



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
MINUTES
Friday, April 20th, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Glen House Resort
409, 1000 Islands Parkway, Ivy Lea**

1. Call Meeting to Order / Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with following in attendance.

Present		
County	Head of Council	Staff
County of Frontenac	Warden Janet Gutowski	Elizabeth Savill, CAO Jenny Lui, Intern
County of Haliburton		
County of Hastings		Jim Pine, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden John Gemmell	Peter Wagland, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Mel Campbell, Chair	Andy Brown, CAO Lesley Todd, Clerk Andrea Bolton, Deputy Clerk
County of Lennox and Addington	Warden Bill Lowry	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Gil Brocanier	Bill Pyatt, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Gary King, CAO, Secretary/Treasurer
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Francois St. Amour	Stephane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Bob Sweet	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Ian McLeod	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County	Head of Council	Staff
County of Haliburton	Warden Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Terry Clemens	
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Ric McGee	Al Horsman, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Peter Mertens	Merlin Dewing, CAO

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Stephen Sellers	Municipal Advisor, Municipal Services Office – East, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	Communications/Stakeholder Relations Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Beverly Disney	Municipal Relations Representative, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
Antoni Wisniowski	President and CAO, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
Howie Wong	Chief Operating Officer, Housing Services Corporation (HSC)
Kathi Zarfes	Manager of Client Services (Eastern Ontario) HSC
Bill Thake	Mayor of Village of Westport, HSC Board of Directors

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

The proposed addition of Item 9.e. an Administrative Report from the County of Frontenac regarding Sustainability – Ontario Feed-In Tariff Program – Proposed Changes, was agreed to by the Caucus.

Moved by: Warden Gemmell
Seconded by: Warden Gutowski

Be it resolved that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Warden Sweet
Seconded by: Warden Gutowski

Be it resolved that the Minutes of EOWC Inc. meeting of March 30th, 2012 be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. Delegations, Petitions and Presentations

a. Antoni Wisniowski, President and CAO, MPAC

Mr. Wisniowski presented a powerpoint which provided a review of the 2012 strategic priorities, 2012 assessment update, about my property 2.0, 2012 assessment growth, appeal management, Association of Ontario Land Surveyors partnership and building permits.

It was noted some of the data provided did not capture the Eastern Ontario area of the Wardens' Caucus and Mr. Wisniowski was asked if future presentations could include the data from this perspective.

Warden Campbell thanked Mr. Wisniowski for his presentation. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to the Caucus.

b. Howie Wong, Chief Operating Officer, Housing Services Corporation Kathi Zarfes, Manager of Client Services (Eastern Ontario), HS Bill Thake, Mayor Village of Westport, HSC Board of Directors Re: Housing Insurance and Gas Procurement

Mr. Wong presented a powerpoint which provided background information on financial, physical assets, tenant composition, and managing risk. He reviewed the transitioning to Housing Services Corporation (HSC), what they do, and how they do it.

The two areas of concern for the Caucus were insurance and gas procurement. For the social housing insurance, Mr. Wong stated HSC needs to reformat the program and make it price competitive. The Housing Corporation is hoping to review the process by the fall.

Mr. Wong reviewed the HSC Gas Purchasing Program and said their goal is to provide predictable and competitive pricing, and that this program is only available for housing.

Mr. Wong introduced Kathi Zarfes, from the new Ottawa office, and thanked Bill Thake for attending.

6. Reports for Review / Discussion

a. EORN Update – David Fell, CEO

Mr. Fell reviewed his report noting the project is ahead of schedule and under budget, with two-thirds of the Points of Presence (POPs) in service. He predicted 90+% of the POPs will be in service by June. Six new contracts will be presented for approval at today's meeting.

Mr. Fell noted ERON is working on a detailed report to determine how to spend remaining dollars and said one of the strategies may be to wiring industrial parks with fibre so they are high speed internet ready. They would start the process by requesting information from the thirteen EOWC members as well as the separated municipalities who have contributed to the broadband project. Mr. King said one of the other options could be to have fibre optic connections to each municipal office. The Caucus also suggested ERON look at tourism sites.

Mr. Fell noted ERON's audited financial statements would be presented to the EOWC at its next meeting.

- b. Financial Sustainability Update (Peter Wagland, Liz Savill and Larry Keech (absent))

Mr. Wagland reported the Steering Committee discussions regarding the financial sustainability report had focused on the long term use of the report and building on the momentum that has been generated upon the release of the report. There was a concern that the data used was Financial Information Return (FIR) based and the inconsistency may be associated with the data. The broadening of the data with other information such as housing, water and sewer, and best practices was discussed.

Staff felt it could cost up to \$45,000 to broaden and keep the report current.

Mr. Pine informed the caucus of an upcoming meeting with the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Transportation, to discuss the report and build credibility in order to put Eastern Ontario in a good position for future programs.

A request has also been made for a meeting with Eastern Ontario federal MPs to update them on the broadband project, the financial sustainability report, and Eastern Ontario's infrastructure issues.

The group discussed the cost impacts of keeping the report current, the annual budget and contributions made by each county and whether this amount should be increased, and the sourcing of external funds.

Moved by: Warden Sweet
Seconded by: Warden Jones

Be it resolved that the EOWC Inc. directs the CAOs to investigate the method and cost to broaden and update the existing data in the Financial Sustainability Report, and report back at the next EOWC meeting.

Carried

The Steering Committee will report back using the information they provided in the agenda as the basis for further development.

It was also suggested that the CAOs review the county membership contributions, currently set at \$5,000, and report back at a future meeting.

The Caucus recessed at 12:05 p.m.

The Caucus resumed at 12:45 p.m.

c. AMO Response to 2012 Provincial Budget

Mr. King noted Warden Campbell mentioned at the last AMO meeting he attended in March, there was a lot of budget information for AMO to review and would be providing an analysis.

d. Queen's University (Monieson Centre) Contract (Garry King)

Mr. King stated he had contacted the Ministry of Economic Development and OMAFRA seeking a contribution towards this project. They are able to provide \$30,000, which will match the \$10,000 from the EOWC and \$20,000 from ERON.

Moved by: Warden McLeod
Seconded by: Warden Jones

Be it resolved that the EOWC Inc. authorize the Chair and Secretary to sign an agreement with Queen's University to conduct research on the Economic and Social Impacts of the Rural Broadband Project

Carried

e. Economic Development Strategy – Draft Terms of Reference (Jim Hutton and Tim Simpson)

Mr. Hutton reported on this item which is one of the EOWC's priorities for 2012. He referred to the draft terms of reference included in the agenda package which addressed the background, purpose, developing the strategy, and funding. Mr. Hutton stated the next step under the developing of an Economic Development Strategy would be to establish the guiding coalition.

Mr. Simpson reviewed the four steps in developing the strategy:
Step 1 Vision

- Step 2 Environmental Scan - strengths, weaknesses and opportunities
- Step 3 Identify key Economic Development issues
- Step 4 Formulate Actions and Implementation Plan to address key issues

Mr. Simpson noted the hiring of a consultant is beyond the EOWC budget and other sources of funding would have to be sought.

Moved by: Warden Lowrey
Seconded by: Warden St. Amour

Be it resolved that the EOWC Inc. accept the report outlining the draft terms of reference.

Carried

Warden Sweet and Mr. Hutton left the meeting

f. Discussion on 211 Funding

Warden Gemmell explained this item had been placed on the agenda to obtain the rationale of counties participation or non participation regarding 211 funding. The Caucus provided its feedback.

g. EOWC Schedule of Meetings (Gary King)

Mr. King informed the Caucus the CAOs had discussed this at their last meeting. The report recommends that the 2012 EOWC Schedule of Meetings remain as approved at the February 26th meeting.

7. Closed Session

The Caucus moved into closed session at 1:00 p.m.

Moved by: Warden McLeod
Seconded by: Warden St-Amour

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 1:32 p.m. to discuss "personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communications necessary for that purpose"

Carried

8. Rise from Closed Without a Report

Moved by: Warden Lowry
Seconded by: Warden St-Amour

Be it resolved that EOWC rise from closed session at 1:46 p.m. without a report.
Carried

9. Correspondence

Outgoing

- a. April 10, 2012
Public Sector Service Delivery
Re: Letter of Support for EODF Nomination – Excellence in Service Delivery Award

Incoming

- a. March 13, 2012
Lorrain Fell, Councillor, Hastings Highlands Council
Re: Concerns with low growth in Eastern Ontario and need to address changes within Provincial Policy Statements
- b. March 16, 2012
Ian McLeod, Warden, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
To: Minister Dwight Duncan, Finance, Province
Re: OMPF – Police Services Grant Component
- c. March 28, 2012
Michelle Larose, CAO of Town of Deep River
To: Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Re: Revitalisation of Chalk River Laboratories (CRL)

It was noted Dr. Walker was hoping to have been here today and that arrangements would be made for him to attend the next meeting.

- d. March 2012
Bill 27, submitted by Mr. Yakabuski to Provincial Legislature
Re: Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act
- e. April 18, 2012
Administrative Report from The County of Frontenac regarding Sustainability – Ontario Feed-In Tariff Program – Proposed Changes

Moved by: Warden Gutowski
Seconded by: Warden Lowry

Be it resolved that EOWC supports a letter being sent to the Minister by the April 27th deadline.

Carried

Ms. Savill will draft the letter.

10. By-laws

a. By-law #12-19

Moved by: Warden St-Armour
Seconded by: Warden Brocanier

Be it resolved that the EOWC authorize the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to execute an Agreement between the EOWC and Bell Aliant for RFP P-05-2011 Zone 7a – for the provision of access services for Hastings North.

Carried

b. By-law #12-20

Moved by: Warden McLeod
Seconded by: Warden Lowry

Be it resolved that the EOWC authorize the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to execute an Agreement between the EOWC and Xplornet Communications Inc. for RFP P-05-2011 Zone 7b – for the provision of access services for Thousand Islands.

Carried

c. By-law #12-21

Moved by: Warden Gemmell
Seconded by: Warden Brocanier

Be it resolved that the EOWC authorize the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to execute an Agreement between the EOWC and Xplornet Communications Inc. for RFP P-04-2011 Zone 7c – for the provision of access services for Sebright.

Carried

d. By-law #12-22

Moved by: Warden Jones
Seconded by: Warden Lowry

Be it resolved that the EOWC authorize the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to execute an Agreement between the EOWC and Nexicom Inc for RFP P-02-2011 Zone 4b – for the provision of access services for Mount Pleasant Fibre Proposal.

Carried

e. By-law #12-23

Moved by: Warden Gemmell
Seconded by: Warden McLeod

Be it resolved that the EOWC authorize the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to execute an Agreement between the EOWC and Storm Internet Services for RFP P-04-2011 Zone 6a – for the provision of access services for Lanark.

Carried

f. By-law #12-24

Moved by: Warden McLeod
Seconded by: Warden Brocanier

Be it resolved that the EOWC authorize the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to execute an Agreement between the EOWC and Xplornet Communications Inc. for RFP P-04-2011 Zone 6b – for the provision of access services for Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry.

Carried

g. By-law #12-25

Moved by: Warden Jones
Seconded by: Warden Gemmell

Be it resolved that the EOWC appoints Andy Brown, CAO for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, as Secretary-Treasurer for the EOWC Inc. and recognizes his status as a signing officer for EOWC Inc.

Carried

11. Notice of Motions

None.

12. Next Meeting

Friday, June 15th, 2012
Napanee

13. Confirmation By-Law #12-26

Moved by: Warden McLeod
Seconded by: Warden Lowry

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 20th day of April 2012 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.

Carried

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Warden Gemmell
Seconded by: Warden Gutowski

Be it resolved that the EOWC meeting adjourn at 1:40 p.m.

Carried

Mel, Chair

Andy Brown, Secretary-Treasurer