



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Minutes – May 27, 2005

United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
MacIntosh Country Inn, Morrisburg

In attendance:

UPPER TIER	STAFF
County of Frontenac	Elizabeth Fulton, CAO
County of Haliburton	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Jane Lunn, CAO
County of Lanark	Peter Wagland, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Stephen Fournier, CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Bill Pyatt, CAO
County of Peterborough	Gary King, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Renfrew	Norm Lemke, CAO Lorna Knight
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Mike S. Waddell, CAO

Regrets:

UPPER TIER	STAFF
County of Prince Edward	Dick Shannon, CAO

1. Adoption of March 24, 2005 Minutes

Moved by Mike Waddell
Seconded by Peter Wagland

THAT the minutes of March 24th 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Gary King
Seconded by Peter Wagland

THAT the agenda of May 27, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Opportunities Action Plan-Bill Pyatt

Gary King reported that the Economic Development Commission are moving ahead on sector studies and some sub-regions are moving forward with opportunities in their areas, such as; ethanol plans and wind generation. There has been no commitment for funds. A general concern is that the funds are going to local CFDC offices and then these funds are allocated without consultation and therefore the municipal interests may not be achieved. The CAO's agree that the EOWC should continue to keep this issue in the forefront. A working group was formed consisting of Elizabeth Fulton, Stephen Fournier, Gary King and Bill Pyatt. They will be tasked to create a report in regards to this issue and report their findings to the Caucus.

4. CRF/OMPF- Jim Pine

As a result of the April Meeting, the CAO's are to put together draft recommendations and a response to the province, in regards to the new funding program OMPF. The CAO's agree that focus needs to go back into the efforts of the Caucus, as currently there are many issues and they are not all getting adequately resolved. The CAO's suggested creating a Rural Plan, which will highlight several of the most important Eastern Ontario issues and needs.

Suggestions were also brought forth that perhaps there are several collective initiatives that the EOWC can collaborate on, which will benefit counties financially, for instance, forming a buying group who would act on the behalf of the EOWC. Although some of these initiatives would not create a huge surplus of funds, the EOWC can still go forward knowing that they are trying to reduce costs and manage funds efficiently in anyway that they can.

The CAO's see a two-pronged approach for the near future; 1) to move ahead with the creation of the rural plan and 2) repair some holes before the Caucus moves on. The result of the creation of the rural plan will not be seen in this fiscal year, which is essential information to be communicated to the Warden's. It is also important to

communicate to the EOWC what the short-term objectives will be in the meantime. A starting point for the plan could be to ask Nigel Bellchamber to work with Howard Allan on the "Future Directions". It should be indicated to the Warden's that the EOWC will be proceeding with the "Future Directions" and that information will be added to this report to indicate the implications of the OMPF and the rural plan.

General Principles as the CAO's move forward with this initiative include:

- 1) A new Rural Plan needs to be formulated,
- 2) Still keep in mind the creation of "losers" and the impact of the OMPF on the Eastern Counties,
- 3) Many rural issues have been highlighted and they should be included as part of the plan,
- 4) The EOWC will continue to pursue collective initiatives, which will financially benefit the Eastern Counties.

The rural plan should be created over the remainder of the calendar year. Jim Pine will create a presentation for the June meeting to the Warden's in regards to the components of this plan and its primary drive.

5. Future Directions 2005 (see attachment #1)- Norm Lemke

As a result of the April meeting it was determined that the CAO's would discuss and recommend to the Caucus if there was to be an expansion of "Future Directions" to include Western Ontario Counties. The concern was raised that the Eastern Counties may discover that they are not as bad off as initially assumed, if the report included the Western Ontario counties. However, if so, this information would still be valuable. It was recommended that Howard Allan expand the scope of the report to include the Western Ontario Counties, but the information that he uses must be data that is available to the public and he is not to contact the Western Ontario Counties individually. With this information, it is anticipated that Howard Allan would put together a picture of the Western Ontario Counties data for benchmarking purposes, which can be submitted in the "Future Directions 2005 Update" as an appendix.

The recommendation to the Caucus will be to develop a template of information that is required and have Howard Allan collect this data from posted/public information. Once the information has been collected on these Western Ontario Counties, it is recommended that Howard Allan then present this information in a report to the EOWC at the August meeting. It can be determined at that time, if a further extension of "Future Directions" is warranted.

6. EOWC Website-Norm Lemke

Presentation of the website was made to the Caucus by Lorna Knight. Recommendations/Changes for the site included; having a "member's only" access, providing a search engine for the website, adding a link to the AMO website, adding pictures of the Wardens'/Mayors' to the first page, including archived minutes and

including all Caucus reports. It was agreed upon by the Caucus that whatever changes can be made should be completed and the website should go online before the June meeting.

7. Aggregate Fees and Royalties

It was recommended by the Caucus/CAO's that the treasurer's add this data to the template of information being collected by Allan & Partners, and in turn request that Howard Allan include the data in his report. At this time, although AMO has a committee investigating this issue, no one is aware of where they are at in their findings. Further collaboration with AMO is required.

8. Downloaded Services from the Province (reports on impacts since 1998 or 2001)

Kawartha Lakes has recently completed a report in regards to downloaded services including roads, bridges, land ambulance, POA and the result of OMPF funding. The report concludes that Kawartha Lakes is showing a shortfall of three million dollars and that does not include the capital from services. It may be a good template to merge together for a rural plan. Jane will ensure that a copy of this plan is distributed to all the CAO's. There are a lot of silent issues, which are not captured within Howard Allan's template, and this may be a good preamble to the rural plan.

There was also a general discussion about the meetings of the Eastern Ontario Treasurers.

The Eastern Ontario Treasurers meet on a regular basis, with each County taking turns to host and therefore Chair that particular meeting. Some of these meeting are project oriented and others are run through an Agenda. The recommendation is that the County Treasurers should be meeting more regularly to help assist with issues pertaining to the EOWC. It was also recommended that on pertinent issues other County staff should be invited to observe and contribute. Invitations to other staff will be coordinated specifically in regards to related issues.

9. Sustainable Funding for Roads (see attached chart)

The CAO's determined that the chart would be useful as a piece of the Rural Plan, however some counties (Frontenac and Lennox & Addington) would skew the data for the EOWC Counties. The chart would be most representative if these counties were left out of the final analysis. It is recommended that the Caucus proceed with gathering this information.

10. Invitation to MTO officials-Bill Pyatt

Several counties have been affected by 401-highway closures and the use of County roads for detours. It is felt that funds should be allocated to assist with the

maintenance of these roads, as a result of the additional traffic. It was suggested that the counties affected should contact Elgin County as this County dealt with this issue in the past. In addition, it is recommended that the Directors' of Public Works in the affected Counties get together and prepare a report on the impacts of this construction to be presented to MTO and other related officials.

11. MOL/ESA Meal Break Update-Elizabeth Fulton

The Chair Bob Sweet attended the meeting with the Minister of Labour and other County representatives in Toronto on May 5, 2005 where he spoke on this issue. Although there was no representative from WOWC, correspondence was received on this issue. The Minister has committed to looking for a resolve to the issue. As a result of this session the Minister of Labour will initiate appropriate labour management dialogue. The EOWC is staking a firm stance on a total exemption of section 7., although it looks as if the Ministry wants to make exceptions. There is the concern that if there is not a total exemption, then Counties will still be found non-compliant. Currently, the City of Hamilton is in arbitration with this issue and perhaps an outcome to their similar situation will bring forth a resolution. This item is to be brought forward to the June Meeting, where hopefully a solution on this issue can be found.

12. MPAC-Peter Wagland

Some local municipalities within the Eastern Ontario Counties are not satisfied with the level of service that they are receiving from MPAC. It was recommended from other CAO's that if there are any problems, that the District Offices should be contacted directly. In addition, at this time, MPAC is trying to get an electronic building permit that will be used province wide, which will assist in improving the service.

13. Expert Panel for Sewer and Water-Peter Wagland

Jim Pine stated that the water report was submitted a couple of weeks ago and that by the middle of June it should be released. If the report comes out early it is recommended that an overview of the report should be presented at the EOWC meeting in June. Jim Pine will oversee the creation of this report if the timing allows for the overview to be prepared. This item will be added to the June Agenda.

14. Provincial Planning Policy (See attachment #2)- Jim Wilson

This issue can also form a piece of the rural plan as it impacts all Eastern Counties financially. Immediate steps need to be taken to voice back to the province, through the Caucus, in regards to this Policy. There are several areas in regards to this policy that are unclear at this time and will require further examination. This may be an area in which co-operation among Counties would be feasible. Several counties are

examining alternative resolutions at this time, including regional solutions and expansions of existing facilities. This issue will be put forth to the June Agenda.

15. Norm Sterling's Private Members' Bill-Peter Wagland

It is noted that the Caucus sent a letter of support to Norm Sterling in regards to his Private Member's Bill. It is suggested that the Caucus have a representative attend the committee hearings. Peter Wagland will determine when these hearings are being held and it is recommended that a representative from Norm Sterling's County (Lanark) attend the hearings instead of the EOWC Chair. Peter Wagland will be heading up this initiative. This item will be brought forward to the June Agenda.

16. CAMA/FCM Conferences (attendance) -Peter Wagland

Individuals who are attending this conference include Jim Pine, Norm Lemke and Mike Waddell.

17. Wind Farms-Provincial Policy Issue-Elizabeth Fulton

Several counties have been investigating this source of energy; although it is good for the environment there is no financial gain by the counties, only to the landowner on which the wind farm is located.

18. OPSEU Settlement- Peter Wagland

Collective bargaining has resulted in an agreement with CUPE and OPSEU in Lanark County.

19. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation- Peter Wagland

There will be a report from the treasurers on cross-boarder billing. This will be brought forward to the June meeting Agenda.

20. Eastern Ontario Ethanol Plant Proposal (See attachment #3) -Peter Wagland

The proposal for an Ethanol Plan may require a co-operative approach. Many Counties are looking into whether or not it is something in which they can participate. A site for the potential plant has not been selected at this time.

**21. BMA Management Consulting Municipal Study of Financial Information-
Peter Wagland**

Deferred.

22. 2005 Provincial Budget-Peter Wagland

Previously discussed.

23. Action Plan Priorities

- Land Ambulance and Related Issues-
- Social Service Costs-
- Transportation Infrastructure-
- Crown Lands – County of Renfrew
- Sustainable Funding-
- Regional Economic Development

These issues and more can be put together to formulate the Rural Plan. With the focus to be putting Rural Ontario and our portion of that area (Eastern Ontario) back in the budget. In June, we will want to bring forward a budget for a consultant for the completion of the plan.

24. Golf Tournaments (See attachment #4)**25. Correspondence.**

- 25.1-Letter dated May 5, 2005 from Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus re: County of Frontenac Resolution-Lunch Periods for Paramedics**
- 25.2-Letter dated May 5, 2005 from Mary-Anne Sills, Mayor of Belleville**
- 25.3-Letter dated May 5, 2005 from Mary-Anne Sills, Mayor of Belleville**
- 25.4-Letter dated May 9, 2005 from Prescott and Russell re: Balance of EOWC Account**
- 25.5-Letter dated May 10, 2005 to Mayor Sylvia Sutherland, Municipalities United for a New Deal**
- 25.6-Letter dated May 10,2005 to Brian Gregg, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus**
- 25.7-Letter dated May 10, 2005 to Norm Sterling**
- 25.8-Letter dated May 12, 2005 to Howard Allan, Allan & Partners Inc.**
- 25.9-Letter to Minister Sorbara re: Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program**

26. New and/or Old Business.

EOWC Budget- It has been requested that all outstanding bills be submitted in order for the EOWC to be able to budget for upcoming expenses and future years.

27. Next Meeting: June 24, 2005, Hastings County (Possible Date Change)

The date for this meeting will remain the same. The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn on the Bay Conference Resort. There are rooms set aside for this

meeting. A joint dinner for all who are arriving on Thursday is planned for Thursday night at 7:30. More details will follow.

28. Adjournment.

Moved by: Jim Pine
Seconded by: Gary King

CARRIED