



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Minutes
May 17, 2007
9:00 a.m.**

The County of Frontenac Administration Building – Fairmount Auditorium

COUNTY	HEAD OF COUNCIL 2007	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Ron Maguire	Elizabeth Fulton
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
County of Peterborough	Ronald Gerow	Gary King
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	Norm Lemke Lorna Knight
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Dennis Fife	Mike S. Waddell
Other guests:		Kathryn Wood, National Capital Resources Inc., Matt McDonald (MMAH)

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Chair Struthers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A meeting of the Wardens took place from 9:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. (summary notes attached). Chair Struthers stated that the Wardens may meet either before or after the regular meetings. The CAOs joined the Wardens at 10:00 a.m.

Warden Maguire welcomed the Caucus to Frontenac County.

Warden Struthers requested that Agenda Item 7 – MMAH Update be discussed first on the agenda as the rest of the meeting would be a “closed” meeting.

Mr. MacDonald, MMAH representative, stated there were no updates from the Ministry at this time.

Mayor Finnegan stated that Mr. MacDonald had been an employee with Prince Edward County as a tax collector prior to his employment with the MMAH. Mayor Finnegan stated Mr. MacDonald did a great job while employed with Prince Edward County and has a bright future ahead of him.

2. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2007

Members requested that minutes and agenda packages need to be distributed in a timely fashion to allow members to review the material prior to the meetings.

It was noted that the minutes should reflect that Warden Fearrey, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Keech were not present at the April 20, 2007 meeting.

Moved by: Warden McEwen
Seconded by: Warden Visneskie

THAT the EOWC meeting minutes from April 20 2007 be approved, as amended.

Carried

3. Approval of Agenda – May 17, 2007

Under Agenda Item 9 – New/Old Business the following items were added to the agenda:

- Update on Broadband
- OANHSS Opportunity
- Update on Future Directions

Moved by: Warden Fearrey
Seconded by: Warden McEwen

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried.

4. Consolidated Priorities and Proposed Actions

- a) **Consolidate Priorities and Proposed Actions Table**
- b) **Prosperity Plan Priorities**
- c) **Service Review and Fiscal Capacity EOWC Principals**

Mr. Fournier provided an overview of the Consolidated Priorities and Proposed Actions January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 template developed by the CAOs on May 11, 2007. The main objective of the template is to focus on the key priorities set by the EOWC in the Pre-Budget Submission developed in January 2007 and link recommendations within the Prosperity Plan to these key priorities. The priorities, if applicable, are linked to the Service Delivery/Fiscal Capacity Review. The strategies for communication and advocacy are also incorporated in the template.

PRIORITY #1 – Presented by Mr. Pine

Fiscal Gap

Prosperity Plan Reference

4.5.1-A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province ensure that the \$3 billion gap for provincial health, social services and income redistribution costs is addressed as part of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review.

4.5.2-A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province cease and desist from any further downloading of service delivery responsibility until the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review has completed its work, expected in the spring of 2008.

Current Status

- Future Directions
- AMO 2003 Data
- Kitchen Presentation
- Continuing Problems - 2007 Budgets

Fiscal and Service Delivery Review

- Political and Coordinating Tables
- All Working Tables

Strategy

Review – EOWC Coordinating Group

AMO Conference

Elections

Communication

- Send Priorities/Plan/Strategy to all Cabinet, MPP's and Parties/Candidates and AMO
- All Eastern Ontario Municipalities
- Media Releases
- Other Stakeholders
- EIC/Regional Directors

Mr. Pine requested the EOWC consider the formation of an EOWC Coordinating Table comprised of the five individuals (Past-Chair Sweet, Mr. Keech, Mr. Pine, Mrs. Fulton and Ms. Bennett) who sit on various committees related to the Service Delivery and Fiscal Capacity Review. The five (5) individuals could meet on a regular basis to share information and use this group to keep the EOWC informed. This group could also be used as a vehicle to promote the issues which impact Eastern Ontario.

Moved by: Warden McEwen
Seconded by: Warden Visneskie

THAT the EOWC form a sub-committee comprised of individuals who sit on the various Service Delivery/Fiscal Capacity Review committees who will act as a conduit to transfer information between the EOWC and the various committees.

Carried.

Past-Chair Sweet stated that there is a huge expectation in rural Ontario that the Service Delivery/Fiscal Capacity Review will provide relief to the tax base. There are 400 municipalities in Ontario and all municipalities want change. Issues which impact all of Ontario include Social Services funding and infrastructure. Past-Chair Sweet stated there will be both long-term and short-term initiatives that will be announced prior to the election.

Mr. Pine stated that the advertising campaign to inform residents of what their taxes actually pay for has been postponed until the long weekend in July and there is still time for participation in the advertising campaign. Interested parties are to contact Mr. Pine.

A discussion regarding communicating the EOWC's position on the main priorities took place. It was concluded that the EOWC would not pursue meeting with the provincial government or other political parties in the near future, but would focus their energies in preparing for meetings which will take place at the AMO Conference. It was suggested that a communiqué from the EOWC be sent to **all parties** prior to the AMO Conference.

Moved by: Warden Gerow
Seconded by: Warden Fearrey

That the EOWC approve recommendation 4.5.1 A in the Prosperity Plan and accept the strategies and communication recommendations made in the Consolidated Priorities and Proposed Actions January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 template.

Carried

PRIORITY #2**Sustainable Roads and Bridges Funding – Presented by Mr. Keech****Prosperity Plan Reference**

4.2.1- A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province develop an approach to supporting municipal infrastructure investments that incorporates

- Clear provincial investment priorities
- Allocation-based systems rather than competitive processes
- Sustainable revenue streams
- Multi-year commitments
- A requirement for solid evidence of need

Moved by: Warden Fife
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the EOWC approve recommendation 4.2.1 A in the Prosperity Plan related to sustainable roads and bridges funding.

Carried

4.2.1 B: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province reduce the number and types of any competitive infrastructure funding processes to keep the municipality's costs of application development down. This approach should also reduce the administrative costs for the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

Moved by: Warden Gerow
Seconded by: Warden Maguire

THAT the EOWC approve recommendation 4.2.1B in the Prosperity Plan related to sustainable roads and bridges funding.

Carried

4.2.1 C: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province launch any competitive infrastructure funding processes as early in the annual budget cycle as possible so that municipalities can apply, learn the results, and act on any funding secured as early in the construction season as possible. This extra measure of funding flexibility could enable municipalities and other investors to keep cost increases to a minimum by preventing situations where everyone is competing for the same construction firms and materials at the same time.

By a show of hand the EOWC deferred recommendation 4.2.1C in the Prosperity Plan related to sustainable roads and bridges funding.

4.2.1 D: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province and AMO build two key concepts into the expectations of the Fiscal and Service Delivery Review process:

- Sustainability over time, presumably at least as long as the life expectancy of the infrastructure asset itself.

- Flexibility to enable both levels of government (provincial and municipal) to reflect local circumstances.

These concepts appear to be part of the Review agenda; Eastern Ontario will expect to see these commitments fulfilled.

Moved by: Warden Clemens
Seconded by: Warden McKewen

THAT the EOWC approve recommendation 4.2.1 D in the Prosperity Plan related to sustainable roads and bridges funding.

Carried

4.2.1 E: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province continue its efforts to encourage community use of facilities such as schools. This makes better use of existing infrastructure to maintain social programs and recreational opportunities within communities.

Moved by: Warden Maguire
Seconded by: Warden Lalonde

THAT the EOWC approve recommendation 4.2.1E in the Prosperity Plan related to sustainable roads and bridges funding.

Carried.

4.6.2-A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province (through the Ministry of Transportation) undertake a collaborative initiative through which the region and the Province would develop a regional transportation master plan for Eastern Ontario. The plan would tie together:

- The 401 corridor, other 400 series highways, and Highway 7 as a development corridor connecting Toronto, Ottawa and the Province of Quebec
- Highways 17 and 416 will serve as a key north-south corridor with north-south arterial roads and bridges connecting Highway 7 and 401 at various points across the region.
- Border crossings into the U.S. (three fixed crossings plus one water-based crossing via Wolfe Island)
- A lake-based marine strategy, capitalizing on deep sea ports to move bulk materials both directions across Lake Ontario.
- Rail service expansion; particularly spur lines that will allow manufacturers close to the main lines to access this transportation service.
- Air services, including Ottawa International Airport and smaller regional airports (ex. Kingston, Peterborough)
- Multi-modal freight systems which combine road, rail and water shipping.

Moved by: Warden Clemens
Seconded by: Mayor MaGee

THAT the EOWC approve recommendation 4.6.2 A in the Prosperity Plan related to sustainable roads and bridges funding.

Carried.

4.6.3 A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province initiate the next phase of Places to Grow planning, focusing on Eastern Ontario. Eastern Ontario expects that this planning process will be collaborative in nature, ensuring that communities in the region have ample opportunity to shape their own destinies within the framework of the Provincial Policy Statement.

4.6.3 B: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province begin the process of interpreting good planning principles to Eastern Ontario's growth aspirations. In particular, Eastern Ontario requests the assignment of an individual with land-use and service planning expertise funded through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, with support from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, to assist local governments with policy development to deal with growth pressures already in evidence as well as those to come.

Moved by: Warden Fife
Seconded by: Mayor MaGee

THAT the EOWC approve recommendations 4.6.3 A and 4.6.3 B in the Prosperity Plan related to sustainable roads and bridges funding.

Carried.**Current Status**

- Future Directions
- Survey
- RIII Announcement
- Extension of Federal Gas Tax

Fiscal and Service Delivery Review

- Infrastructure Table

Strategy

Review – EOWC EOWC Coordinating Group to summarize and interpret Survey results

AMO Conference**Elections****Communications**

- Feed Survey results back to municipalities
- Present to MTO
- Send to Eastern Ontario MPPs/Candidates
- Media Release
- Present to Minister Kaplan
- EIC/Regional Directors

Moved by: Warden Macmillan
Seconded by: Warden Gerow

THAT the EOWC approve the communication strategy for sustainable roads and bridges funding with the inclusion of both the federal and provincial governments.

Carried.

Mr. Keech stated that sustainable roads and bridges funding is a major priority for all of rural Ontario. Mr. Keech has circulated a survey to all municipalities within the EOWC asking for data regarding their roads and bridges. The separated municipalities have also been asked to complete the survey since a full composite of a region is beneficial for the analysis. The information gathered will be shared with the Infrastructure Committee of the Service Delivery/Fiscal Capacity Review and is highly anticipated by this group as data on roads and bridges has not be up dated since 1996 when MTO discontinued managing the system. Mr. Keech stated municipalities are struggling to keep up with the demand of aging infrastructure.

It was recommended that once the information pertaining to the roads and bridges survey has been completed it should be forwarded to both the provincial and federal governments.

The EOWC stated that they do not want to compete for funding from the province for infrastructure, but feel there needs to be consistent, multi-year funding provided from both the federal and provincial governments.

PRIORITY #3

Eastern Ontario Fund – Presented by Mr. King

Prosperity Plan Reference

4.3.3 A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province adjust funding formula for both operating and capital purposes for post-secondary education institutions with multiple campuses.

4.3.3 B: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province provide specific incentives to community economic development (CED) agencies in rural Eastern Ontario to support the development and implementation of educational services that meet identified CED needs.

4.4.3 A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province enter into a collaborative initiative to review provincial financing tools with the objective of determining ways to adjust these tools to meet the needs of rural municipalities. (added at meeting)

4.4.3 B: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province recognize the financing challenges of rural municipalities by creating specific mechanisms through which these municipalities can access financing. In particular, Eastern Ontario requests that the Province assist in setting up:

- A \$20 million per year Eastern Ontario Prosperity Fund through which to finance infrastructure and community development programs. The Fund will be administered by a regional organization designated by the Province to make allocation decisions in the best interests of the residents of Eastern Ontario.
- An Eastern Ontario Grow Bond Program to help small and medium sized businesses to retain or create new jobs through the expansion or establishment of new businesses. The program will provide residents of Eastern Ontario with the opportunity to invest in a safe, competitive savings instrument, while actively contributing to the economic future of the region. (added at meeting)

Moved by: Warden Visneskie
Seconded by: Warden McEwen

THAT the EOWC approve recommendations 4.3.3 A, 4.3.3 B, 4.4.3 A and 4.4.3 B in the Prosperity Plan related to Eastern Ontario funding.

Carried.

Current Status

- Positive reception
- Private Member's Bill
- EODP Allocation \$10M for 07/08

Fiscal and Service Delivery Review
Not Applicable

Strategy
Review – not applicable
AMO
Election

Communication

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Fearrey

THAT the EOWC approve the communication strategy for Eastern Ontario funding.

Carried.

Ms. Wood stated that the roles of the local CFDCs is very important and it is in the best interest of both the CFDCs and municipal governments to work together on projects which will benefit the region.

PRIORITY #4 – Presented by Peter Wagland**Broadband****Prosperity Plan Reference**

4.2.2 A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province should make a short-term investment in broadband designed to overcome initial capital cost barriers, thereby bringing the initial capital cost and risk down to a point where private sector Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can make a business case for operating and *maintaining* the service.

4.2.2 B: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province designate one of its Ministries as the lead Ministry to ensure that provincial funding is expended in an accountable fashion.

4.2.2 C: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province agree to let the region designate a regional stakeholder group to oversee implementation and take responsibility for accountability for public funds.

Moved by: **Warden McKewen**
Seconded by: **Warden Lunney**

THAT the EOWC approve recommendation 4.2.2 A, 4.2.2 B, and 4.2.2 C in the Prosperity Plan related to Broadband.

Carried.

Current Status

- Brockville endorsement/direction (April 20, 2007)
- \$10 M Announcement in Provincial Budget
- Federal component being sought by CFDCs.

Fiscal and Service Delivery Review

- Infrastructure Table

Strategy

Review – political infrastructure

AMO

Election

Communications

- Send Priorities/Plan/Strategy to all Cabinet, MPP's and Parties/Candidates and AMO
- All Eastern Ontario Municipalities
- Media Releases
- Other Stakeholders
- EIC/Regional Directors
- Federal MP's and Cabinet Ministers

Moved by: Warden Fife
Seconded by: Warden Macmillan

THAT the EOWC approve the communication strategy for Broadband.

Carried.

Mr. Wagland stated there will be an EOBC meeting in Kingston next week where the final report on the Broadband study for Eastern Ontario will be presented. Chair Struthers will be in attendance at this meeting. The report is on time and on schedule which will assist Eastern Ontario in tapping into the \$10 million funding initiative announced by the province.

Mayor Magee stated information from the City of Kawartha Lakes regarding Bell Sympatico and their initiative in Kawartha Lakes to bring broadband to that area will be forwarded to Mr. Wagland. It was noted that any similar information should be forwarded to Mr. Wagland.

PRIORITY #5

Education Tax Rate Commercial and Industrial – Presented by Mike Waddell

Prosperity Plan Recommendations

4.4.4-A: Eastern Ontario requests that the Province address the inequities in commercial and industrial education taxes applied to businesses in this region.

Current Status

- Province announced a seven (7) year phase-in

Fiscal and Service Delivery Review

Not applicable

Strategy

Not applicable

AMO

Election

Communication

- Express appreciation when/as opportune to the Provincial government.

Moved by: Warden Maguire
Seconded by: Warden Fearrey

THAT the EOWC approve the communication strategy related to the Education Tax Commercial and Industrial and recognize the initiative made by the provincial government.

Carried.

Mr. Waddell provided the EOWC with a summary of the Education Tax Commercial and Industrial announced by the provincial government. The change to the Education Tax – Commercial and Industrial will be phased in, with completion of the phase in scheduled for 2014. The education tax rate – commercial and industrial will be set at 1.6% across the province by 2014. Mr. Waddell praised the EOWC for their efforts in assisting with the change to this tax rate. Further information regarding the Education Tax – Commercial and Industrial can be accessed at www.ontariobudget.ca.

The EOWC will acknowledge and thank the provincial government at the AMO Conference.

Past-Chair Sweet commented this will have a great effect on municipalities with large government facilities. PILS go to lower tier municipalities. Due to the military base located in Petawawa, they receive \$1.2 million from Education Tax – Commercial and Industrial from PIL.

PRIORITY #6

Crown Land – Presented by Mr. Lemke

Prosperity Plan Recommendation

4.5.3 A Eastern Ontario requests that the Province enter into negotiations with Eastern Ontario municipalities to develop and implement a new payment in-lieu program to Crown Land.

Moved by: Warden Visnecki
Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT the EOWC approve recommendation 4.5.3 A in the Prosperity Plan related to Crown Land.

Carried.

Current Status

- MNR staff reviewing refined interim EOWC numbers
- Minister has committed action

Fiscal and Service Delivery Review

Not applicable

Strategy

Review – Political and Coordinating Tables, Fiscal Architecture
AMO
Election

Communication

- Feed Survey results back to municipalities
- Present to MTO
- Send to Eastern Ontario MPPs/Candidates
- Media Release

- Present to Minister Kaplain
- EIC/Regional Directors

Mr. Lemke stated the government has committed staff to review the issue of Crown Land. Data from the MNR was utilized to calculate an interim cost of non-patented Crown Land. Eastern Ontario's situation with Crown Land is unique and no other province in Canada has similar issues. There is also debate as to whether bodies of water should be incorporated into the overall land mass of Crown Lands. The larger the land mass the greater the price per acre decreases.

Mr. Lemke stated that Minister Ramsay eluded to the fact there was no funding for Crown Lands in the 2007 budget, but this matter would be evaluated for the 2008 budget.

At this point in time the province is dealing with the Algonquin Land Claim and it is anticipated that this situation will be rectified by 2010. Past-Chair Sweet stated that the Algonquin Land is not a municipal issue and the municipalities are not asking to acquire land but to receive revenues to support services delivered to the individuals residing on Crown Land.

Mr. King stated he has created a formula to provide to the province regarding the estimated cost per acre of non-patented Crown Land. Mr. King stated the MMAH recommended the same formula used to value managed forests and farmland. When this formula is applied to non-patented Crown Land the actual figure is \$9.20 per acre. Mr. King stated that \$5.00 provided at the OGRA/ROMA Conference was a median "interim" amount. If this tax rate and compensation is considered by the government, the results would be substantial.

PRIORITY #7

Assessment Act (Seasonal Trailers)

Not applicable.

By a show of hands the EOWC determined that the issue of Assessment Act (Seasonal Trailers) was no longer applicable.

Carried.

Direction to CAOs by Wardens

Ms. Wood, Prosperity Plan Consultant, suggested to the EOWC to continue to move forward on the recommendations. Ms. Wood stated, as part of the original contract, that post-launch communications would be completed and issued in mid to late June. Past-Chair Sweet questioned to whom the Prosperity Plan was distributed. Ms. Wood stated that a mass media release regarding the plan was completed on the day of the launch. Two hundred additional copies were distributed to political colleagues as well the general public has access to the plan and its supporting documentation via the EOWC website.

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden Macmillan

THAT the EOWC continue to utilize and engage the services of National Capital Resources Inc.

Carried.

5. Chairman's Update

Chair Struthers stated that he will coordinate with Chair Burns, WOWC Chair, a meeting at the AMO Conference, if there is a need.

Mr. Struthers stated he had been in touch with Mayor Miller and it was agreed that staff from Mayor Miller's office and from the EOWC should meet to discuss various topics including Mayor Miller's 1 cent GST initiative. Mr. Pine was asked to contact Mayor Miller's staff to coordinate a meeting.

Chair Struthers stated that he did not attend the MUND meeting which was scheduled for May 17, 2007.

6. Queen's Park Day

Chair Struthers stated he has yet to hear from MPP Brownell's office to coordinate a meeting at Queen's Park. Chair Struthers did state the Conservative Party was very keen on meeting with the EOWC. Further discussion related to this issue took place.

By a show of hands the EOWC agreed to focus their efforts and energies on preparing to meet the political parties at the AMO Conference and would not pursue meeting with the provincial government or other political parties until this time.

Carried.

7. MMAH Update

This item was covered under opening remarks.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Incoming:

8.1.1 Resolution: Town of Smiths Falls (18-Apr-07)
Re: Support of the Prosperity Plan

Received and filed.

8.1.2 Resolution: The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes (30-Apr-07)
Re: Court Security

At the request of Kawartha Lakes, this item was deferred to the June 15, 2007 EOWC meeting.

- 8.1.3 Mayor Ed Jacyno to Warden Struthers (14-May-07)
Re: Prosperity Plan Presentation to MUND

Received and filed.

- 8.1.4 The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to Warden Struthers (10-May-07)
Re: Thank you for Pre-Budget Submission and opportunity to meet at OGRA/ROMA Conference

Received and filed.

8.2 Outgoing:

- 8.2.1 Warden Struthers to Mr. Jim Nubel (02-May-07)
Re: Thank you for EOBC Presentation and endorsement by the EOWC
- 8.2.2 Warden Struthers to Mr. Barrie Crampton (02-May-07)
Re: Thank you for EOBC Presentation and endorsement by the EOWC
- 8.2.3 Warden Struthers to Dan Borowec, Manager CFDC (02-May-07)
Re: Thank you for EOBC Presentation and endorsement by the EOWC
- 8.2.4 Warden Struthers to Mayor Ed Jacyno, City of Pembroke (02-May-07)
Re: Programs Downloaded to Municipalities
- 8.2.5 Mr. Wagland to Howard Allan (26-Apr-07)
Re: EOWC Future Directions Reports – 2006 and 2007
- 8.2.6 Chair Struthers to the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of FedNor (24-Apr-07)
Re: Support of Kingston being included in EODP
- 8.2.7 Chair Struthers to the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (20-Apr-07)
Re: Thank you for meeting during OGRA/ROMA

The out-going correspondence was provided as information only.

- 8.3 Joint Correspondence: Nil**

9. New/Old Business

9.1 Update on Broadband

Further information will be distributed following the EOBC meeting in Kingston on May 22, 2007.

9.2 OANHSS Opportunity

Mrs. Fulton stated that a meeting will take place next week in Waterloo related to long-term health care issues. The MPP for that area will be present as will the CEO of OANHSS. Chair Struthers has been invited to attend. At the June 15, 2007 meeting a resolution from Simcoe County related to long-term health care will be presented for consideration by the EOWC.

9.3 Update on Future Directions

Mr. Wilson provided the EOWC with an update on Future Directions. Mr. Wilson stated that the EOWC had been provided a quote from Mr. Allan to prepare a detailed narrative to support the data for Future Directions. Mr. Allan's quote was \$10,000.00. A quote from Mr. Nigel Bellchamber was also received to prepare the narrative at a cost of \$5000.00. Mr. Wilson stated that the Future Directions Report is a statistical report prepared by a non-biased third party. Due to this being an election year it is recommended that the detailed narrative would support the statistical data.

Warden Macmillan expressed his concern with using Mr. Bellchamber's services to prepare the detailed narrative. Mr. Wagland stated that Mr. Allan would prepare the statistical data and Mr. Bellchamber would prepare the narrative. Mr. Pine stated he had worked with Mr. Bellchamber in the past and highly respects Mr. Bellchamber and his work.

Warden Fife inquired as to whether the completion of detailed narrative for the Future Directions Report is a "one time" occurrence or will it be continued on annual basis. Mr. Wilson replied that the EOWC would need to decide this after seeing the completed version this year.

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan
Seconded by: Warden McEwen

THAT the EOWC recommend that Mr. Allan prepare the statistical data of the Future Directions report and Mr. Nigel Bellchamber prepares the narrative information for the Future Directions Report.

A recorded vote was requested by Warden Macmillan as to the awarding of the Future Directions statistical and narrative pieces of Future Directions.

Yeas – 12

Nays – 1

Carried.

Warden Visneskie stated she will bring forward at the June 15th meeting a resolution related to Softer Footprints in Algonquin Park and requesting the EOWC's support.

10. Next Meeting(s)

CAOs Working Group Meetings

June 5, 2007 – Teleconference

September 21, 2007 – Hastings County

Wardens' Caucus

June 15, 2007 – Renfrew County

August 19 to 22, 2007 – AMO Conference

11. Adjournment

Moved by: Warden Fife

Seconded by: Warden Clemens

THAT the EOWC meeting adjourn.

Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.