



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Friday, April 21, 2017
County of Lennox & Addington
97 Thomas Street East
Napanea ON**

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

| Present | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| County | Head of Council | Staff |
| County of Frontenac | Warden Ron Vandewal | Kelly Pender, CAO |
| County of Haliburton | Warden Brent Devolin | Mike Rutter, CAO |
| County of Hastings | Warden Rodney Cooney | Jim Pine, CAO |
| City of Kawartha Lakes | Mayor Andy Letham | Ron Taylor, CAO |
| County of Lanark | Warden Bill Dobson | Kurt Greaves, CAO |
| United Counties of Leeds and Grenville | Warden Robin Jones | Andy Brown, CAO |
| County of Lennox & Addington | Warden Bill Lowry | Larry Keech, CAO |
| County of Northumberland | Warden Mark Walas | Jennifer Moore, CAO |
| County of Peterborough | Warden Joe Taylor | |
| United Counties of Prescott and Russell | Warden Gary J. Barton | |
| County of Prince Edward | Mayor Robert Quaiff, Chair | James Hepburn, CAO |
| County of Renfrew | Warden Jennifer Murphy | Jim Hutton, CAO |
| United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry | Warden Jim Bancroft | |

| Regrets | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| County of Peterborough | | Gary King, CAO |
| United Counties of Prescott and Russell | | Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO |
| United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry | | Tim Simpson, CAO |

| Others Present | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Delegation/Guests | Organization |
| Justin Bromberg | Communications and Policy Coordinator, EOWC |
| Lisa Severson | Communications Stakeholder and Relations Officer, EORN |
| Kurt Fitzhugh | Municipal Services Manager, Ministry of Municipal Affairs |
| Jason White | IT Manager, County of Lennox and Addington |
| Mike Bossio | Member of Parliament, Hastings–Lennox and Addington |
| Peter Emon | Past-Chair, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus |

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order and Chair Quaiff welcomed the members.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest – N/A

3. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Warden Barton
Seconded by Warden Murphy**

**THAT the Agenda of the April 21, 2017 meeting be adopted as presented.
CARRIED**

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of January 31, 2017 were presented.

**Moved by Mayor Letham
Seconded by Warden Walas**

**THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of January 31, 2017 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED**

5. Delegations

5.1 Peter Lockyer, History Lives Here Inc. – The History Moments Regional Television Series

Peter Lockyer of History Lives Here Inc. addressed the Wardens about developing the heritage business and his company's work in developing a series of brief television vignettes to highlight Eastern Ontario's past. He discussed a proposal to develop a stepping-stone of professional and sustainable tourism products that could be phased in over the next few years, to awaken the possibility of using history as an economic driver for the region. He responded to questions from members.

5.2 Jacques Fauteux, VIA Rail, Director of Government and Community Relations – VIA Rail High-Frequency Rail Project

Jacques Fauteux of VIA Rail addressed the Wardens regarding the Crown Corporation's recent transformation and its major projects, including the \$4-billion to \$6-billion high-frequency rail project from Montreal to Toronto through Eastern Ontario. He spoke of the changes to the customer service model, the new corridor fleet, and the need for dedicated passenger rail tracks. He noted the importance of including the possibility of commuting to small communities, including several in Eastern Ontario, as part of the high-frequency rail project. Notably, the Kingston subdivision would allow for hourly service to Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, and the Peterborough subdivision would allow for service to Belleville, Tweed, and Perth.

6. Reports for Review/Discussion

6.1 Agenda for Breakfast with Federal MPs – Chair Quaiff

MP Mike Bossio explained some of the federal government's priorities for 2017 and 2018, including \$2 billion in infrastructure funding. As a result, discussion ensued on what items to prioritize and include on the agenda for the EOWC Breakfast on Monday, May 1. The agenda was approved and will be circulated to all members by Justin Bromberg, including details on security procedures. The group will meet for a debriefing session at the Fairmont Château Laurier bar on Sunday, April 30 at 8 p.m.

6.2 Update on the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council – Chair Quaiff

Chair Quaiff recalled the presentation last night from Gerard Hunt, CAO of the City of Kingston, and Andy Brown, CAO of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, regarding the revised vision of the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council. He confirmed that the \$25,000 included in the 2017 EOWC budget remains sufficient to cover the EOLC's revised funding request for the current year. The Chair also noted that three resolutions require the EOWC's approval, as follows:

**Moved by Warden Vandewal
Seconded by Warden Dobson**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC Inc. appoint Chair Robert Quaiff as the Co-Chair of the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council for the 2017 year.

CARRIED

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Bancroft**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the funding application to the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program, through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, for the amount of \$100,000 for the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council.

CARRIED

**Moved by Warden Taylor
Seconded by Warden Cooney**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC Inc. retain the services of Justin Bromberg as Communications and Policy Coordinator for the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council.

CARRIED

6.3 Support for Teeny Tiny Town 2017 Summits – Chair Quaiff

The sponsorship request for the Teeny Tiny Town 2017 Summit was discussed and the event information was shared with the Wardens. After discussion, the sponsorship was declined because the EOWC does not sponsor any events and is not a sponsorship type of organization.

6.4 Discussion on Bill 68 – Warden Walas

Warden Walas spoke about the potential impact of Bill 68 and changes to Section 268 of the *Municipal Act*, regarding the temporary replacement of councillors at the upper-tier level. Warden Walas noted some potential challenges as to how this may be implemented, including the difficulties of councillors being brought up to speed on upper-tier issues and how this could impact decisions. There is already language in the *Act* that permits a replacement for an absence over 30 days. Members discussed the matter, including concerns of the integrity commissioner's increase in power. Warden Walas asked if there would be an opportunity, through the CAOs, to bring some of these concerns to the Province. Larry Keech noted that Lennox and Addington has by-laws about absences at the County that he will share with the EOWC. It was suggested that the Chair or Mayor Emon could raise this issue at the next AMO County Caucus Board meeting.

6.5 Information on Bill 39 from TAPMO and AMO – Chair Quaiff

Chair Quaiff noted that this information is being circulated for information purposes only, following discussion held at the last EOWC meeting.

6.6 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) – Jim Pine

Jim Pine noted that the EORN board has established its priorities for the year and has requested the EOWC's support.

**Moved by Warden Bancroft
Seconded by Warden Jones**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the EORN 2017
Priorities, as presented.**

CARRIED

CTI Update Letter to Municipalities

Lisa Severson explained that the CAOs received a letter last week in regards to funding for the federal Connect to Innovate (CTI) Program. EORN has also received e-mails from various municipalities from which Bell had requested letters of support. EORN was not aware that Bell was making applications; however, councils may choose to support more than one ISP if there is sufficient interest in their area. Any additional build in Eastern Ontario would be beneficial to the entire region.

EORN Board Compensation

The EORN Report on Board Compensation was presented along with the recommendation is to establish a \$350 per diem rate for board members.

Moved by Warden Jones

Seconded by Warden Murphy

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the EORN Board of Directors Compensation Report as presented and approve a remuneration per diem amount of \$350 per day for EORN board members, as set out in detail in the report.

CARRIED

Cell Gap Project Business Case

Jim Pine distributed copies of the Cell Gap Project summary. He noted that EORN would be presenting its formal business case to the federal government on May 1, as part of the federal approvals process. EORN is also working with Minister Chiarelli and several Provincial Ministries to make a formal submission to Province. As part of the formal submission, the EOWC and EORN Chairs will be invited to meet with Ministers.

Jim Pine also distributed two resolutions for project support, one being for County Councils and the other for local municipalities. The CAOs plan to have a discussion next month regarding a cost-sharing formula, should a municipal contribution be required. This cost shall be based on anticipated administration costs (either \$10 million or \$14 million). EORN will also suggest that all EOMC municipalities participate. Lisa Severson offered an EORN presence and presentation at upcoming County Council meetings, once there is an agreement on the funding formula.

7. Closed Session (n/a)

8. Reports from Wardens

8.1 Chair's Update – Robert Quaiff

Chair Quaiff provided several brief updates, including the EOMC CAOs meeting on May 3 to develop a list of priorities for the group, being the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council, Funding for Affordable Housing, and MPAC's Evaluation of big box businesses. He provided a summary of recent AMO Board of Directors meetings, including the incrementality policy for federal transit and gas tax investments; the Provincial Basic Income Pilot; the creation of 100,000 new childcare spaces over the next five years; and a letter to the Province urging action against the growing number of school closures across the province.

8.2 Wardens' Updates

Wardens provided various updates from their Counties, including the revitalization of Main Street in Picton and the outreach from neighbouring municipalities during the recent oil spill crisis in Prince Edward County. Warden Lowry discussed the new County website and the recruitment of a new CAO after Larry Keech's departure in July. Warden Devolin spoke about a review of County Council and the length of the Warden's term. Warden Bancroft noted there are still ongoing issues with the shared services agreement with the City of Cornwall. Warden Taylor spoke about the importance of heritage in Peterborough County. Warden Cooney noted that the County is bringing economic development back in house. Warden Murphy spoke about meetings with Minister Hoskins and his staff at ROMA and OGRA regarding the City of Ottawa's use of rural paramedic resources. Warden Dobson noted the County is working with OMAFRA to host economic development sessions. He inquired if the opioid crisis should be brought to the EOWC level for further action. Warden Barton mentioned clear cutting in Prescott and Russell and an emphasis on education rather than enforcement. An application from Colacem for a cement plant has garnered significant public attention.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Outgoing

- 9.1.1 Letter to Minister Bill Mauro regarding the Multi-Ministerial Delegation at the ROMA Conference, dated February 1, 2017
- 9.1.2 Letter to Minister Jeff Leal regarding the Multi-Ministerial Delegation at the ROMA Conference, dated February 1, 2017
- 9.1.3 Letter to Minister Yasir Naqvi regarding the EOWC Delegation at the ROMA Conference, dated February 1, 2017
- 9.1.4 Letter to MPP Patrick Brown regarding the PC Caucus Delegation at the ROMA Conference, dated February 1, 2017

9.2 Incoming

- 9.2.1 Letter from Mayor Ron Higgins regarding EOWC support on hydro costs, dated January 3, 2017
- 9.2.2 Resolution from Prince Edward County regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, dated January 26, 2017
- 9.2.3 Letter from MPP Patrick Brown regarding support for natural gas expansion in Ontario, dated February 1, 2017
- 9.2.4 Letter from Minister Jeff Leal regarding the Multi-Ministerial Delegation at the ROMA Conference, dated February 28, 2017
- 9.2.5 Letter from Minister Mitzie Hunter regarding Rural Pupil Accommodation Reviews, dated March 6, 2017
- 9.2.6 Letter from MPP Patrick Brown regarding the Delegation at the ROMA Conference, dated March 8, 2017
- 9.2.7 Letter from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario regarding Plate Denial for POA Fines, dated April 7, 2017

**Moved by Warden Bancroft
Seconded by Mayor Letham**

THAT the outgoing and incoming correspondence be received.

CARRIED

10. By-laws

11. Notice of Motions

12. Confirmation By-law #17-05

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Murphy**

THAT 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 the 21st day of April, 2017 in respect of 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 the things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain any approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be necessary, and the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to affix the Corporate Seal to all such documents.

13. Adjournment

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Murphy**

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:07 p.m.



Robert Quaiff, Chair



James Hepburn, Secretary-Treasurer