



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Thursday, June 25, 2015
County of Renfrew
Pembroke ON
3:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance.

Present		
County	Head of Council	Staff
County of Frontenac	Warden Denis Doyle	
County of Haliburton	Warden Murray Fearrey	Jim Wilson, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	Jim Pine, 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	Warden Gord Schermerhorn	
County of Northumberland	Warden Marc Coombs	Jennifer Moore, Acting CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	
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

Regrets		
County of Frontenac		Kelly Pender, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	Ron Taylor, Acting CAO
County of Lennox & Addington		Larry Keech, CAO
County of Peterborough		Gary King, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Robert Quaiff	James Hepburn, Acting CAO

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
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
Kathryn Wood	President, Natural Capital Resources Inc.

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Chair Eric Duncan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Warden Peter Emon provided some history of the County of Renfrew building.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - Nil

3. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Warden Doyle
Seconded by Warden Gordon**

**THAT the Agenda of the June 25, 2015 meeting be adopted as presented.
CARRIED**

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of April 24, 2015 and the closed session meeting of April 24, 2015, were presented.

**Moved by Warden Schermerhorn
Seconded by Warden Coombs**

**THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of April 24, 2015 and the closed session meeting of April 24, 2015, be approved as circulated.
CARRIED**

5. Delegations

5.1 Benjamin De Haan and Chris Bradley, on behalf of the County and Single Tier (CoST) Public Works Managers

Benjamin De Haan, Director of Transportation and Planning Services at the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and Chris Bradley, Director of Public Works at the County of Peterborough, introduced the County and Single Tier (CoST) Public Works Managers group and explained its mandate and composition. They presented the ongoing issue of asphalt cement quality across Ontario. Mr. Bradley noticed that he has observed a major change in the quality of asphalt in the last 40 years, noting in particular the grey colour of brand new asphalt. While this grey colour is due to oxidation, the process is now taking place much quicker and, as a result, the asphalt is losing its strength. Air is being injected into the asphalt in order to pass quality-control testing, however this has resulted in pavement cracking in three to five years – which should only happen in 10 to 15 years. Similar problems do not exist in southwestern Ontario, mainly due to climate issues. Mr. De Haan explained the media attention that this issue has received in the local and regional media. There are major financial and environmental concerns, and the private sector would prefer to use the product it already has. The industry is meeting the required Ministry of Transportation specifications; however, given the way they are written, it allows them to offer a less-than-premium product. It is a multi-layer problem and often not everyone is aware. The blame is being shifted around, and often to municipalities.

One of the most recycled products in the world is asphalt, but it must be ensured that the quality is guaranteed. CoST's position is that it would be worthwhile to pay more for a better quality and longer-lasting product. The group, however, does not have the resources to make an informed decision on how to specify asphalt concrete. CoST is asking the EOWC to take an advocacy position on this issue, to present this issue to the MTO to take the lead in terms of technical and scientific changes – without any political interference. The Ministry must allow staff to complete its work; staff are not being given the tools to push this matter further. Municipalities are also getting inadequate funding, despite the creation of provincially-mandated asset management plans. An improvement in the quality of asphalt would go further than any such plans.

It was asked that the EOWC make this case known politically on behalf of Eastern Ontario. It was suggested to go through the Ministry's Director of Eastern Region, Kathryn Moore, however the testing results haven't been made public and CoST isn't certain there is a will to move forward. If the Ministry has the capability to set the standards, it is in the best position to take the charge. Another issue is that the oil is being re-refined due to the low sale price, in addition to additives and other elements during the refining process. Asphalt suppliers admit that the supply is not as good as it used to be, and testing parameters have changed, meaning the material is approved as long as it passes certain test aspects. Some discussion ensued on options and alternatives, including the use of concrete.

Chair Duncan suggested the EOWC could take a mild advocacy approach through a separate delegation with the Ministry of Transportation during the AMO Conference, as to what the Ministry's recommendations and plans are on this issue. Tim Simpson will make this request to the MTO.

5.2 Stephen Seller, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Stephen Seller explained that four major pieces of legislation are currently under review by the Province: the *Municipal Act*, the *City of Toronto Act*, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act*. He provided some background on each piece of legislation and the objectives of each review, as well as the consultation process currently under way.

The reviews are scoped by key themes as determined by the feedback received by the Ministry from municipalities, the public, and experts since the last reviews. The three main themes of the *Municipal Act*, *City of Toronto Act* and *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* reviews are accountability and transparency; municipal financial sustainability; and responsive and flexible municipal government. The five themes of the *Municipal Elections Act* review are campaign finance; third party advertising; accessibility; enforcement; and ranked ballots. Mr. Seller briefly explained each of the themes, and answered questions from Wardens. He encouraged the EOWC members to follow the tutorial on ranked ballots on the Ministry's website.

6. Reports from Wardens

6.1 Chair's Update – Eric Duncan

Chair Duncan spoke about his meeting last month with incoming EOMC Chair Bryan Paterson and spoke to the credibility of Kingston CAO Gerard Hunt. Vice-Chair J. Murray Jones, who attended the last EOMC meeting, noted the EOMC has been strengthened and that it will be contributing to the Economic Development Strategy. Chair Duncan also noted that he made a presentation at the Ontario East AGM last week, and that he and Tim Simpson also held a positive meeting with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture on the subjects of natural gas and Connecting Links. The OFA will present to the joint EOWC/WOWC meeting at the AMO Conference.

6.2 Updates from Wardens

Warden Doyle discussed the issue regarding building on private roads and the lack of information in the Provincial Policy Statement. His County will retain legal counsel should this matter be presented to the Ontario Municipal Board. Warden Phillips spoke of the recent County of Hastings Day, which was a success and allowed many local councillors to meet one another. He also discussed his County's concerns with the ability of rural doctors to join Family Health Teams, as well as joint and several liability. Warden Gordon noted the County's retirement home and the construction of new ambulance stations. Warden Schermerhorn mentioned the draft of the County's Official Plan and the ongoing situation with Hydro One on the Goodyear plant. Warden Coombs spoke about the opening of the Agri-Food Centre and the ongoing Official Plan process, and the construction of the first joint paramedic and fire hall station. Vice-Chair Jones spoke of economic development between the County and the City of Peterborough. Warden Kirby noted his Council has cancelled all of the previous Council's projects, and the ongoing work on the Official Plan revision, as well as the distribution of \$4 million to local municipalities for infrastructure. Warden Emon discussed the Official Plan draft and the consultation process, as well as the construction of the new \$5.6-million OPP station. Tim Simpson mentioned the Official Plan review, as well as the issue of wind turbines and the delivery of tourism services. Warden Fearrey noted the Official Plan update and the need for natural gas expansion.

7. Reports for Review/Discussion

7.1 EOWC Strategy / AMO Conference – Chair Duncan & Tim Simpson

Tim Simpson referenced the memo for the AMO approach, following discussions held in April and May. The central question is “What’s the Plan for Eastern Ontario,” with themes based on the 2015 priorities and the white papers. The idea is to have less script and more true discussion, creating a greater opportunity for dialogue. He asked for feedback from members in order to frame the package and have it ready in advance of the next meeting, at the AMO Conference. Chair Duncan noted that the EOWC needs to improve at meeting with staff and MPPs between conferences in order to have a continued impact and be more effective moving forward. Some discussion ensued. Warden Coombs recalled the effectiveness of the Ministers’ Forum and it was agreed that the EOWC should show its strength by returning to that approach. Chair Duncan suggested combining the Multi-Minister panel with the Ministers’ Forum as well as separate delegations on any other key issues. Members agreed.

7.2 Natural Gas Expansion Update – Tim Simpson & Jim Pine

Tim Simpson provided an update on natural gas expansion within Eastern Ontario, including ongoing talks with the OFA and the energy companies. There will be upcoming Ontario Energy Board consultations, during which the EOWC can present an oral or written submission. He explained that Enbridge has a list of 30 pilot communities, pending relaxation of the rules from the OEB. There won’t be any rollout of provincial funding until 2016 or 2017. Jim Pine noted that the EOWC has provided business park data to Enbridge and Union Gas in order to allow those companies to consider those parks as candidates for potential expansion. Exact mapping data is also being prepared and will be sent out shortly. This expansion push will be part of the upcoming provincial infrastructure consultations as well as the report being prepared by Kathryn Wood for that consultation. Members agreed to continue working with both the OEB and the energy companies.

7.3 Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy – Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton recalled that one key recommendation from the Strategy was the creation of a regional leadership council. Last week, the EOWC agreed

to join in funding, to the tune of \$45,000 over three years, in addition to the EOWC's contribution of \$75,000 and EORN's contribution of \$100,000. There is an application to the Eastern Ontario Development Program for regional funding. Mr. Hutton summarized the mandate of the leadership council and its eventual members, as well as administration, funding and first actions. He stressed that there would be no duplication with other organizations, and illustrated this using a Mind Map showing the tasks currently being handled by the EORN Digital Strategy, the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy, and the Ontario East 2015 plan.

Mr. Hutton noted the State of New York just released "Open for Business," a new government approach to economic growth, which is exactly in line with what the EOWC is trying to achieve with the Strategy. Given the economic situation and transformation in Eastern Ontario, and the closure of manufacturing plants, the push towards a knowledge economy, and the new digital strategy, the guiding coalition is recommending that the EOWC move forward. He asked for direction and approval from the EOWC to implement the leadership council. Wardens provided supportive comments and agreed the EOWC needs to take the lead on this initiative.

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

THAT the EOWC Inc. authorize the CAOs to proceed with the establishment of the Regional Leadership Council, as recommended in the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy, that EORN become a part of the Regional Leadership Council, and that both parties continue to pursue federal and provincial financial support for the project.

CARRIED

7.4 Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA Consultation – Jim Pine

Jim Pine provided an overview of the upcoming provincial infrastructure consultations and explained the administrative decision to hire Kathryn Wood to prepare a report for submission as part of these consultations. He added that EORN is also contributing to the cost of this report. Ms. Wood discussed the opportunity for comment with these consultations and noted that much of the \$15 billion has already been allocated. Of the total amount, \$3.5 billion has been allocated for regional funding.

Furthermore, these funds will be rolled out over a period of about eight years, with some funding programs beginning earlier and others later. She stressed which types of projects are being sought by the province and which ones the EOWC might wish to pursue, including regional initiatives. She provided an overview of her observations thus far and suggested messaging that could be included, such as the need to increase the \$100-million annual infrastructure funding and other major recommendations from the White Papers. She provided several examples of potential regional projects and discussion ensued on that matter. It was decided that the Wardens will make a concerted effort to attend the five upcoming sessions in Eastern Ontario, from July 6 to 10, and to have Ms. Wood prepare a one-page summary of talking points for those sessions.

7.5 Bill 8 and Ombudsman for the EOWC – Tim Simpson & Jim Pine

Jim Pine explained that with the Ombudsman changes coming into effect on January 1, 2016, the CAOs are proposing the creation of a regional Ombudsman for the EOWC as well as any local municipalities that may wish to participate. He discussed the proposal included on the agenda and noted that some Counties have already moved forward to support this concept. The EOWC would share the retainer costs, and each County or local municipality would then pay its own costs for any investigation.

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

THAT the EOWC Inc. support the retaining of a regional ombudsman, as per the recommendation in the CAOs report, for use by County members and the 90 local municipalities covered within the EOWC region.

CARRIED

7.6 Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Tim Simpson

Chair Duncan noted that he recently met with the OFA, which is very keen to work with the EOWC on both natural gas and Connecting Links.

8. Closed Session (n/a)

9. Correspondence

**Moved by Warden Coombs
Seconded by Warden Emon**

THAT the incoming and outgoing correspondence be received.

CARRIED

9.1 Outgoing

- 9.1.1 Letter to the EOWC Counties regarding Bill 73 and changes to the Planning Act, dated April 29, 2015
- 9.1.2 Letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding joint and several liability, dated April 29, 2015
- 9.1.3 Letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister Bill Mauro regarding the Ontario Imagery Strategy, dated May 6, 2015
- 9.1.4 Letter to EOMC Chair Mayor Bryan Paterson regarding the Provincial Infrastructure Consultation, dated June 2, 2015

9.2 Incoming

- 9.2.1 Letter from Warden Peter Emon regarding Bill 73 and changes to the Planning Act, dated April 22, 2015
- 9.2.2 Letter from Warden Rick Phillips regarding access to team-based family practice models, dated May 1, 2015
- 9.2.3 Letter from Warden Robert Kirby regarding support for resolution on Ontario Imagery Strategy, dated May 4, 2015
- 9.2.4 Letter from Carleton University regarding the Post-Secondary Leadership Initiative on Regional Prosperity and Sustainable Development in Eastern Ontario, dated May 15, 2015
- 9.2.5 Letter from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry regarding Bill 73, dated May 21, 2015

- 9.2.6 Letter from Stefan Baranski, Regional Director of Energy East, regarding the Energy East Pipeline, dated May 22, 2015
- 9.2.7 Letter from Mayor Patrick Sayeau regarding the Port of Johnstown Grand Opening, dated May 25, 2015
- 9.2.8 Letter from Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding the Ontario Imagery Strategy, dated May 25, 2015
- 9.2.9 Letter from Minister Bill Mauro regarding the Ontario Imagery Strategy, dated May 26, 2015
- 9.2.10 Letter from Minister Ted McMeekin regarding municipal legislation review, dated June 5, 2015

It was agreed to resume discussions the following morning at 8:30 a.m.

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