



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

Friday, April 19, 2013
9:00 a.m.

County of Northumberland
County Building
555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON

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 Janet Gutowski	Elizabeth Savill, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Carol Moffatt	
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips, Chair	Jim Pine, CAO, Secretary-Treasurer
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Ric McGee	Mark Fisher, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden Bill Dobson	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Ron Holman, Vice Chair	Andy Brown, CAO,
County of Lennox and Addington	Warden Doug Bearance	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Hector Macmillan	Bill Pyatt, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Gary King, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Rene Berthiaume	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO Justin Bromberg, EA to CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Peter Mertens	
County of Renfrew	Warden Peter Emon	
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Bill McGimpsey	Tim Simpson, CAO Justin Watkins, Intern

Regrets		
County of Prince Edward		Merlin Dewing, CAO
County of Renfrew		Jim Hutton, CAO
County of Haliburton		Jim Wilson, CA

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	Communications & Stakeholder Relations Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Hirvi	Chief Financial Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Stephen Seller	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sue Horwood	Director of Finance, County of Hastings
Doug Reycraft	Chair County Caucus, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Richard Steinginga	Partner, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Warden Phillips called the meeting to order. He offered his thanks to the County of Northumberland for hosting the meeting and complimented them on the beautiful building.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - Nil

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor McGee

Seconded by Warden McGimpsey

Be it resolved the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mayor Mertens

Seconded by Warden Holman

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of February 24, 2013 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Delegations, Petitions and Presentations

5.1. Richard Steiginga, Partner, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants re: Audited Financial Statements of EOWC Inc and EORN Inc.

Mr. Steiginga, partner with Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants reviewed the audited financial statements of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus dated December 31st, 2011 as well as the management letter.

Moved by Mayor Mertens

Seconded by Warden Jones

THAT the audited financial statements of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. dated December 31, 2011 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Mr. Steiginga then reviewed the audited financial statements for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network advising that they had been reviewed by and approved by the EORN Board on April 5, 2013.

Moved by Warden Gutowski

Seconded by Warden Holman

THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus receive the Financial Update report.

CARRIED

5.2 Mr. Doug Reycraft, AMO Board of Directors

Mr. Reycraft provided an update on the work of the Association of Municipalities which included information on the work of MEPCO and specified plan changes – confirming that AMO had put proposals forward regarding changes for the OMERS plan and confirmed that they include recommending the reduction of costs for the program and that municipalities are safe from further rate changes until January 1, 2017.

Mr. Reycraft confirmed that the Province of Ontario recently sent out announcements regarding OMPF (Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund) reconciliation payments for 2012. He advised that the Province has confirmed this will be the last year of reconciliations. He also advised that AMO has recommended that the Province not reduce OMPF by the scheduled 25 million dollars this year and next year because of the costs of OPP rising by 8.44% in 2014 recognizing the burden it will place on municipalities.

Mr. Reycraft updated the Caucus on the recently defeated private members bill regarding interest arbitration. He advised that AMO will continue to advocate for change to the Interest Arbitration process asking for arbitrators to consider the fiscal health of a municipality when rendering a decision.

He asked if the EOWC would prepare a letter supporting the requested changes of the Interest Arbitration process and that requests for letters of support be circulated to local Chambers of Commerce.

Moved by Warden McGee

Seconded by Warden Gutowski

THAT the report by AMO County Caucus chair Mr. Doug Reycraft be received and that letters supporting AMO's recommended changes to the Interest Arbitration process be drafted and distributed.

CARRIED

6. Reports for Review/Discussion

6.1 Update - Financial Sustainability Report - Larry Keech, Elizabeth Savill and Kurt Greaves

Larry Keech reviewed the report provided and advised that the steering committee is drafting a series of white papers on the following issues:

- Municipal Affordability
- Rate per Affordability
- Roads and Bridges Infrastructure
- Environmental Services
- Social Housing

Each paper will include projection of the financial situation and suggestions for specific action. He confirmed that the communication roll out of the papers will be targeted at the AMO Conference in August.

Moved by Warden Holman

Seconded by Warden Dobson

THAT the Financial Sustainability report be received and approved.

CARRIED

6.2 Update - Economic Development Strategy - Tim Simpson

Tim Simpson provided an update on the Eastern Ontario Development Strategy RFP which was issued on February 5 and closed on March 1, 2013. He confirmed that the evaluation team interviewed 4 qualified bidders on April 10, 2013. He confirmed that the following will be the estimated breakdown of funding to cover the projected project costs of \$ 95,450.

ECDP Funding (Federal)	\$ 45,000
CiT Funding (Provincial) – not announced	\$ 27,500
EOWC Share (60%) of balance remaining	\$ 14,070

EOMC Share (40%) of balance remaining	\$ 9380
TOTAL	\$ 95,450

**Moved by Warden Holman
Seconded by Warden Emon
THAT Millier Dickinson Blais be selected as the successful RFP vendor
for the completion of the Eastern Ontario Economic Development
Strategy, at a total cost of 95,450 including GST.**

CARRIED

**6.3 Eastern Ontario Regional Network CEO Report –
David Fell**

David Fell reviewed the EORN CEO report highlighting that OMAFRA has advanced the outstanding balance of provincial funding to EORN to ensure all claims and payments flow smoothly through the end of the project. Mr. Fell also advised that a compliance audit of the EORN Project conducted by Deloitte Ottawa, hired by OMAFRA, will begin during April. Mr. Fell also confirmed that the RFP for the Business Park has closed with 4 qualified bidders to be evaluated and that a recommendation will be brought forward for consideration after the evaluation is complete. He advised that a formal letter requesting a program extension from March 2014 through December 2014 has been sent by the chair and they are awaiting a response.

**Moved by Warden Berthiaume
Seconded by Warden McGimpsey
THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus accepts the CEO report as
presented.**

CARRIED

**6.4 Eastern Ontario Regional Network Communication Report –
Lisa Severson**

Lisa Severson reviewed the Communications report and advised that a successful zone launch was held in Cobourg on April 12 with MP Norlock and MP Leal in attendance. She confirmed that the next launch will be held on April 26th for the Loyalist-Quinte Zone with the event being held at Loyalist College. Ms. Severson reviewed the radio blitz planned for the EOWC region to promote the project during the week in May that leads up to the Victoria Day holiday. Warden Gutowski commended the communication efforts to date and asked that staff consider the possible use of Television ads as another way to promote the project.

Ms. Severson advised that the EORN website is experiencing some issues with the service locator tool and that staff are working to rectify the issue but that response to ratepayers regarding the type of solution may take more time to respond to until the service is fixed.

Warden Holman enquired about the upcoming spectrum auction asking if there is concern about being able to have access to the large blocks that will be for sale. Staff confirmed that they will follow-up with the Minister to advise that the EOWC continues to support making spectrum affordable and accessible to rural providers.

**Moved by Warden Gutowski
Seconded by Warden MacMillian
THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus accepts the
Communication report as presented.**

CARRIED

6.5 Local Food Act – Kurt Greaves

Kurt Greaves reviewed the report on Bill 36 – Local Food Act advising that the Bill promotes and supports local Ontario food. Mr. Greaves advised that the EOWC should advise the province that it supports Bill 36 and in

order to provide maximum benefit local food hubs should be created in Eastern Ontario.

Moved by Mayor Mertens

Seconded by Warden Dobson

THAT the EOWC write to the Minister applauding the province's efforts to support the agricultural industry in Ontario and explain that the EOWC wants to work with the Ministry and the agricultural industry to promote local food. Emphasis should be made to the Minister that, in order to provide the maximum benefit, the creation of local food hubs in Eastern Ontario is vital.

AND THAT, the EOWC work with the province and local agricultural groups to help determine the needs and foster action to make the *Local Food Act* work positively for Eastern Ontario.

AND THAT, given the current high level of municipal reporting required by the province; the EOWC would ask that any municipal reporting requirements for the *Local Food Act* be strictly on a voluntary basis.

CARRIED

The issue of foreign investors purchasing large sections of prime agricultural land was discussed. There was concern that this could lead to product being grown in Ontario but exported overseas depleting the locally grown food industry in Ontario.

Moved by Mayor McGee

Seconded by Warden Berthiaume

THAT the issue of off shore interests purchasing prime agricultural land be referred back to the CAO working group for investigation.

CARRIED

A recently received letter from the Eastern Ontario Local Food and Farming Collaborative was also discussed as well as the organization's request to meet with members of the EOWC.

**Moved by Mayor Berthiaume
Seconded by Warden Jones
THAT the Eastern Ontario Local Food and Farming Collaborative be invited to meet with CAOs and then the Wardens at an upcoming meeting.**

CARRIED

**6.6 Update from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Stephen Seller**

Stephen Seller provided an update to the Caucus highlighting recently announced program funding including: PPP Canada Round five of the P3 Fund, 2013 Call for application for Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund and the Places To Grow Implementation Fund. He also advised the MMAH review of O. Reg 284/09 related to amortization expenses, post-employment benefits and solid waste land fill closure and post-closure expense is ongoing with a meeting scheduled with select treasurers in Kingston in April 26th. Mr. Seller also reminded the Caucus that the OEMC Conference is set for September 11-13 in Kingston, ON and that registration information and possible sessions will be mailed out to all municipalities later in the spring.

**Moved by Warden Bearance
Seconded by Mayor McGee
THAT the EOWC accept the update from Stephen Seller, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.**

CARRIED

6.7 Meeting with the EOMC at AMO – Jim Pine

Jim Pine suggested that a joint meeting with the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus be scheduled for the AMO Conference in August.

**Moved by Mayor Mertens
Seconded by Warden Gutowski
THAT the EOWC Secretary/Treasurer contact the EOMC to make
arrangements for a joint meeting at the AMO Conference.**

CARRIED

6.8 Meeting with Andrea Horwath – Jim Pine

Jim Pine enquired if the group would be interested in setting up a meeting with Andrea Horwath, Leader of the NDP in advance of the AMO Conference so that the 2013 priorities could be shared.

**Moved by Warden Emon
Seconded by Warden Jones
THAT the Chair write a letter to Andrew Horwath requesting a
meeting with members of the EOWC to share priorities in advance of
the AMO Conference in August.**

CARRIED

6.9 POA Fine Collection – Jim Pine

Jim Pine advised that during the Pre-budget meeting that he attended with Chair Phillips he had the opportunity to thank the Minister for the POA fine Collection, Bill 34 currently before the legislature. He advised that Ministers Sousa and Leal asked that members of the EOWC contact all parties to ask for their support and ensure that Bill 34 is passed quickly.

**Moved by Warden Holman
Seconded by Warden McGimpsey
THAT the EOWC Chair write to the three leaders urging quick passage
of Bill 34.**

CARRIED

6.10 Hydro Capacity in Eastern Ontario – Warden Dobson

Warden Dobson advised that he was aware of three green energy projects turned down because there was no capacity available in the area. There were at the Montague/Smiths Falls Airport, the Town of Smiths and Rideau Lakes. He asked if other members have encountered the same issue stating that it is a concern around future development if the capacity is not available within the current system.

Moved by Warden Dobson

Seconded by Warden Holman

THAT the OPG be invited to the next EOWC meeting to discuss insufficient transmission capacities hindering energy projects.

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

7.1 Outgoing

7.1.1 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference

7.1.2 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference

7.1.3 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference

7.1.4 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference

7.1.5 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference

- 7.1.6 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Eric Hoskins, Minister of Economic Development and Trade re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference**
- 7.1.7 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference**
- 7.1.8 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Community and Social Services re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference**
- 7.1.9 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference**
- 7.1.10 Letter dated March 20, 2013 to Mr. Tim Hudak, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party re: meetings held at OGRA/ROMA Conference**
- 7.1.11 Pre-budget Submission to the Minister of Finance**

**Moved by Warden Emon
Seconded by Mayor Mertens
THAT the outgoing correspondence be received.**

CARRIED

7.2 Incoming

- 7.2.1 Letter dated February 22, 2013 from Martin Bohl, OMAFRA regarding the accelerated flow of provincial funds for the EORN Project**
- 7.2.2 Letter dated March 5, 2013 from Minister Deb Matthews, Minister of Long-term Care regarding the medical priority dispatch system and the release of the Niagara report**

7.2.3 Letter dated March 6, 2013 from Minister Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund

7.2.4 Letter dated March 7, 2013 from Mr. Bob Delaney, Parliamentary Assistant, Ministry of Energy regarding meetings at ROMA

7.2.5 Letter dated March 7, 2013 from Township of Alnwick/Haldimand regarding the Feed-In Tariff Program – version 2 (Fit-2.0 Application)

Moved by Warden Moffatt

Seconded by Warden Dobson

THAT the incoming correspondence items be received.

CARRIED

8. Closed Session

Moved by Mayor MacMillan

Seconded by Warden Berthiaume

THAT under the authority of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2) the EOWC move into closed session to discuss pricing.

CARRIED

Moved by Warden Bearance

Seconded by Warden Berthiaume

THAT the EOWC move out of Closed Session.

CARRIED

Moved by Warden Dobson

Seconded by Warden McGimpsey

THAT staff be directed to follow instructions given during the closed session.

CARRIED

9. By-laws – Nil

10. Notice of Motions - NIL

11. Next Meeting

Friday June 14, 2013 – County of Renfrew

12. Confirmation By-law #13-05

Motion:

Moved by Warden Emon

Seconded by Mayor Mertens

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 19th day of April, 2013 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.

CARRIED

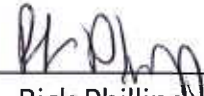
13. Adjournment

Moved by Warden Jones

Seconded by Warden Gutowski

THAT the EOWC Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Rick Phillips, Chair;



Jim Pine, Secretary-Treasurer