



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017
ROMA Conference
Sheraton Centre Hotel
Toronto ON
12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance.

Present		
County	Head of Council	Staff
County of Frontenac		
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	
County of Northumberland	Warden Mark Walas	Jennifer Moore, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden Joe Taylor	Gary King, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Gary J. Barton	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
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	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County of Frontenac	Warden Ron Vandewal	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington		Larry Keech, CAO

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Justin Bromberg	Communications and Policy Coordinator, EOWC
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	Communications Stakeholder and Relations Officer, EORN
Paula Preston	Technical Prime, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Brandon Forrest	Municipal Services Manager, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Karla Sampson	Executive Assistant, County of Peterborough

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 Cooney
Seconded by Warden Barton**

THAT the Agenda of the January 31, 2017 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meetings of January 5 and 6, 2017 were presented.

**Moved by Warden Bancroft
Seconded by Warden Murphy**

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meetings of January 5 and 6, 2017 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

5.1 Mark L. Lesinski, President/CEO, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories – Near Surface Disposal Facility Project

Mark Lesinski, President and CEO of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) in Chalk River, addressed the Wardens regarding CNL's recent infrastructure investments, decommissioning strategy, and operations. He also spoke at length about two of CNL's major projects in the near future, being the Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) Closure Project and the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). He invited County Councils to visit the CNL facilities and welcomed any questions from the members.

6. Reports for Review/Discussion

6.1 Updates to EOWC 2017 Schedule and Contact List – Chair Quaiff

Chair Quaiff asked members to take note of the revised EOWC 2017 Schedule, including the next Wardens meeting in the County of Lennox and Addington (April 21), as well as the revised Contact List.

6.2 Recap of ROMA 2017 Conference and Delegations – Chair Quaiff

Chair Quaiff noted that the delegations were well received and that the new format (pre-conference briefing and post-conference meeting) has some advantages. Warden Lowry raised the issue of Bill 39 and the proposed changes to the *Aggregate Resources Act*. This issue affects rural Western Ontario on a larger scale, and the WOWC may require the EOWC's support. Chair Quaiff noted that he met with the WOWC Chair this week and will invite him to an upcoming meeting. The Bill 39 issue will be added to the next CAOs agenda for discussion and the EOWC will also request positions and recommendations from AMO and TAPMO.

6.3 Position Paper and Presentation on Natural Gas – Kurt Greaves

Kurt Greaves presented a PowerPoint regarding natural gas expansion in rural Eastern Ontario and summarizing his discussions with Enbridge, including their potential expansion sites. He recalled that earlier this week,

the Province announced \$100 million in funding for natural gas expansion. He suggested that the EOWC adopt a resolution supporting rural natural gas expansion and requesting additional funding from the Province.

**Moved by Warden Dobson
Seconded by Warden Walas**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC send a letter to the Minister of Energy asking him to implement a Provincial Policy change to allow a reasonable subsidy to be charged to existing natural gas customers to help pay for Natural Gas Expansion in small rural communities;

AND THAT the EOWC work to ensure the Provincial investment in Renewable Natural Gas includes projects in rural Eastern Ontario;

AND THAT the EOWC work with its partners in the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus to ask the Minister of Infrastructure to increase the \$100-million grant to a 20-year, \$1.5-billion program for natural gas expansion across rural Ontario.

AND FURTHER THAT this item be referred to the CAOs for further discussion with a recommendation to come back to the Wardens in April.

CARRIED

6.4 Rural School Closures and Accommodation Reviews – Chair Quaiff

Chair Quaiff noted this issue was raised during this morning's delegation with Minister Jeff Leal, and he personally delivered the EOWC's concerns to the Minister.

7. Closed Session (n/a)

8. Reports from Wardens

8.1 Chair's Update – Robert Quaiff

Chair Quaiff spoke about his new role on the AMO board. Locally, the County of Prince Edward's budget has been passed. The County is asking the OMB to reduce the number of councilors; there are currently 15 for a population of 25,000. The OFA also asked the County to lower its farm tax ratio; the motion was carried unanimously at Committee of the Whole but following public backlash, Council eventually voted 9-7 against the motion. Gary King noted that the EOWC spent \$25,000 five years ago to work with Allan and Partners LLP to produce a research paper on the farm tax rebate funding formula and its inherent problems. As one example, SD&G loses \$18 million per year in tax revenues due to the farm tax rebate.

Warden Barton inquired as to the number of Counties that have two-year terms for their Wardens. Several Counties have two-year Wardens and others are considering the change. Mike Rutter is preparing a study on the matter and will share the results with the other Counties in April.

8.2 Wardens' Updates

Wardens provided various updates from their Counties, including the adoption of budgets, recreational trails, core service reviews, school closures, land clearing, the farm tax rebate, development charges, reducing the number of wards, and emergency services.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Outgoing (n/a)

9.2 Incoming

9.2.1 Resolution from the Town of Petawawa supporting the OFA/EOWC/WOWC partnership, dated December 20, 2016

9.2.2 Letter from MPP Ernie Hardeman regarding hydroelectricity pricing and availability, dated December 21, 2016

- 9.2.3 Letter from AMO President Lynn Dollin regarding Pupil Accommodation Reviews, dated January 5, 2017
- 9.2.4 Letter from AMO President Lynn Dollin regarding the Fire-Medic Proposal, dated January 9, 2017
- 9.2.5 Resolution from the Municipality of Port Hope regarding the Vacancy Rebate Program, dated January 17, 2017

**Moved by Warden Murphy
Seconded by Warden Bancroft**

THAT the EOWC Inc. express its particular support regarding the letter from AMO President Lynn Dollin regarding the Fire-Medic Proposal.

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

THAT the outgoing and incoming correspondence be received.

CARRIED

10. By-laws

11. Notice of Motions

12. Confirmation By-law #17-04

**Moved by Warden Murphy
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 31st day of January, 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 Barton
Seconded by Warden Taylor**

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:12 p.m.



Robert Quaiff, Chair



James Hepburn, Secretary-Treasurer