



## Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Friday, December 6, 2019  
8:30 a.m.**

**County of Frontenac  
Fairmount Auditorium  
2069 Battersea Road  
Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 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	2019 Warden Ron Higgins 2020 Warden Frances Smith	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Liz Danielsen	Mike Rutter, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham, <b>Chair</b>	Ron Taylor, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	2019 Warden Pat Sayeau	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox and Addington	2019 Warden Eric Smith	Brenda Orchard, CAO
County of Northumberland	2019 Warden Bob Sanderson	Jennifer Moore, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	2020 Warden Pierre Leroux	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Steve Ferguson	Robert McAuley, Acting CAO
County of Renfrew	2019 Warden Jennifer Murphy	Paul Moreau, CAO

<b>Regrets</b>		
County of Lanark	Warden Richard Kidd	Kurt Greaves, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Troy Speck, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	2019 Warden Robert Kirby	

United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Jamie MacDonald	Tim Simpson, CAO
<b>Others Present</b>		
<b>Delegation/Guests</b>	<b>Organization</b>	
Justin Bromberg	Manager of Government Relations, EOWC	
Maddison Ellis	Administration and Policy Coordinator, EOWC	
Meredith Staveley-Watson	Administration and Policy Coordinator, EOWC	
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, EORN	
Lisa Severson	Communications and Stakeholder Relations, EORN	
Brandon Forrest	Manager, Local Government and Housing, MMAH	
Stephen Seller	Municipal Advisor, Local Government and Housing, MMAH	

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

The meeting was called to order and Chair Andy Letham welcomed everyone, including a special welcome to the Incoming 2020 Wardens. Chair Letham noted that the focus of this meeting would be the Ministry of Health's consultation with the EOWC on the modernization of Public Health and Emergency Health Services.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest – NIL**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Jennifer Murphy**

**Seconded by Rick Phillips**

THAT the Agenda of the December 6, 2019 meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Moved by Ron Higgins**

**Seconded by Pat Sayeau**

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting and closed session meeting of October 18, 2019 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## 5. Delegations

### 5.1 Discussion on Modernization of Emergency Services and Public Health Units – Special Advisor to the Ministry of Health, Jim Pine (10:15 a.m.)

Jim Pine, Special Advisor, and Alison Blair, Assistant Deputy Minister, thanked the EOWC for taking the time to consult with the Ministry of Health and provide evidence-based research and feedback to inform their recommendations. The consultations will continue until February 10, 2020.

Ms. Blair asked the group for specific feedback regarding Emergency Management Services (EMS). Ron Taylor provided the Eastern Ontario Paramedic Services Situational Overview and Key Messages prepared by the EOWC, noting that paramedic services are a priority and that the EOWC used a proactive and immediate approach when bringing recommendations forward. Earlier this year, the EOWC committed to providing this regional analysis to deliver data and best practices to the Province. The study and overview include recommendations, main priorities, as well as information on front-line dispatch improvements and the financial impact around improved triaging services.

Vice-Chair Jennifer Murphy spoke about the importance of community paramedicine across Eastern Ontario, noting she would like to see further Provincial support around this service. Ms. Blair noted the importance of understanding the role of the new models of care and the need to think about the niche role for community paramedicine in new technologies and dispatch. Chair Andy Letham thanked the Ministry on behalf of the EOWC and the broader region, and asked about the Province's ultimate goal following these consultations. Mr. Pine noted there is no specific goal other than to hear from health care services across the Province. Ms. Blair added that the consultation is about improving services for patients in Ontario in terms of sustainability and capacity.

It was noted that in May 2019, the EOWC adopted a resolution on regional models of care, including better boundaries, which was submitted to the Province during the AMO 2019 Multi-Ministerial Delegation. This shall be revisited in 2020 and resubmitted with both an EMS and a public health perspective. The EOWC will be commenting on public health more formally in January and will submit a formal delegation to the Ministry regarding

reorganization. Mr. Taylor noted the cost-sharing impact (70/30) are large numbers for local municipalities, and there is a need for better transitioning around how funding downloads are being imposed. Ms. Blair explained there would be a mitigation impact of 10 per cent in 2020, and that the Province and municipalities would need to think about financial implications moving forward.

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

### **6.1 Approval of Paramedic Services Review – Paramedic Working Group**

Ron Taylor provided an overview of the report and requested approval to circulate to partners, as required. EOWC staff have developed messaging that would accompany the studies to share with other interested partners, such as the EOMC. Paul Moreau acknowledged and thanked the Paramedic Chiefs for pulling together the information. The report's general message is that local governments operate lean and efficient paramedic services across the region. The sub-messages include the need for dispatch improvements, the need to examine hospital offloads, and the expansion and support for community paramedicine programs. The members discussed the need for collaboration across services and the need to highlight the financial section of the report, which will serve as the main message at the ROMA delegation.

**Moved by Jennifer Murphy**

**Seconded by Liz Danielsen**

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve and endorse the study and key messages.

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 EOWC 2020 Meeting Schedule – Chair Letham**

Chair Letham presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2020. The location of the October meeting was changed to the County of Haliburton.

**Moved by Eric Smith**

**Seconded by Ron Higgins**

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the 2020 meeting schedule, as amended.

**CARRIED**

### **6.3 EOWC 2020 Budget – Chair Letham**

Chair Letham presented the draft EOWC 2020 budget, and reminded the members that the EOWC would contribute \$25,000 to the EOLC in 2020, and that each EOWC member would contribute an additional \$10,000 in 2020 to the EOWC's reserves.

**Moved by Pat Sayeau**  
**Seconded by Steve Ferguson**

THAT the EOWC Inc. endorse the 2020 budget, and recommend that it be adopted as presented at the EOWC 2020 Inaugural Meeting.

**CARRIED**

### **6.4 EOWC Inaugural Meeting Agenda – Chair Letham / Justin Bromberg**

Chair Letham and Justin Bromberg provided an overview of the agenda for the EOWC Inaugural Meeting on January 9 and 10, 2020.

### **6.5 ROMA Delegations and Priorities – Chair Letham / Justin Bromberg**

Chair Letham referenced the Multi-Ministerial Delegation request for the ROMA Conference and the five discussion topics. Discussion ensued on the paramedic and EMS priorities. Lisa Severson spoke to the next steps for the EORN project. The group discussed the Municipal Modernization Fund and the potential to pursue a common study in the coming year, e.g. a service review from an Eastern Ontario perspective.

### **6.6 Affordable Housing – Brenda Orchard / Meredith Staveley-Watson**

Meredith Staveley-Watson spoke to the meeting with Eastern Ontario Home Builders' Associations on November 21 in Belleville and the feedback and relationships that resulted. The EOWC created a housing brochure for Home Builders and Developers, which can be shared across the region to create improved communication and information sharing. The EOWC is also preparing a report for the ROMA Conference on housing affordability and the next steps in partnership with the Province. The EOWC will continue to rely heavily on the Housing Service Managers to inform its position.

Brenda Orchard discussed next steps, including hosting a session with non-profit organizations that provide services for housing tenants, as well as end-of-life agreements as an opportunity to partner with home builders. She recalled the idea of a municipal staff concierge service around planning and building that would help municipalities to remove roadblocks, support hard-to-house tenants, and remove stigma and barriers.

## **6.7 Eastern Ontario Leadership Council (EOLC) – Warden Higgins**

Warden Higgins provided an update around the EOLC and noted the importance of the EOWC's funding for 2020 and 2021, after which the EOLC should be self-sustaining through government grants. There has been much interest in the EOLC as of late, including from the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) regarding autonomous vehicles. The EOLC is working on several studies and projects moving into 2020, which will involve an increased workload and funding. The EOLC has also requested a Multi-Ministerial delegation at ROMA to discuss initiatives and solutions.

Warden Higgins requested a motion to extend his term as EOLC Co-Chair from one year to two years, in order to reflect the EOLC terms of reference.

**Moved by Liz Danielson**

**Seconded by Jennifer Murphy**

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the extension of Warden Higgins' position as EOLC Co-Chair for the 2020 year.

**CARRIED**

Andy Brown noted that the EOLC wishes to apply to the Municipal Modernization Fund to investigate a one-window permitting system for freight movement across Eastern Ontario. It requires the EOWC's support for this, as the EOLC is not yet incorporated.

**Moved by Ron Higgins**

**Seconded by Eric Smith**

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the EOLC's application to the Municipal Modernization Fund for a one-window permitting system for freight movement across Eastern Ontario.

**CARRIED**

## **6.8 Municipal Modernization Program – Ron Taylor / Justin Bromberg**

Ron Taylor talked about the potential for the EOWC to pursue a service study using the Provincial modernization funding. He noted that there was potential to have a joint approach on long-term care.

## **7. New Business – For Future Discussion**

### **7.1 Lake Ontario Rising Water Levels and Flooding – Mayor Ferguson**

Mayor Ferguson discussed a resolution adopted by the County of Prince Edward requesting that the federal and provincial governments investigate the 2019 flooding. The Bay of Quinte municipalities have jointly requested that the International Joint Commission (IJC) revert to its previous plan. According to the IJC, the flooding review would take 18 to 24 months. The EOMC has taken a position and letters are being sent to MPPs and MPs, particularly on the issue of financing. Mayor Ferguson requested support to use the EOMC's resolution as a template for an EOWC resolution. Discussion ensued regarding water levels and related flooding issues.

**Moved by Steve Ferguson**

**Seconded by Rick Phillips**

WHEREAS Lake Ontario has reached record or near-record high water levels in the spring of 2019 as a result of heavy precipitation and the International Joint Commission's (IJC) plan 2014, which then resulted in record high inflows from Lake Erie and above-average runoff within the Lake Ontario basin;

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) recognizes that continually rising, local water levels have impacted many communities along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway as well as residents with shoreline properties experiencing erosion;

WHEREAS property owners and municipalities have been required to take extraordinary measures to protect their properties, and that all work along shoreline properties requires owners to obtain permission from local Conservation Authorities;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the EOWC call upon the IJC to immediately take action to repeal Plan 2014 and revert to Plan 1958-DD to control the water flowing from Lake Ontario and into the St. Lawrence Seaway, which has the effect of keeping water levels lower in the lower lakes;

AND THAT the EOWC call on the Provincial and Federal Governments to provide support and financial assistance for municipalities and property owners affected by rising water levels;

AND THAT the EOWC send correspondence to the members of the IJC, local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative – a coalition of U.S. and Canadian Mayors and local elected officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River;

AND THAT the IJC commit to a regular flow of communication with municipalities and property owners affected by rising water levels in Eastern Ontario.

A recorded vote was requested regarding the resolution.

<b>County</b>	<b>Head of Council</b>	<b>In Favour</b>	<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Absent</b>
County of Frontenac	Warden Ron Higgins	X		
County of Haliburton	Warden Liz Danielson	X		
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	X		
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	X		
County of Lanark	Warden Richard Kidd			X
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Pat Sayeau		X	
County of Lennox and Addington	Warden Eric Smith	X		
County of Northumberland	Warden Bob Sanderson	X		
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones			X
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Robert Kirby			X
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Steve Ferguson	X		
County of Renfrew	Warden Jennifer Murphy	X		
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Jamie MacDonald			X
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

**CARRIED**



## **8. Closed Session**

### **8.1 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN)**

Chair Letham informed members of the need to move into closed session.

**Moved by Ron Higgins**

**Seconded by Eric Smith**

THAT the EOWC Inc. move into Closed Session to receive an update on the EORN Cellular Network and Mobile Broadband Improvement Project.

**CARRIED**

An update was provided in closed session.

**Moved by Ron Higgins**

**Seconded by Rick Phillips**

THAT the EOWC Inc. move out of Closed Session.

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Liz Danielsen**

**Seconded by Pat Sayeau**

THAT the EOWC Inc. receive the update that was provided in Closed Session and direct EOWC CAOs to proceed as per the discussion.

**CARRIED**

## **9. Correspondence**

### **9.1 Outgoing**

9.1.1 Invitation to Provincial Advisor Jim Pine regarding EOWC Meeting to discuss the modernization of public health and emergency services, dated November 6, 2019

9.1.2 Letters to Associate Deputy Ministers (ADMs) regarding the meeting with CAOs in the County of Lanark, dated November 29, 2019

## **9.2 Incoming**

- 9.2.1 Letter from Minister Laurie Scott regarding Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan, dated October 16, 2019
- 9.2.2 Resolution from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry regarding rural schools, dated October 21, 2019
- 9.2.3 Letter from the County of Renfrew regarding the EORN Board of Directors, dated October 30, 2019

**Moved by Rick Phillips**

**Seconded by Eric Smith**

THAT the outgoing and incoming correspondence be received.

**CARRIED**

## **10. By-laws**

## **11. Notice of Motions**

## **12. Confirmation By-law #19-10**

**Moved by Liz Danielsen**

**Seconded Jennifer Murphy**

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 6th day of December, 2019 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 Jennifer Murphy**

**Seconded by Ron Higgins**

That the meeting be adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

**CARRIED**

**14. Next Meeting**

Thursday, January 9 and Friday, January 10, 2020  
EOWC 2020 Inaugural and Transition Meeting  
Marriott Delta Waterfront Hotel  
Kingston, ON

  
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Andy Letham, Chair

  
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Ron Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer