



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Friday, April 22, 2016
McIntosh Inn and Conference Centre
Morrisburg, Ontario
9:00 a.m.**

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 Frances Smith	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton		Mike Rutter, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	Ron Taylor, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden Gail Code	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville		Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington	Past-Warden Gord Schermerhorn	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Gil Brocanier	Jennifer Moore, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Gary King, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Robert Quaiff	James Hepburn, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Peter Emon, Chair	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Guy Desjardins	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Jamie MacDonald Past-Chair Eric Duncan	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County of Haliburton	Warden Carol Moffatt	
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden David Gordon	

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Justin Bromberg	Communications and Policy Coordinator, EOWC
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Yvonne Delegarde	Mayor of South Dundas

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order and Chair Peter Emon welcomed everyone. He asked for a minute of silence for the passing of Warden Clarence Kennedy. The Chair then proposed that the EOWC adopt a motion in order to temporarily appoint Past-Warden Gordon Schermerhorn as an EOWC member.

**Moved by Warden Phillips
Seconded by Warden Jones**

THAT Past-Warden Gordon Schermerhorn be delegated as the temporary EOWC representative for the County of Lennox and Addington.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest – N/A

3. Approval of Agenda

Three items were added to the agenda: a request from the County of Hastings regarding Postal Banking, at item 7.12; a request from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry regarding the Rural Economic Development Program, at item 7.13; and a request for support from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network regarding Ryerson University and the OHCRIF, at item 7.14.4.

**Moved by Warden Smith
Seconded by Warden Code**

THAT the Agenda of the April 22, 2016 meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of February 21, 2016 were presented.

Moved by Warden Schermerhorn

Seconded by Mayor Quaiff

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of February 21, 2016 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

5.1 Mayor Glenda McKay and Mayor Ron Higgins – Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario

Mayor Ron Higgins provided an overview of the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario and its mandate and priorities. The RMFEO aims to be a stronger voice for rural municipalities with populations less than 16,000. Major concerns are cellular and broadband internet services, as well as the significant increases in policing costs. Mayor Higgins noted there is not enough provincial support for small and rural municipalities, particularly on the expensive provincial downloads. The RMFEO would like to collaborate with the EOWC in regards to policy positions and reports, fairness and equality for rural municipalities, and consultation and cooperation with member municipalities. It would like to acquire a voice at the ROMA, AMO and EOWC tables, without duplicating these organizations' activities.

Discussion ensued on the subject of policing costs and a proposal to ask the Province to upload those costs. Warden Phillips raised the issue of joint and several liability and Mayor Higgins replied that the topic would be brought forward at the next RMFEO meeting. Vice-Chair Jones and Chair Emon shared their concerns for duplication with what has been proposed by the RMFEO, particularly in terms of presenting mixed or duplicated messages to the Province. Mayor Glenda McKay explained that the RMFEO was formed to share information amongst its members' own townships and is simply seeking to collaborate with other groups and share any knowledge and reports that it may produce.

5.2 Mayor Robert Quaiff and Ben Doornekamp – Picton Terminals Expansion

Ben Doornekamp provided some history of the Doornekamp family and its multiple construction businesses and projects across Eastern Ontario. He then explained the reasons for his family's acquisition of the Picton docks. Initially, the goal was to use the docks for its previous purpose of iron ore extraction; however, it was then learned that the cost of geared vessels had become too prohibitive for companies such as Lafarge, which needed a facility to unload gearless vessels. The family purchased a state-of-the-art ship loader, investing \$10 million of its own money, but the demand for services is simply too great and the Doornekamps aren't able to expand quickly enough to meet this growth.

Mr. Doornekamp noted that the use of these vessels for shipping allows for a lower cost for shipping companies, in addition to less wear on the road network and additional environmental benefits. The Picton Terminals would be one of the few privately-owned facilities on the Great Lakes, which has added benefits. The family is asking the support of local groups and now wishes to approach the federal government. The facility requires two Liebherr Mobile Port Cranes, at a cost of \$5 million each. Warden Schermerhorn expressed his utmost support for the family and the project.

Moved by Mayor Quaiff
Seconded by Warden Phillips

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) has identified the investigation of the feasibility of constructing new or revitalized deep water port facilities in select locations in the region, as a priority in its 2014 Economic Development Strategy; and,

WHEREAS the 2013 *Eastern Ontario Transport Needs Analysis Report* estimated that the building or revitalization of a deep water seaport in Eastern Ontario would result in a total of 5,470 additional jobs and GDP growth of 0.13% (\$785.1 million); and,

WHEREAS the same study estimated the cost of establishing a new port along the Seaway at over \$230 million; and,

WHEREAS *Abna Investments* (the Doornekamp family) has begun to revitalize Picton Terminals as a viable, intermodal, deep water port facility within the St. Lawrence Seaway for an estimated total investment of less than \$40 million; and,

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have committed considerable financial resources towards infrastructure and job creation in recent budget announcements;

WHEREAS vessels are twice as fuel efficient as rail and 10 times more fuel efficient than heavy trucking, which addresses issues of fuel costs due to road and rail congestion and reduces Ontario's greenhouse gas and carbon emissions by 300,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC strongly supports the revitalization of Picton Terminals given its significant potential to create jobs and boost the regional economy; and

THAT the EOWC request that the Federal and Ontario governments prioritize and fund the initial request of \$10 million from ABNA Investments for the acquisition of two *LHM 280 Liebherr Mobile Port Cranes* to allow the Port to accommodate the anticipated demand of upwards of 100 ships annually; and

FINALLY THAT the Wardens raise this project with their respective MPs and MPPs for support and that a letter be sent on behalf of the EOWC.

CARRIED

5.3 Stephen Seller – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Update

Stephen Seller explained the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP) has been retired and replaced by two new programs: the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians Program and the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance Program. Under the latter, municipalities will have 120 calendar days to assess damages and costs and request Provincial assistance, as opposed to 14 days under ODRAP. A Council resolution is still required. Secondly, the cost-sharing formula now includes 75% provincial assistance for eligible costs of up to 3% of municipal levies, and 90% for any amount above the 3% threshold. Mr. Seller is looking for opportunities to present this to various Councils.

Mr. Seller also noted that the Ministry has introduced additional changes to the *Municipal Elections Act* under Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act*. Among the changes, ranked balloting continues to be part of the proposal but remains optional for municipalities, and the January 1st nomination date will be moved to May 1st, with a closing date on July 31. There will be election financing rule changes; a 30-day grace period to file election expenses, with a fine; and a requirement for 25 signatures to support nominations. A summary of the proposed changes is available on the Ministry's website, which are subject to change as Bill 181 moves through the Legislature.

6. Reports from Wardens

6.1 Chair's Update – Peter Emon

Chair Emon provided a brief update from the last AMO meeting, including discussion on the *Waste Diversion Act* changes in Bill 151 as well as the forthcoming Bill 172 on cap and trade. Other issues are policing services modernization, a labour relations framework, and a housing strategy.

6.2 Updates from Wardens

Wardens provided updates from their Counties, including the approval of the first Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville; the ongoing service review at the City of Kawartha Lakes; a new line being built by Hydro One to expand electricity capacity to the Goodyear Tire plant in Napanee at a cost of \$750,000; a transportation master plan for the County of Northumberland, in preparation for an eventual expansion of GO Train services to the municipality; the annexation proposals from the City of Peterborough that would affect the County, including moving the casino to the city; the upcoming completion of the new fire hall in Prince Edward County; an agreement between Renfrew County and Lanark County to acquire CP Rail lands; a meeting with Minister Del Duca regarding the Highway 17 expansion through Renfrew County; a meeting with Mayor Jim Watson regarding the expansion of County Road 17 in Clarence-Rockland; the province's push to transfer the Alfred College to Prescott and Russell; a blueprint for in-house tourism in SD&G; and a renewed shared services agreement with the City of Cornwall.

7. Reports for Review/Discussion

7.1 Advancement of 2016 Priorities – Chair Emon / Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton noted that a letter was sent to the Ontario Energy Board supporting the expansion of natural gas in rural areas and to implement any cost mechanisms that could assist in that respect. Several pieces of correspondence have also been sent regarding hydroelectricity expansion.

7.2 Update on Leadership Council – Tim Simpson / Andy Brown

Tim Simpson noted he has asked Andy Brown to assume responsibility as one of two CAOs representing the EOWC on the Leadership Council. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m.

7.3 Consultations on *Police Services Act* – Tim Simpson / Jim Pine

Tim Simpson noted that several members attended the consultations on the *Police Services Act* and provided feedback to the Ministry. There was disappointment that certain issues were not discussed in greater detail, namely the issue of increasing service costs. It was noted that there was a heavy presence of union representatives and police forces. Stephen Seller added that the online feedback has been extended until next Friday for those who weren't able to attend. Past-Chair Eric Duncan noted the issue of cost savings is being addressed by the City of Toronto, in order to allow special constables to handle certain traffic duties. Jim Pine noted that the County of Hastings is currently undergoing a review of policing costs, with the help of Professor Christian Leuprecht. He will share the results.

7.4 Inter-Municipal Agreements with City of Ottawa – Chair Emon

Chair Emon explained that the meeting has been delayed until the new City Manager begins on May 2. He observed through media reports that the City of Ottawa appears to be satisfied with its hiring of additional paramedics; however, the EOWC does not plan to give up on this issue.

7.5 Meeting on Parliament Hill with Federal MPs – Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton noted that two dates have been proposed for a meeting with all Eastern Ontario MPs on Parliament Hill: May 17 and May 31. A similar meeting was held successfully last February in Ottawa.

**Moved by Warden Phillips
Seconded by Warden Jones**

THAT the EOWC Inc. direct staff to organize a meeting with the Eastern Ontario MPs on May 31 on Parliament Hill, and that the CAOs develop a presentation and an agenda for that meeting.

CARRIED

7.6 Eastern Ontario Growth Plan – Chair Emon / Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton recalled that the City of Ottawa initiated a growth planning exercise for Eastern Ontario and that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will soon be interviewing all County Wardens and CAOs. The EOWC has prepared a draft position paper to eventually submit to the Ministry, which can also be used as a reference during the individual consultation sessions. Discussion ensued on the strategy that should be implemented by the EOWC. Kelly Pender noted that Gerard Hunt, CAO of Kingston, has asked for a copy of the report to share with the EOMC. Mr. Pender also suggested the EOWC pass a resolution stating that this growth plan is unnecessary and that the focus should be on economic development rather than growth management. Jim Hutton suggested that the position paper be approved and finalized as soon as possible in order to release it to the Province and our partners. Gary King suggested certain revisions to the paper, dating back to 2005 and the issue of Crown lands.

**Moved by Warden Smith
Seconded by Warden Desjardins**

THAT the EOWC Inc. direct staff to finalize the position paper on the growth planning exercise for Eastern Ontario, including a summary of the EOWC's studies over the last 10 years, and once the document is completed, that it be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the EOMC.

CARRIED

7.7 Provincial Infrastructure Funding Criteria – Gary King

Gary King provided an update from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding infrastructure funding criteria, noting a few changes have been proposed; namely, less focus on an individual municipality's fiscal situation and more focus on the health and safety aspects of projects. This should improve the chances for Counties to receive funding.

Mr. King also noted the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure has hired a new Director of Investments, Richard Kikutas, with whom he will meet next week in Kingston to provide some history on the EODF as well as the EOWC's advocacy to have that fund created and the eligibility criteria amended to include small businesses.

7.8 Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Update – Chair Emon

Chair Emon noted that the federal government and its Crown Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, last week announced an \$800-million funding commitment for Chalk River Laboratories in Deep River over the next five years. He referred to the press releases included on the agenda.

7.9 Algonquins of Ontario Update – Chair Emon

Chair Emon noted there has been a positive update from the Algonquins of Ontario, in addition to some recent dialogue with the EOWC, and suggested the possibility of inviting the group to a future meeting in order to discuss economic development opportunities that may come as a result of the treaty. The joint economic development strategy with the separated cities may also pave the way for similar work with the Algonquins of Ontario. Chair Emon has previously interacted with nine of the 16 people on the treaty negotiation committee. The Algonquins would like to meet with the EOWC to explore partnerships and, given the size of the land claim, it would be in the EOWC's interest to work with them.

7.10 Bill 151, *Waste-Free Ontario Act* – Chair Emon

Chair Emon noted that hearings on Bill 151 were recently held at Queen's Park and as the EOWC members weren't able to attend, the group relied on AMO to represent its interests in front of the Standing Committee.

7.11 Decision on Regional Ombudsman – Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton recalled that a proposal was considered last year and again earlier this year regarding the hiring of a regional Ombudsman. It was decided at the last CAOs meeting that the EOWC put aside this approach, to evaluate the municipal relationship with the new Ombudsman. Jim Pine noted that several cities, including Cambridge, Kitchener, and Guelph, have retained their own law firm on retainer for a reasonable cost, and he has heard that the Ombudsman's office was supportive of that concept. He will bring the information forward to the next CAOs meeting.

7.12 Postal Banking – Jim Pine / Warden Phillips

Jim Pine presented a staff report and a letter from the County of Hastings, noting several bank branches have closed in the County. He has provided the report and the letter to the Prime Minister. It appears Canada Post is open to the concept, which could be a viable option for rural Canada. It works in other countries and existing federal legislation allows for it. Chair Phillips said the loss of rural bank branches particularly affects seniors.

Moved by Warden Phillips

Seconded by Warden Schermerhorn

THAT the EOWC Inc. support the report and letter prepared by the County of Hastings and prepare a letter of support.

CARRIED

7.13 Rural Economic Development Program – Warden MacDonald

Warden Jamie MacDonald noted the Province has suspended the Rural Economic Development Program, which has been placed into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund. This will restrict funding for rural municipalities.

Moved by Warden MacDonald

Seconded by Warden Smith

THAT the EOWC Inc. support the resolution from the Municipality of South Dundas and prepare a letter of support.

CARRIED

7.14 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Reports – David Fell

7.14.1 EORN CEO Report

David Fell provided an update on the EORN board, noting the municipal fibre program has met the requirement for the Bell high-speed contracts, with 54 fibre and 92 DSL sites. EORN will be making presentations to County councils to ask for support in delivering the message to local municipalities. Furthermore, a white paper on municipal Wi-Fi, supporting this expansion, will be released shortly.

7.14.2 CRTC Hearing Report

David Fell thanked the Wardens that attended the recent CRTC hearings in Ottawa, on behalf of the EOWC and EORN. EORN will be providing supplementary information to the CRTC. It was noted that the CRTC was quite impressed with the joint presentation. Warden Smith said the group answered questions for over an hour, and the CRTC was quite attentive. She is looking forward to the forthcoming report. Warden Jones noted the CRTC panel had a lot of respect for elected officials. Chair Emon added that the questions asked were in regards to EORN's history, as well as its need in the future if these suggestions were to be implemented. However, the group responded that organizations like the EOWC and EORN are necessary to push the private sector into such projects and act as a coordinating body. The Chair thanked EORN and Mr. Fell for preparing the Wardens for the presentation.

7.14.3 Innovation Ecosystem Report

David Fell provided an update on the Innovation Ecosystem, noting the partnership with Ryerson University and the Leadership Council is moving ahead as planned. A regional partnership is required to move forward. The final draft should be available with the next two weeks, at which point a meeting will be set up with all stakeholders to plan a strategy. Mr. Fell will distribute the final report to all Wardens and CAOs.

7.14.4 Support for Ryerson University

David Fell noted that the EOWC and EORN have previously supported a number of Ryerson University's proposals and have helped it acquire funding for workforce development. The university has asked for the EOWC's support in its application to the Ontario Human Capital Research and Innovation Fund, to address labour market challenges in the region.

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Brocanier**

THAT the EOWC Inc. support the request from Ryerson University and prepare a letter of support for its application to the Ontario Human Capital Research and Innovation Fund.

CARRIED

8. Closed Session

8.1 Eastern Ontario Regional Network, Cell Gap Report – Jim Pine

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Phillips**

THAT the EOWC Inc. move into Closed Session to discuss the Cell Gap Report.

CARRIED

**Moved by Warden MacDonald
Seconded by Warden Smith**

THAT staff be directed to follow the next steps provided during the closed session.

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

9.1 Outgoing

- 9.1.1 Letter to Minister Navdeep Singh Bains regarding the Eastern Ontario Development Program, dated February 19, 2016
- 9.1.2 Letter to Mayor Jim Watson regarding inter-municipal billing agreements with the City of Ottawa, dated February 23, 2016
- 9.1.3 Letter to Councillor Eli El-Chantiry regarding ambulance service agreements with Ottawa, dated February 24, 2016
- 9.1.4 Letter to Minister Ted McMeekin regarding Multi-Ministerial Delegation at ROMA/OGRA, dated February 29, 2016
- 9.1.5 Letter to Minister Jeff Leal regarding Multi-Ministerial Delegation at ROMA/OGRA, dated February 29, 2016
- 9.1.6 Letter to MPP Patrick Brown regarding the PC Caucus Delegation at ROMA/OGRA, dated February 29, 2016
- 9.1.7 Letter to MPP Percy Hatfield regarding the NDP Caucus Delegation at ROMA/OGRA, dated February 29, 2016
- 9.1.8 Letter to Mayor Jim Watson regarding a meeting to discuss the inter-municipal billing agreements, dated March 17, 2016
- 9.1.9 Letter to the Ontario Energy Board regarding expansion of natural gas services to rural areas, dated April 6, 2016
- 9.1.10 Letter to Transport Action Ontario regarding passenger rail and intercity bus service improvements, dated April 14, 2016

**Moved by Warden Schermerhorn
Seconded by Warden MacDonald**

THAT the outgoing correspondence be received.

CARRIED

9.2 Incoming

- 9.2.1 Letter from the Town of Cobourg regarding *Provincial Offences Act* Cost Recovery, dated February 1, 2016
- 9.2.2 Letter from MPP Percy Hatfield regarding his speech in the Provincial Legislature, dated March 2, 2016
- 9.2.3 Letter from MPPs Patrick Brown & Ernie Hardeman regarding PC Caucus Delegation at ROMA/OGRA, dated March 7, 2016
- 9.2.4 Letter from Minister Jeff Leal regarding the Multi-Ministerial Delegation at ROMA/OGRA, dated March 11, 2016
- 9.2.5 Letter from Mayor Jim Watson regarding the ambulance service agreements with Ottawa, dated March 29, 2016
- 9.2.6 Letter from Robert J. Potts regarding the Algonquin Treaty Negotiations, dated March 30, 2016
- 9.2.7 Letter from Mayor François St-Amour to the Ontario Energy Board regarding natural gas expansion, dated April 4, 2016
- 9.2.8 Resolution from the Township of North Stormont regarding the Ontario Energy Board hearing, dated April 12, 2016

Moved by Warden Desjardins

Seconded by Warden Phillips

THAT the incoming correspondence be received.

CARRIED

10. By-laws (n/a)

11. Notice of Motions (n/a)

12. Confirmation By-law #16-07

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Mayor Letham**

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 22nd day of April, 2016 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.

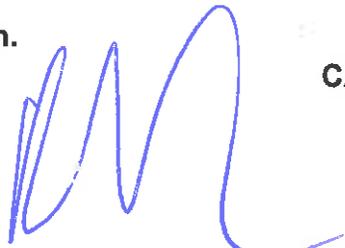
2. THAT the Chair and the proper officers of the Corporation of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. are hereby authorized and directed to do all the things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain any approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be necessary, and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

13. Adjournment

**Moved by Warden Smith
Seconded by Warden Code**

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

CARRIED



Peter Emon, Chair



Jim Hutton, Secretary-Treasurer