



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Friday, May 29, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**Virtual Meeting
Zoom Videoconference**

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 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, Chair	Ron Taylor, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden Brian Campbell	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Pat Sayeau	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington	Warden Marg Isbester	Brenda Orchard, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Bob Sanderson	Jennifer Moore, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	Troy Speck, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Pierre Leroux	Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Steve Ferguson	
County of Renfrew	Warden Debbie Robinson	Paul Moreau, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Frank Prevost	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County of Prince Edward		Marcia Wallace, CAO

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Justin Bromberg	Manager of Government Relations, EOWC
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Meredith Staveley-Watson	Policy and Administration Coordinator, EOWC
Maddison Ellis	Policy and Administration Coordinator, EOWC

1. Call Meeting to Order / Welcome

Chair Letham called the meeting to order.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest – NIL

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Frank Prevost

Seconded by Frances Smith

THAT the Agenda of the May 29, 2020 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

Warden Robinson and CAO Paul Moreau requested that their names be added as in attendance via telephone to the March meeting minutes.

Moved by Bob Sanderson

Seconded by Marg Isbester

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meetings of March 12 and March 13, 2020, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

5. Delegations (n/a)

6. Chair's Report

Chair Letham provided a brief update to members.

7. Reports for Review

7.1 Approval of Reframed EOWC Priorities and Advocacy – Chair Letham

Chair Letham presented the reframed 2020 EOWC priorities, as previously distributed to members via e-mail, being:

Approved EOWC Priorities:

- Long-Term Care – to be reframed in the post-crisis context
- Broadband and Cell Gap – re-engage EORN and partners given the added importance of rural internet and connectivity

New Proposed EOWC Priorities:

- Economic Recovery – regional plan in partnership with EOLC, to make recommendations to government
- Municipal Recovery – make recommendations on necessary municipal funding (infrastructure, local services)

Approved but Deferred Priorities:

- Affordable Housing – remains a priority, and staff work will continue in background, but actions deferred beyond AMO

Moved by Frances Smith

Seconded by Debbie Robinson

THAT the EOWC accept the reframed 2020 priorities as presented.

CARRIED

7.2 Updates and Recommendations from CAO Working Groups

Broadband and Cell Gap – EORN (David Fell)

David Fell updated the EOWC on the current EORN project status and the analysis to achieve better broadband across the region. He acknowledged the EORN Board's commitment over the last few months and the new EORN staff. Jim Pine updated the group on government collaboration. There is strong support from elected officials and staff at all levels of government.

Moved by Frances Smith

Seconded by Pierre Leroux

THAT the EOWC and the EORN Working Groups support and direct EORN to pursue funding for a fixed broadband project;

AND THAT the Broadband and Cell Gap Working Group's recommendations be accepted as proposed.

CARRIED

Long-Term Care (Kelly Pender)

Kelly Pender provided an update as referenced in the briefing note and acknowledged staff contribution. The Premier has acknowledged that this is not a new issue. Facility design, municipal contribution and quality of care are three main issues for the EOWC Working Group, with an additional issue being Personal Protective Equipment. Financial capital for new and retrofits needs to be maintained and supported, as traditional financing methods are not adequate. Discussion and questions ensued.

Moved by Frank Prevost

Seconded by Brian Campbell

THAT the presentation and materials be received for information and that the Long-Term Care Review Working Group's recommendations be accepted as proposed.

CARRIED

Economic Recovery (Andy Brown and Paul Moreau)

Andy Brown updated members on the current work by the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council and data analytics including COVID-19 forecasting. The pandemic has impacted strategic priorities including workforce, technology and rural development. The EOLC board hopes to bring forward further recommendations in June regarding impacts on the regional economy. Discussion ensued around infrastructure deficits, municipalities providing significant funding and the required government collaboration.

Moved by Debbie Robinson

Seconded by Bob Sanderson

THAT the presentation and materials be received for information and that the Economic Recovery Working Group's recommendations be accepted as proposed.

CARRIED

Municipal Recovery (Ron Taylor)

Ron Taylor provided an update on a shift of focus from crisis aversion to post-pandemic recovery and operational changes. AMO and FCM have position papers on municipal recovery. Shortfalls in funding for services prior to COVID-19 are now extrapolated. Discussion ensued and an issue

was raised around the importance of available child care services and housing tenant support.

Moved by Frances Smith

Moved by Debbie Robinson

THAT the presentation and materials be received for information and that the Municipal Recovery Working Group's recommendations be accepted as proposed.

CARRIED

Moved by Pat Sayeau

Seconded by Liz Danielsen

THAT the EOWC direct the Working Groups to initiate discussions with the provincial and federal governments.

CARRIED

7.3 Revised Date for Virtual Meeting with MPs in 2020 – Justin Bromberg

Justin Bromberg outlined the plan for the EOWC meeting with Federal MPs, which is intended to further municipal-federal government collaboration and communication. Mr. Bromberg will provide an official date and time.

Moved by Marg Isbester

Seconded by Pierre Leroux

THAT the EOWC accept the revised date of June 12 or 18 for the virtual meeting with Federal MPs and direct staff to prepare briefing notes.

7.4 Consultation with Standing Committee on Finance – Justin Bromberg

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs has requested that the EOWC members respond to a survey regarding their economic situations, to better understand the regional impacts of COVID-19.

7.5 Upcoming EOWC Meetings (July and August/AMO) – Chair Letham

Chair Letham noted that the next meeting will be held virtually on July 24, 2020. Justin Bromberg will confirm the AMO meetings in August and is working with AMO staff regarding the virtual conference logistics.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Outgoing

- 8.1.1 EOWC Letter and Resolution regarding shared municipal and health delivery services in Eastern Ontario, dated March 25, 2020

8.2 Incoming

- 8.2.1 Letter from County of Lanark to Minister Merrilee Fullerton regarding long-term care facility admissions, dated April 8, 2020
- 8.2.2 Letter from County of Hastings to Minister Merrilee Fullerton re: long-term care facility admissions, dated April 9, 2020
- 8.2.3 Letter from County of Prince Edward to Minister Merrilee Fullerton re: long-term care facility admissions, dated April 9, 2020
- 8.2.4 Letter from County of Frontenac to Minister Merrilee Fullerton regarding long-term care facility admissions, dated April 20, 2020
- 8.2.5 Letter from United Counties of Prescott and Russell to Minister Fullerton re: long-term care facility admissions, dated April 22, 2020
- 8.2.6 Letter from the Township of South Frontenac regarding *A Framework for Reopening our Province*, dated May 6, 2020
- 8.2.7 Letter from the Township of North Frontenac regarding *A Framework for Reopening our Province*, dated May 13, 2020

Moved by Frank Prevost

Seconded by Frances Smith

THAT the outgoing and incoming correspondence be received.

CARRIED

9. Closed Session (n/a)

10. By-Laws – NIL

11. Notice of Motions – NIL

12. Confirmation By-Law #20-07

Moved by Frank Prevost
Seconded by Frances Smith

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 29th day of May, 2020 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

Chair Letham thanked the members for their participation.

Moved by Frances Smith
Seconded by Pierre Leroux

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

CARRIED



Andy Letham, Chair



Ron Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer