation of haulers has been enacted; and

THAT the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing convene consultative discussions with all municipalities on the intent and focus of legislation and regulations related to the treatment and disposal of hauled sewage.

CARRIED

11. EOWC Financials-See Attachment #2

In August an updated balance of the EOWC financials will be presented, if there are any outstanding invoices these will be issued.

Moved by: Warden Jim McMahon
Seconded by: Warden Susan Freeman

THAT the EOWC receive the Financial Report as information.

CARRIED

12. Correspondence arising from previous meetings-See attachment #3 (reviewed by Norm Lemke)

-Brian Gregg from the WOWC will try to attend EOWC meetings when possible.
-No response from MUND
-Letter to Howard Allan, referred to the CAO' s planning meeting on May 27th, 2005 and the upcoming decision to either expand or maintain the Future Directions Update Report

Moved by: Warden Neal Cathcart
Seconded by: Warden J. Douglas Struthers

THAT the EOWC receive this previous correspondence as information.

CARRIED

13. Expert Panel for Sewer and Water- Jim Pine

Expert Panel Report has been submitted to the Ontario Government and it has not been released yet. However, the presentation that the EOWC made was featured prominently in regards to where the report will lead. It is expected that the report will be released before the end of the month and when it comes out there will be a fair amount of interest in the report.

Moved by: Warden Susan Freeman
Seconded by: Warden Jim McMahon

THAT the EOWC receive this verbal report from Jim Pine.

CARRIED

14. Broadband Coalition- Peter Wagland-Previously e-mailed

This group is looking at data gathering and doing a gap analysis on where broadband is missing within the Eastern Ontario Counties. The purpose of this report is to advise EOWC of their intentions and to ask for assistance in collecting the information they require. It has been suggested that this group contact HQ net as they have a lot of data as to what exists in the Central area of Ontario.

Moved by: Warden J. Douglas Struthers

Seconded by: Warden Susan Freeman

THAT the EOWC receives this report and supports the efforts of this group.

CARRIED

15. Correspondence (Previously sent by e-mail):

- 1) Letter dated April 5, 2005 from Tay Valley Township Re: Mining Claim
- 2) Letter dated April 15, 2005 from Tay Valley Township Re: MMAAC Recommendations
- 3) Letter dated April 29, 2004 re: Employment Standards Act-Eating periods
- 4) Letter dated May 13, 2005 from MMAH
- 5) Letter dated May 18, 2005 from County of Frontenac Re: MOL/ESA Meal Break Issue
- 6) Letter dated May 26, 2005 from Prescott & Russell Re: Resolution to the Gas Tax
- 7) Letter dated May 30, 2005 from Lanark County Re: Tay Valley correspondence 13.1 & 13.2
- 8) Letter dated May 30, 2005 from Minister of Finance to County of Hastings Re: Reconciliation of the CRF
- 9) Letter dated June 2, 2005 from Tay Valley Township re: Gasoline Tax Rebate
- 10) Letter dated June 2, 2005 from Tay Valley Township re: Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)
- 11) Letter dated June 2, 2005 from Tay Valley Township re: Canada Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF)
- 12) News Release

Moved by: Warden Peter Delanty

Seconded by: Warden Bill McDonald

THAT the EOWC receive the aforementioned correspondence as information.

CARRIED

16. New and/or Old Business

-In regards to the incinerator issue, although no incinerator has been approved in recent history, a proposal for incineration could be put together

-Thank you to again to Norm and Renfrew County IT staff for the creation of the website

-Arrangements at AMO: EOWC meeting will occur on the Sunday. It was discussed whether to have a joint meeting with WOWC, preferably if there was an agenda regarding similar items. Members of the Caucus noted that it is always important to keep communications open. At this time the CAO's will discuss at the planning meeting what direction the meeting with the WOWC will take.

-Good Roads- had presence as a caucus- expectation that we will have a visibility at AMO

-Terms of reference would need to be done by end of July and therefore would be available in advance of AMO

17. Next Meeting: July 22, 2005, Prescott & Russell

The next meeting of the CAO' s will take place on July 22, 2005 in The United Counties of Prescott & Russell.

18. Adjournment

Moved By: Warden Peter Delanty

Seconded by: Warden Bill MacDonald

THAT the meeting of June 24, 2005 be adjourned.

CARRIED

Chair- Warden Bob Sweet
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Norm Lemke
Secretary/Treasurer