



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
MINUTES
Sunday, August 21st, 2011
3:30 p.m.
Salon B & C, Delta Armouries Hotel
325 Dundas Street
London, Ontario**

1. Call Meeting to Order / Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

Present: Chair Jones, Vice Chair Mel Campbell, Members Jo-Anne Albert, Steven Byvelds, Murray Fearrey, Henry Hogg, Ric McGee, Peter Mertens, Sharon Mousseau, Bob Sweet and Past Chair Dave Burton.

Regrets: Gary Davison, Jean-Yves Lalonde and Mark Lovshin.

The Caucus gave their sympathy to Gary Davison, who had experienced a death in the family.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made at this time.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Mayor McGee
Seconded by: Warden Albert

Be it resolved that EOWC adopt the amended agenda with the addition of a By-law under Item 10. a. to authorize the payment of services provided by Allan and Partners Inc.

Carried

Mayor McGee formally introduced Al Horsman, the new CAO for the City of Kawartha Lakes.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Warden Hogg
Seconded by: Warden Mousseau

Be it resolved that the Minutes of EOWC Inc. meeting of July 15, 2011 be just approved as circulated.

Carried

Mayor McGee requested that the report on video-conferencing that was in the July 15, 2011 Agenda be forwarded to him separately.

5. Delegations, Petitions and Presentations

- a. Standing Item
David Fell, CEO, EORN
Re: EORN Status Update

Mr. Fell reported that the project is now approximately 6 months ahead of schedule, with 37 Point of Presence's in place. The Quinte-Loyalist contract has just been signed. He updated the Caucus on the issue the team had been experiencing claims for expenses with the Province. EORN had just received payment for all outstanding claims on the previous Friday so the issue appears to have been resolved. Mr. Fell affirmed that EORN desires to hire more than 1 company for the project and believes that others will be hired for other zones in the future. Jim Pine updated the Caucus on the status of First Nation agreements being negotiated and reported that they were going very well and felt that they were building a strong relationship with them. Mr. Pine also reported that the Town of Gananoque has agreed to financially assist the project.

- b. Standing Item
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Re: MMAH Update (verbal)

There was no update from MMAH.

6. Reports for Review / Discussion

- a. Farm Tax and Managed Forest Final Report

Gary King explained the County of Peterborough procedure that once the Agenda is distributed, the report is considered public. Under this procedure, he shared the Farm Tax and Managed Forest Final Report provided by Allan and Partners Inc. with the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus to be added to the Joint Agenda with them. Stéphane Parisien reported on the steps that have been taken to date regarding this item. It was recommended that the EOWC focus on the Farm Tax refund and not the OMPF aspect of the issue

Minutes of Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
August 21, 2011

or the Farm Tax will get "lost" again. EOWC CAOs recommend that the EOWC ask for the funding to be delegated to infrastructure needs. It was noted that the Provincial Finance audit of the OMPF was for all of Ontario, not just Eastern Ontario. It was determined that the main response and message to the Province would be that municipalities have had to raise taxes 123% to offset changes to the Farm Tax program and that the funding is not enough.

Moved by: Warden Mousseau
Seconded by: Vice-Chair Campbell

Be it resolved that the EOWC Inc. receive and adopt the August 2011 Final Report by Allan and Partners Chartered Accountants entitled, "Farm Tax and Managed Forests Rebate – Municipal Shortfall Report."

Carried

Moved by: Warden Byvelds
Seconded by: Warden Hogg

Whereas, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. retained the services of Allan and Partners Chartered Accountants to undertake an analysis of the foregone revenue in relation to the Farmland and Managed Forest Tax Incentive programs,

And Whereas, the August 2011 Final Report of Allan and Partners demonstrates the complexity of the OMPF transfer formula and the inadequacies of OMPF in addressing the foregone revenue associated with the tax incentive programs, as well as the inadequacies of the transfers in relation to meeting the financial needs of rural municipalities in general,

And Whereas, the EOWC Inc. is aware that the Ministry of Finance has recently initiated the appointment of a Provincial Internal Audit Team to review the Ministry's calculation of the impact of the Farm Tax and Managed Forest Program on rural Ontario,

Now, therefore be it resolved that:

1. The EOWC acknowledge and thank the Ministry of Finance for initiating an internal audit to review the Ministry's calculation on the impact of the Farm Tax and Managed Forest Program on rural Ontario, and request that the results be shared and discussed with EOWC Inc. upon completion of the audit, and
2. That the EOWC Inc. petition the Province to commit to a complete review and revision of the OMPF transfer formula for the dual purposes of making the formula more accountable and transparent, and also to ensure that the

component parts of a new, revised formula serve to adequately provide the level of transfers needed to ensure healthy rural communities that cannot sustain spiralling municipal levy increases, and

3. That the EOWC Inc. also petition the Province to create a specific funding program in the short term (now, and during the review and revision period for a new OMPF transfer formula) dedicated to assisting rural municipalities fund the projects required to address the urgent need to manage the growing roads and bridges infrastructure deficit.

Carried

b. All Ministers meeting – confirmation of Topics and Presenters

The Warden requested a member and their respective CAO to volunteer for each of the six topics in the Working Together for Regional Prosperity document to present to the All Ministers meeting. It was requested that the map showing Eastern Ontario Farm and Managed Forest lands be attached to the document for the presentation.

c. Eastern Ontario Transition Council Update

Mayor Mertens reported that the meeting in July had not occurred, so the Council is hoping to meet on September 13th when they plan to review a Terms of Reference, critical relationships and clarity of roles. Mayor Mertens had expressed the EOWC's recommendation that the Transition Council postpone the pursuit of incorporation until a Terms of Reference and mandate have been established. Mayor Mertens will forward three questions to the EOWC members for their response, and he will compile them and present as EOWC input for the Transition Council meeting on September 13th.

Moved by: Warden Hogg
Seconded by: Warden Mousseau

Be it resolved that the Eastern Ontario Transition Council Update from Mayor Mertens be received.

Carried

d. Broadening of Mandate – Joint Interests

Mayor McGee requested the members to consider partnerships with neighbouring regions, specifically Durham Region, for projects such as nuclear industry and water quality, and to consider the benefits of having Durham Region become a member of the EOWC. Mayor McGee noted the possibilities of broadening the current mandate to strengthen relationships and strengthen the EOWC voice on mutual interests. There were questions

Minutes of Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
August 21, 2011

from members on the size and focus of Durham Region, and the impact its inclusion as an EOWC member would have on the mandate.

Moved by: Vice-Chair Campbell
Seconded by: Warden Sweet

Be it resolved that staff discuss the broadening of EOWC mandate and possibilities for joint interests with the Region of Durham and report back to the EOWC in October.

Carried

e. Social Housing Insurance – Update

Jim Pine reported that the Social Housing Services Corporation has stepped back from their push to require municipalities insure through them and confirmed that municipalities can continue to source insurance for this year.

Moved by: Mayor Mertens
Seconded by: Warden Fearrey

Be it resolved that Jim Pine's update on the Social Housing Insurance issue be received.

Carried

f. Ontario Works Funeral Cost – Update

Steve Silver requested the support of the EOWC for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville briefing note regarding Ontario Works Funeral Costs. The municipality will be meeting with the Minister that week during the conference.

Moved by: Warden Byvelds
Seconded by: Warden Hogg

Be it resolved that EOWC support the briefing note presented by United Counties of Leeds and Grenville regarding Ontario Works Funeral Costs.

Carried

g. Questions for NOMA and FONOM

The questions were received for information.

h. Date and location of October meeting

Minutes of Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
August 21, 2011

As many members were not attending the CRST Conference in October in Hamilton, it was recommended that the October EOWC meeting be held in Cobourg.

Moved by: Warden Albert
Seconded by: Warden Sweet

Be it resolved that EOWC hold its next meeting on October 21st in Cobourg.

Carried

7. Correspondence

Moved by: Mayor Mertens
Seconded by: Warden Hogg

Be it resolved that the Outgoing and Incoming Correspondence be received for information.

Carried

8. Closed Session

Moved by: Warden Mousseau
Seconded by: Warden Sweet

Be it resolved that under the authority of the Municipal Act, S.O.2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2) the EOWC move into closed session at 4:30 p.m. to discuss "personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;"

Carried

9. Rise from Closed Without a Report

Moved by: Warden Fearrey
Seconded by: Warden Sweet

Be it resolved that EOWC rise from closed session at 4:31p.m. without a report.

Carried

10. By-laws

a. By-law #11-13

Moved by: Vice-Chair Campbell
Seconded by: Warden Albert

Minutes of Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
August 21, 2011

Be it resolved that EOWC authorize the payment of \$3,277.00 to Allan & Partners Inc. for the final report on Farm and Managed Forest Rebates.
Carried

11. Notice of Motions

12. Confirmation By-Law #11-14

Motion:

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus hereby enacts as follows:

1. THAT the action of the Board of Directors at its meeting held on the 21st day of August 2011 in respect to each motion, resolution, by-law and other action passed and taken by the Board of Directors at its said meeting, except where prior approval of any other body or agency is required, is hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.

2. THAT the Chair and the proper officers of the Corporation of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be necessary in that behalf and the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to affix the Corporate Seal to all such documents.

Moved by: Mayor Mertens
Seconded by: Warden Albert

Carried

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Warden Byvelds
Seconded by: Warden Fearrey

Be it resolved that the EOWC meeting adjourn at 4:32 p.m.
Carried

J. Murray Jones, Chair

Gary King, Secretary-Treasurer