



## Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Friday, April 24, 2015  
County of Northumberland  
Cobourg ON  
9:00 a.m.**

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

<b>Present</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Head of Council</b>	<b>Staff</b>
County of Frontenac		Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	
City of Kawartha Lakes		Mark Fisher, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden Keith Kerr	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden David Gordon	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington		Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Marc Coombs	Jennifer Moore, Acting CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Gary King, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Robert Quaiff	
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Robert Kirby	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Peter Emon	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Eric Duncan, Chair	Tim Simpson, CAO, Secretary/Treasurer

<b>Regrets</b>		
County of Frontenac	Warden Denis Doyle	
County of Haliburton	Warden Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings		Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	
County of Lennox & Addington	Warden Gord Schermerhorn	

<b>Others Present</b>	
<b>Delegation/Guests</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Justin Bromberg	Executive Assistant and Communications
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	CSRO, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Stephen Seller	Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

**1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome**

Chair Eric Duncan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - Nil**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Warden Emon**

**Seconded by Warden Jones**

**THAT the Agenda of the April 22, 2015 meeting be adopted as amended.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of February 22, 2015 and the closed session meeting of February 22, 2015, were presented.

**Moved by Warden Emon**

**Seconded by Warden Coombs**

**THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of February 22, 2015 and the closed session meeting of February 22, 2015, be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

## **5. Delegations**

### **5.1 Howie Wong, CEO, Housing Services Corporation**

CEO Howie Wong addressed the EOWC about the recent changes and improvements at the Housing Services Corporation and the challenges of funding social housing (insurance and natural gas) and the rising costs in this sector. He noted that rising costs include aging infrastructure and government funding challenges, particularly in Eastern Ontario. Chair Duncan inquired about MPP Ernie Hardeman's Bill 74, *Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act*, its proposed changes, and any openness on the part of the HSC as to increased accountability. CEO Wong replied that the HSC would wait for the results of the independent review ordered by the Ontario government but said that HSC would have no objection to any further recommendation from the Legislature.

## **6. Reports from Wardens**

### **6.1 Chair's Update – Eric Duncan**

Chair Duncan spoke about the credibility of the EOWC and the increasing volume of requests for delegations, such as TransCanada and Energy East. He discussed his presentation on Bill 31 to the Standing Committee at Queen's Park and its importance for the municipal sector. He provided an update of the last AMO meeting, including a presentation from Minister Glen Murray. He noted the EOMC held its inaugural meeting a few weeks ago and that Mayor Bryan Paterson was elected as Chair. A meeting is scheduled between Chair Duncan and Mayor Paterson on May 8.

### **6.2 Updates from Wardens**

CAO Kelly Pender spoke about the Community School Alliance and that Warden Doyle and Doug Reyecraft would like to speak to the EOWC about the effects of community closures in rural Ontario. Warden Rick Phillips discussed the ongoing issue of joint and several liability, and suggested a campaign to inform municipal taxpayers about the situation and that costs will increase. He also asked for support on working against the proposed health care changes, whereby graduating doctors are being banned from joining local family health teams. As of now, they are only allowed to

replace a doctor that is leaving. CAO Mark Fisher spoke about a core services review in the City, and trying to implement some changes to the firefighters. Warden Keith Kerr provided updates on new infrastructure in his County. CAO Larry Keech spoke about the County budget and noted that Warden Schermerhorn is currently attending a meeting in Toronto for the Goodyear plant. Warden David Gordon spoke about his County's first Official Plan as well as the ongoing situation with Kemptville College. Warden Marc Coombs spoke about the launch of the Agri-Food Centre. Warden J. Murray Jones noted that the County budget has been approved and that there is a meeting next week with Premier Wynne where he plans to discuss joint and several liability. He asked for support from the EOWC in the form of a letter signed by all Wardens. Mayor Robert Quaiff noted that his County has an interim CAO at the moment and mentioned a few infrastructure updates, as well as concerns with health care in Prince Edward County. Warden Robert Kirby mentioned the recent downloading of a \$2-million roads fund from the County to local municipalities, the maple sap production in the Larose Forest, discussions on Alfred College, the Official Plan meetings, and an expansion of the County building. Warden Peter Emon spoke about the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories and the budget. CAO Tim Simpson discussed the County's asset review as well as some recent restructuring changes, and noted the International Plowing Match will be taking place in Finch from September 22 to 26.

## **7. Reports for Review/Discussion**

### **7.1 Future of the EOWC – Chair Duncan & Tim Simpson**

Chair Duncan spoke about the need to have an open conversation about the future direction, structure and advocacy of the EOWC. He spoke about being more effective with regards to multi-ministerial delegations, and that by expanding the EOWC's focus, it has reduced its effectiveness. He suggested individual follow-ups by Wardens after such delegations. Warden Phillips agreed that the EOWC should focus on two or three specific issues and to keep focused on the topics, both with the public and Ministers. Warden Jones suggested a private meeting with Ministers as opposed to a formal delegation. Warden Gordon said we need to be more aggressive and push for responses. Warden Emon agreed with the idea of sharpening the focus for upcoming delegations and having Wardens responsible for follow-ups.

## **7.2 Review of Provincial and Federal Meetings – Chair Duncan**

Chair Duncan noted that the EOWC asked many questions at its recent delegations, and would be more effective by reducing these and having a more open discussion on fewer subjects. In the future, there is a need to work more closely with Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants, as well as Deputy Ministers.

On the federal side, Chair Duncan noted that MP Barry Devolin suggested that the EOWC meet with the leading Liberal and Conservative candidate in each riding to follow up on the cell gap analysis. The EOWC should meet with Industry Canada now instead of waiting until the fall, and to keep pushing on this issue with the help of two or three Wardens.

## **7.3 Update on 2015 Priorities – Chair Duncan & Tim Simpson**

Following the two previous discussions, Wardens asked CAOs to create a plan ahead of the AMO Conference, indicating which Wardens are going to tackle each issue and the overall rollout of the revised EOWC strategy. The key is to determine our priorities, not only at AMO, and how to enforce those priorities and obtain answers from the government. Chair Duncan reiterated the need to remain focused on the priorities. Tim Simpson noted the EOWC is still awaiting a response on the RED funding application. Gary King suggested an acknowledgment letter to the federal government regarding the social housing funding included in the budget. Chair Duncan reminded the Wardens of the need for an honest conversation at the June meeting regarding priorities and to make a decision moving forward.

## **7.4 Update on EOWC Queen's Park Day – Tim Simpson**

As opposed to a Queen's Park Day, Chair Duncan suggested this concept could be arranged at a lesser cost by using the AMO boardroom and Queen's Park meeting rooms without a formal reception, and by hosting several meetings with various interest groups in Toronto. He suggested watching for opportunities to address Standing Committees at Queen's Park and reminded Wardens that if their issue comes forward, to register at Queen's Park for the follow up.

### **7.5 Support for AMO on Project Greenlight – Tim Simpson**

Tim Simpson explained AMO's concerns regarding Project Greenlight and Stéphane P. Parisien noted that one issue with the proposed provincial changes is that local electricity distribution companies (LDCs) are the highest performing in Ontario but that the Ontario Energy Board doesn't favour this. It was suggested that the EOWC support AMO on its letter.

**Moved by Warden Jones**

**Seconded by Warden Phillips**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. support AMO on Project Greenlight and send a letter of support.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.6 Provincial Offences Act Reform Consultation – Tim Simpson**

Tim Simpson discussed the ongoing consultation regarding substantial changes to the *Provincial Offences Act*, adding that the Municipal Court Managers' Association (MCMA) would likely have been consulted on this. He noted that the deadline for comments is April 28. Chair Duncan added that the proposed changes are mostly positive and suggested that local counties provide the necessary feedback.

### **7.7 Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act – Chair Duncan**

Chair Duncan explained that MPP Ernie Hardeman is presenting this Bill at Queen's Park and opened the floor for comments or feedback. He noted the Bill makes reference to the need for increased accountability from the Housing Services Corporation.

### **7.8 Smart Growth for Our Communities Act – Jim Hutton**

Jim Hutton explained there are a number of concerns regarding Bill 73, which are outlined in the County of Renfrew's letter to the Province. He discussed the province's proposed changes and suggested that a letter from the Chair be sent to all EOWC Counties, including the Renfrew letter as an attachment, informing them of the changes. Each County can then respond to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as need be.

## **7.9 Natural gas expansion / Energy East – Stéphane P. Parisien**

Chair Duncan recalled the concerns of the natural gas companies with the proposed Energy East pipeline. Stéphane P. Parisien noted there was a presentation from TransCanada at the last CAOs meeting to discuss some of these concerns. In February, Union Gas asked the EOWC to support WOWC in its opposition to the pipeline, although the EOWC would prefer not to be involved in this debate.

Mr. Parisien recalled that the Province is also offering grants for natural gas expansion in communities. This being a priority for many Wardens, he inquired about interest in an EOWC-led natural gas expansion project, similar to EORN, whereby the EOWC seeks public and private partners. Several Wardens suggested pursuing this avenue. Chair Duncan noted the importance of having all the companies sit at the table together. It was suggested to invite a delegation to the next CAOs meeting.

Gary King noted the cost associated with this type of infrastructure project, and inquired as to whether the EOWC should focus on specific areas. An analysis is necessary to acquire specific details or prepare a business plan, although the gas companies will have some of this information. It was noted that the growth strategies exist, the desire to have natural gas exists, but there needs to be some flexibility from the Ontario Energy Board as to the five-year return on investment criteria. The Wardens suggested moving forward in the coming months, beginning with meetings with companies, and to prepare an analysis if there is project potential.

## **7.10 Eastern Ontario Purchasing Collaborative – Kurt Greaves**

Kurt Greaves discussed the Eastern Ontario Purchasing Collaborative and updates from the group's recent meeting. He noted that not all counties have a purchaser on staff and that there is great potential in group purchasing, including ambulances and road signs. He asked the EOWC to endorse the Terms of Reference. The next meeting is on Monday, June 1.

**Moved by Warden Jones  
Seconded by Warden Gordon**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. endorse the EOPC's Terms of Reference.  
CARRIED**

## **7.11 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Update – David Fell**

### **7.11.1 EORN CEO Report**

David Fell discussed the CEO Report and noted that one EORN board member has requested a governance review at the next meeting, the Annual General Meeting in June. It would involve a by-law change, to remove the requirement to have one board seat reserved for a First Nations community member. That seat has been vacant since the board's inception although there are many requests to fill it from other parties. Staff will therefore recommend that the board modify the bylaw to increase the number of private sector seats from two to three.

### **7.11.2 EORN Magnet Report**

David Fell discussed the Magnet Report and explained the exclusive job posting system, whereby applicants are matched up with manufacturers. He offered to provide a demonstration to the EOWC in the future. He noted that this project was a major manufacturing job-training component and one of the elements of the Economic Development Strategy.

### **7.11.3 EORN Deloitte Audit Report & OMAFRA Draft Audit**

David Fell discussed the audit report and noted two minor compliance issues that were addressed as a one-time item or as part of the ongoing improvement process. He said all of the audited expenses were deemed to be eligible. The compliance issues are regarding ISPs customer service targets and EORN's reporting requirements. On the first point, he noted that some carriers have been quite good at updating service levels and that a remediation plan is in place for the others.

The final cost of the project is \$175,943,746, which is \$5 million above the initial estimate but this is due to additional support from the private sector, which contributed a total of \$61 million. Total administrative costs were \$10,080,131. He thanked the EOWC and Wardens for their support.

#### **7.11.4 EORN Cell Gap Analysis**

Lisa Severson explained that a Request for Information would be issued in early June to gauge the interest of industry partners to participate in the cell gap project in the near future. An analysis is being conducted on the key economic impacts of cell gaps across Eastern Ontario. The estimate is that in the next 10 years, a cell gap improvement project could provide a potential \$400 million in economic activity and 4,000 full-time jobs.

The potential information garnered from the RFI will assist EORN and EOWC in the formulation of plan to find solutions to fill the gaps. This will require investment from the public and private sectors.

She also noted that EORN is working with both the federal and provincial government to create a best practices document, which will be made available to other groups on how the project was able to be successful.

**Moved by Warden Jones  
Seconded by Warden Kerr**

**THAT the EOWC approve the recommendations from EORN for the issuance of a Request for Information as the next step in the EORN cell gap analysis and;**

**THAT staff be directed to complete and issue the Request for Information by early June 2015.**

**CARRIED**

#### **8. Closed Session**

##### **8.1 Eastern Ontario Regional Network – David Fell**

**Moved by Warden Coombs  
Seconded by Warden Phillips**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. move into Closed Session to discuss a personnel information update.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Warden Kerr  
Seconded by Warden Gordon**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. move out of Closed Session.  
CARRIED**

**9. Correspondence**

**Moved by Warden Phillips  
Seconded by Warden Coombs**

**THAT the incoming and outgoing correspondence be received.  
CARRIED**

**9.1 Outgoing**

9.1.1 Letter to the Eastern and Northern Ontario Federal Caucus regarding the Parliament Hill meeting, dated March 2, 2015

9.1.2 Letter to Minister Ted McMeekin regarding the EOWC Multi-Ministers Meeting, dated March 5, 2015

9.1.3 Letter to MPP Ernie Hardeman regarding the EOWC Meeting with the PC Caucus, dated March 5, 2015

9.1.4 Letter to the Town of Mississippi Mills regarding support for its resolution on hydro generation expansion projects, dated March 6, 2015

9.1.5 Presentation by Chair Eric Duncan to Standing Committee on General Government regarding Bill 31, dated March 11, 2015

**9.2 Incoming**

9.2.1 Letter from the Township of Champlain regarding support for Town of Mississippi Mills on hydro generation projects, dated February 19, 2015

- 9.2.2 Letter from Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding support for County of Renfrew (Canadian Nuclear Laboratories), dated February 25, 2015
- 9.2.3 Letter from County of Renfrew regarding resolution on financial demands placed on small rural municipalities, dated February 26, 2015
- 9.2.4 Letter from Minister Ted McMeekin regarding our position on the Places to Grow exercise, dated March 16, 2015
- 9.2.5 Letter from Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding municipal authority over hydro generation, dated March 18, 2015
- 9.2.6 Letter from the Town of Mississippi Mills regarding EOWC support for its resolution, dated March 24, 2015
- 9.2.7 Letter from Minister Ted McMeekin regarding the EOWC Multi-Ministers Meeting, dated March 30, 2015
- 9.2.8 Letter from the County of Peterborough regarding resolution on the Ontario Imagery Strategy, dated April 14, 2015
- 9.2.9 Letter from the Township of Admaston/Bromley regarding expansion of natural gas to rural areas, dated April 16, 2015
- 9.2.10 Letter from the County of Lanark regarding its resolution on natural gas and the Energy East project, dated April 17, 2015

**9. By-laws**

**10. Notice of Motions**

**11. Confirmation By-law #15-05**

**Moved by Warden Jones  
Seconded by Warden Gordon**

**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 24th day of April, 2015 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.**

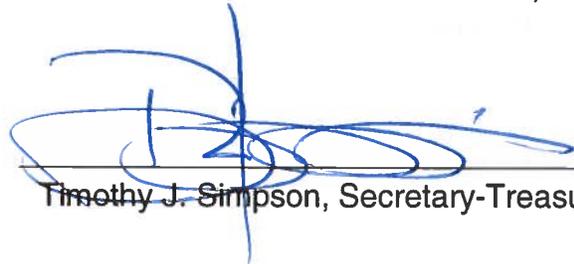
**12. Adjournment**

**Moved by Warden Kerr  
Seconded by Warden Coombs**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**



Eric Duncan, Chair



Timothy J. Simpson, Secretary-Treasurer