



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

Friday, October 17, 2014
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 Denis Doyle	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Dave Burton	
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes		
County of Lanark	Warden Richard Kidd	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Ron Holman	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington	Warden Gord Schermerhorn	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland		Elizabeth Savill, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Gary King, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Peter Mertens	Merlin Dewing, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Jean Paul St. Pierre, Chair	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO, Secretary/Treasurer
County of Renfrew	Warden Peter Emon	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Eric Duncan	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County of Haliburton		Jim Wilson, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Ric McGee	Mark Fisher, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Linda Thompson, Vice-Chair	

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Justin Bromberg	Executive Assistant and Communications, UCPR
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	Communications Stakeholder and Relations Officer, EORN
Lisa Hirvi	Financial Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Sue Horwood	Treasurer, County of Hastings
Justin Watkins	Manager of Corporate and Strategic Services, SD&G
Stephen Seller	Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order and Chair St. Pierre welcomed everyone. The Chair asked members to observe a moment of silence for Warden Bud Clayton, who passed away on September 1st. The Chair also thanked non-returning Wardens for their service to the EOWC over the past year, and wished all Wardens good luck in the upcoming municipal elections.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - Nil

3. Approval of Agenda

Jim Hutton requested the addition of an item regarding an update on the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy.

Moved by Warden Burton

Seconded by Mayor Mertens

THAT the Agenda of the October 17, 2014 meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of August 17, 2014 and the Joint EOWC/WOWC meeting of August 17, 2014 were presented.

Moved by Warden Phillips

Seconded by Warden Kidd

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of August 17, 2014 and the Joint EOWC/WOWC meeting of August 17, 2014, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

5.1 Danny Watson, Eastern District Manager, Union Gas

Danny Watson of Union Gas presented a PowerPoint outlining some of the economic benefits of switching to natural gas. He noted that both Union Gas and Enbridge have engaged in discussions with a number of municipalities across the province with the goal of bringing service to such communities. There are many challenges in expanding natural gas and the solution also requires efforts from customers, municipalities, and the province. He noted the Ontario Liberals recognized this need and provided a \$200-million Natural Gas Access Loan and a \$30-million Natural Gas Economic Development Grant. However, he stressed the need for a more long-term funding commitment and encouraged Wardens to inform MPPs and cabinet ministers about the need to service these communities.

Mr. Watson explained that underground natural gas infrastructure is the only such infrastructure to require tax payment. In 2013, this amounted to \$63 million in taxes. One suggestion is to have this return in the form of a rebate to help pay for future expansion opportunities. Any incentive would require approval from the Ontario Energy Board. While much of the private investment is headed to larger urban areas, Mr. Watson noted that 2,700 new customers from Port Hope to Cornwall will receive service this year; however, each of those projects has to meet certain economic criteria. He also explained the financial shortfalls faced by homeowners benefiting from an expansion in natural gas service.

Warden Kidd proposed lobbying for such measures, and Warden Emon suggested tying the benefit to economic development. Chair St. Pierre suggested that the Caucus remain consistent in its messaging and have this item be considered for further reflection and action, including any work already being done from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

5.2 Daniel Rubinstein, Policy and Research Manager, FCM

Daniel Rubinstein of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities discussed some of the advocacy efforts that the FCM has been working on over the past few years to advance rural policy and priorities, noting that 40 per cent of its members are communities of less than 1,000 people. Some

recent successes are the new Building Canada Fund, which includes a dedicated Small Communities Fund, and disaster mitigation funding.

Mr. Rubinstein stressed that the 2015 federal election is an opportunity to present issues that matter, and discussed the FCM's Election Game Plan: to build on collective municipal strengths and speak with one united voice. He said the FCM is moving away from a list of classic "asks" but rather proposing policy solutions that federal parties should adopt to show they are working with municipalities to solve problems for Canadians. This covers five policy themes: local jobs and local growth; livable hometowns; safe cities and communities; environmentally sustainable communities; and globally connected municipalities. FCM will also continue its political party and government research, and boost it via media amplification; one example being the Hometown campaign (www.fcm.ca/hometown). A discussion ensued on accountability and police costs, among other items.

5.3 Richard Steinginga, Partner, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants

Richard Steinginga of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants presented the financial statements for the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (for the period ending December 31, 2013) as well as for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (for the period ending March 31, 2014). He noted both statements are balanced and within budget. Motion to receive the presentation, J Murray and Gord.

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Schermerhorn**

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the report from Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants on the audited financial statements for the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network.

CARRIED

5.4 Ben Le Fort, Farm Policy Researcher, OFA

Ben Le Fort of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture recalled that the Connecting Links program was terminated by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in 2013. He noted that the OFA is meeting in the coming

days with Minister Jeff Leal to highlight the importance of the program and the problems caused by its cancellation. The program previously provided up to 90% of funding, which has now been reduced to applying for critical infrastructure funding programs. He therefore asked that the EOWC, like the WOWC, lend its logo and the Chair's signature to the campaign in order to present a united front on behalf of rural municipalities.

Warden Emon suggested that the OFA hasn't had a strong voice on the Managed Forest and Farm Tax program. Mr. Le Fort replied that the OFA's policy objectives are derived from County federations, including the Connecting Links objective which came from Wellington County. He added that OFA members are in favour of the Farm Tax program, despite the adjustments for municipalities, and has been a popular change for farmers as it helps with their cash flow. Another joint action item with the WOWC is re-establishing the OMPF as well as any other rural transfers.

Warden Kidd inquired about natural gas. Mr. Le Fort confirmed that it has been a major policy lobbying item in the last couple of years and that the OFA had asked the province for dedicated grant money – the result being the \$200-million loan program. OFA researcher Ted Cowan is dedicated full-time to this issue. The ideal scenario is for 100-per-cent natural gas coverage in Ontario, much like some Western provinces. Mr. Le Fort concluded that repeat issues are always being found between the OFA and the WOWC, and suggested the growth of such commonalities as a result of further partnership with the EOWC. He suggested a future meeting to discuss both the Farm Tax rebate and natural gas.

**Moved by Warden Phillips
Seconded by Warden Duncan**

THAT the EOWC Inc. support the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus in their joint campaign to have the Connecting Links program reinstated, and that it approve the OFA's use of the EOWC logo and the Chair's signature for this campaign.

CARRIED

6. Reports for Review/Discussion

6.1 Industry Canada Proposal on 3500 MHz Band – Jim Pine, David Fell

Jim Pine distributed the briefing note prepared earlier this month by EOWC and EORN and noted that the combined efforts have received the attention of MPs, including Daryl Kramp. The message the EOWC must now deliver to its municipalities is that progress has been made and that efforts will continue to advise Industry Canada and the federal government of these concerns. Mr. Pine asked the Caucus to authorize the release of this briefing note to member municipalities, as well as acknowledge and thank MPs for their work while underlining that there is more to do on the mobile side. Mr. Pine also noted that he expressed concerns to the FCM this morning and had previously shared them with AMO and the WOWC. Warden Jones thanked Jim Pine for his effort, particularly as his response to this issue was so quick. Mr. Pine will circulate the document to all CAOs for further circulation, as well as to all MPs.

Moved by Warden Jones

Seconded by Warden Phillips

THAT the EOWC Inc. publicly release the EOWC/EORN briefing note regarding Industry Canada's proposal on the 3500 MHz Band and that each County circulate the document within their local municipalities and to their MPs.

CARRIED

6.2 AMCTO Municipal Internship Program – Tim Simpson, Jim Pine

Tim Simpson discussed the importance of the AMCTO Municipal Internship Program, noting the EOWC would be prudent in sending a letter to the province as an advocate for this program. Jim Pine added that there are 11 spots co-funded across Ontario, including seven at the municipal level. He underscored the importance of growing this program, which is experiencing financial difficulty at the moment, in order to attract talent to the municipal world. Gary King noted that Peterborough County received a letter from Minister Ted McMeekin, who feels there is value to the program and would give it some consideration in the budget discussions.

**Moved by Warden Duncan
Seconded by Warden Burton**

THAT the EOWC Inc. send a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs outlining its support for the AMCTO Municipal Internship Program and its advocacy for further growing and funding this important program for the municipal sector.

CARRIED

6.3 Queen's Park Day – Tim Simpson, Stéphane P. Parisien

Stéphane P. Parisien explained the proposal for an EOWC Queen's Park Day, beginning with the history and rollout of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell Day at Queen's Park over the past few years. He suggested the EOWC invest \$25,000 in this event, which would be held in 2015. Tim Simpson noted the genesis of this proposal comes from AMO but that the EOWC could take it to the next level, particularly to highlight our priorities in one-on-one discussions outside of the usual formal delegations. Mr. Parisien discussed the rewards and benefits, despite the initial cost, and asked for support. David Fell confirmed that EORN would be willing to participate financially, and proposed an amendment that EORN co-sponsor the event and pay for half of the overall cost. It was suggested that a small steering committee be established to prepare the event and plan the budget.

**Moved by Mayor Mertens
Seconded by Warden Duncan**

THAT the EOWC Inc. participate in this event at a cost of \$25,000, with 50 per cent of the cost financed by EORN, and that the EOWC be updated on the project and its preliminary budget figures during the Annual General Meeting in January.

CARRIED

With regard to the province, Warden Duncan further suggested that the EOWC follow up with the government on Bill 34, and offer to have our Chair or an EOWC representative be present during its upcoming announcement in order to thank the province and be in the stakeholder spotlight. It was agreed to write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Transportation.

Warden Kidd also suggested the EOWC consider a meeting in Ottawa with federal MPs for a similar event at Parliament Hill early next year. Warden Duncan offered to inquire with MP Guy Lauzon. This subject will be discussed by the CAOs at the November meeting and brought back to the Wardens for proposals in January.

6.4 Economic Development Day (November 21) – Jim Pine

Jim Pine explained there is a working committee in place to organize this event at Queen's University and invite attendees from CFDCs, federal and provincial representatives, economic development officers, in an effort move from the strategy to action with key organizations together in one room. The invitations will be distributed next week. The event will feature some guest speakers, working sessions, and roundtable discussions.

**Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Duncan**

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the report on the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Day.

CARRIED

6.5 Addressing Province on stable electricity – Warden Schermerhorn

On the topic of economic development, Warden Schermerhorn asked for a letter from the EOWC to support the County of Lennox and Addington and the Town of Greater Napanee in trying to attract Goodyear to build its new plant in that region. Goodyear's site selection committee is coming to look at the existing plant, and efforts are underway to promote the existing plant. It was noted that the federal government is on board but the provincial government could further assist in matters of hydroelectricity.

**Moved by Warden Schermerhorn
Seconded by Warden Kidd**

THAT the EOWC Inc. send a letter to the County of Lennox and Addington outlining its support to have Goodyear build its next plant in the Town of Greater Napanee.

CARRIED

The Wardens further suggested sending a second letter to Ministers Bob Chiarelli and Brad Duguid, regarding the difficulties of not having a stable electrical system or supply in the province and related lost production.

**Moved by Warden Emon
Seconded by Warden Holman**

THAT the EOWC Inc. send a letter to Ministers Chiarelli and Duguid regarding concerns with the lack of a stable electrical system or supply in the province and related lost production.

CARRIED

6.6 Update on *Accountability Act* – Jim Pine

Jim Pine provided a brief update on Bill 8, the *Accountability Act*, and noted he would be receiving more information during a session at Queen's Park next week. He highlighted a number of concerns in the Bill, including:

- Bill 8 overrides the 'secrecy' provisions in the Municipal Act; closed meeting investigators and local ombudsmen, integrity commissioners and auditors generals would be forced to provide confidential information with the Ontario Ombudsman. This would undermine the local accountability system and potentially raise issues of due process depending on how the information is used.
- Bill 8 would require council or a local board to close a meeting if the subject matter being considered is an ongoing investigation by the Ontario Ombudsman.

Further discussion ensued, whereby Wardens and staff expressed objections to the proposed Bill and asked for future updates.

**Moved by Warden Phillips
Seconded by Warden Duncan**

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the verbal report on Bill 8, the *Accountability Act*.

CARRIED

6.7 Connecting Canadians / Work with ISPs – Jim Pine

Jim Pine explained that in regards to cellular coverage, there are some still some gaps in Eastern Ontario. The EORN team decided to extend an invitation to as many service providers as possible to collaborate on a mapping project to highlight such gaps, and offer its assistance to those companies to submit applications to the federal government for 50 per cent funding to grow their infrastructure. Mr. Pine noted there has been great response from quite a number of companies. As part of its advocacy work to try and make applications successful, EORN is also working with MPs to inform them of forthcoming applications for the \$5 million funding. Warden Emon suggested that EORN prepare a press release using quotes from these companies in order to highlight the assistance provided.

**Moved by Mayor Mertens
Seconded by Warden Emon**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the verbal report on Connecting
Canadians / Work with ISPs.**

CARRIED

6.8 Possibility of 2015 salary freeze for firefighters – Merlin J. Dewing

Merlin J. Dewing mentioned that some municipalities are dealing with the impacts of settlements with police officers and firefighters. There is some concern that with the forecasted increases in paramedic and firefighter salaries, the Province may attempt to freeze salaries in the broader public sector, but that any such salary freeze would have to respect the terms of negotiated collective agreements already in place. With regard to the timing of any salary action for the broader public sector, it could potentially take effect sooner than later. The Province is expected to include deficit reducing measures in the next budget to be submitted in March 2015.

**Moved by Mayor Mertens
Seconded by Warden Phillips**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the verbal report on the
possibility of a 2015 salary freeze.**

CARRIED

6.9 Eastern Ontario Regional Network Financial Update – Lisa Hirvi

Lisa Hirvi explained that the \$172-million project budget has increased slightly from its original estimate, though the federal and provincial contributions remain at \$110 million, and the increase is due to additional funding from the private sector. The results of up to June 30, 2014 indicate that about \$152 million has been allocated, with two project components now complete (backbone and satellite). The focus is now on the access project, which includes service to business parks. Ms. Hirvi thanked the accountants and the County of Hastings for their assistance, and noted there is another compliance audit coming up in November, to be conducted by Deloitte on behalf of the province.

**Moved by Warden Duncan
Seconded by Warden Jones**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the report on the Eastern Ontario
Regional Network Financial Update.**

CARRIED

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

6.10.1 EORN CEO Report

David Fell noted that all EORN project expenses will be submitted by March 31, 2014, as part of the province's accountability requirements, and that a second independent audit is forthcoming. He added that he expects to provide good results at the EOWC Annual General Meeting in January.

**Moved by Warden Emon
Seconded by Warden Burton**

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the EORN CEO's report.

CARRIED

6.10.2 EORN Digital Strategy Report

David Fell presented EORN's strategic timeline as revised by the board at its meeting the previous day. He noted that EORN has been working on

digital strategy over the last three months and is looking to launch it during the Annual General Meeting in January. There are a number of objectives that will need to be sequenced with a timeline and a set of priorities, but he confirmed that the EORN board decided on a long-term vision.

Moved by Warden Jones
Seconded by Warden Doyle

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the EORN Digital Strategy Report.
CARRIED

6.10.3 EORN Phase 2 Update Report

David Fell provided an update on EORN's Phase 2, which includes the investment approved by the EOWC in August for the Eastern Ontario Development Program. He noted funding for the \$900,000 manufacturers' training should be announced shortly, including half paid by EORN. As for the Lean Six Sigma project, he explained that the City of Kawartha Lakes realized a \$760,000 savings by implementing ERM (electronic records management), and that as a result, four of the EOWC counties are going to develop a pilot project around ERM in the coming months. Finally, surveys have been distributed to County IT directors on connectivity.

Moved by Warden Duncan
Seconded by Warden Doyle

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the EORN Phase 2 Update.
CARRIED

6.11 Eastern Ontario Economic Development Strategy – Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton provided an update on the Economic Development Strategy, noting that its implementation was in the first stages. This includes a forthcoming application through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program under OMAFRA, following discussions with Ministry staff and a meeting with Minister Jeff Leal during the OEMC Conference. This is a multi-year program with a 90 per cent funding stream to establish a rural leadership council to coordinate economic development activities in the region. There is also a plan to have someone begin working on short-term

actions and establishing partnerships in order to lay the groundwork and the three priorities which will lead to greater economic development in the region. Finally, the Guiding Coalition will meet with Minister Duguid's PA in early November, in order to seek funding through MEDEI. That Ministry initially contributed \$27,000 to the strategy and has expressed an interest in furthering its implementation. Mr. Hutton thanked the members of the Guiding Coalition for their help as well as EORN for its partnership.

**Moved by Mayor Mertens
Seconded by Warden Emon**

**THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the report on the Eastern Ontario
Economic Development Strategy.**

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

**Moved by Mayor Mertens
Seconded by Warden Schermerhorn**

THAT the incoming and outgoing correspondence be received.

CARRIED

7.1 Outgoing

7.1.1 Letter to the Honourable Ted McMeekin regarding the delegation at the AMO Conference, dated August 29, 2014

7.1.2 Letter to the Honourable Jeff Leal regarding the delegation at the AMO Conference, dated August 29, 2014

7.1.3 Letter to the Honourable Brad Duguid regarding the delegation at the AMO Conference, dated August 29, 2014

7.2 Incoming

7.2.1 Letter from Frank Roy, CEO of Madawaska Highlands Observatory Corporation, dated August 21, 2014

- 7.2.2 Letter from Peterborough Warden J. Murray Jones to the Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur, dated August 22, 2014
- 7.2.3 Letter from Raye-Anne Briscoe, Mayor of Admaston/Bromley, to the EOWC regarding White Papers, dated August 26, 2014
- 7.2.4 Letter from Renfrew Warden to Premier regarding the Power Dam Special Payment Program, dated August 27, 2014
- 7.2.5 Letter from Renfrew Warden to Minister McMeekin regarding Places to Grow initiative, dated August 27, 2014
- 7.2.6 Letter from the Honourable Ted McMeekin regarding the Ontario Growth Secretariat, dated September 3, 2014
- 7.2.7 Letter from the Honourable Yasir Naqvi regarding the costs of policing, dated September 2, 2014
- 7.2.8 Letter from Prescott and Russell Warden to Minister Meilleur regarding joint and several liability, dated September 8, 2014
- 7.2.9 Letter from Prescott and Russell Warden to WOWC Chair regarding Connecting Links, dated September 8, 2014
- 7.2.10 Letter from the Honourable Jeff Leal regarding the Multi-Ministerial Delegation at AMO, dated September 18, 2014
- 7.2.11 Letter from the Honourable Glen Murray regarding the Environmental Services White Paper, dated October 1, 2014
- 7.2.12 Letter from the Honourable Ted McMeekin regarding the Multi-Ministerial Delegation at AMO, dated October 3, 2014
- 7.2.13 Letter from Prescott and Russell Warden to Industry Canada regarding the 3500 MHz Band, dated October 8, 2014
- 7.2.14 Letter from Municipality of Trent Lakes to Industry Canada regarding the 3500 MHz Band, dated October 8, 2014

7.3 Response letter regarding Places to Grow initiative

Warden Emon requested support in opposing the Places to Grow initiative and asked that a letter be sent on behalf of the EOWC.

**Moved by Warden Phillips
Seconded by Warden Kidd**

THAT the EOWC Inc. write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to express its opposition to the Places to Grow initiative.

CARRIED

8. By-laws

9. Notice of Motions

10. Confirmation By-law #14-09

**Moved by Warden Duncan
Seconded by Warden Emon**

THAT the Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus hereby enacts as follows:

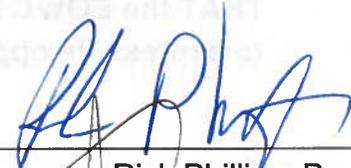
1. THAT the action of the Board of Directors at its meeting held the 17th day of October, 2014 in respect of each motion, resolution, by-law and other action passed and taken by the Board of Directors at its said meeting, except where prior approval of any other body or agency is required, is hereby 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.

11. Adjournment

**Moved by Warden Burton
Seconded by Mayor Mertens**

THAT the meeting be adjourned.



Rick Phillips, Past-Chair



Stéphane P. Parisien, Secretary-Treasurer