



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

**Holiday Inn Express
Grande Room
777 King Street East
Gananoque, Ontario**

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 Ron Higgins	
County of Haliburton	Warden Suzanne Partridge	
County of Hastings	Warden Rodney Cooney	Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	Ron Taylor, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden John Fenik	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden Robin Jones, Chair	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington	Warden Bill Lowry	Brenda Orchard, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Mark Lovshin	Jennifer Moore, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden Joe Taylor	
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden François St-Amour	
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Robert Quaiff	James Hepburn, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Jennifer Murphy	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Ian McLeod	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County of Frontenac		Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton		Mike Rutter, CAO
County of Peterborough		Troy Speck, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell		Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO

Others Present	
Delegation/Guests	Organization
Justin Bromberg	Communications and Policy Coordinator, EOWC
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	Communications Stakeholder and Relations Officer, EORN
Meredith Staveley-Watson	Executive Assistant, County of Frontenac

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order and Chair Robin Jones welcomed everyone. She asked for a moment of silence in memory of Leeds and Grenville MP Gord Brown, who passed away suddenly on May 2, 2018.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - Nil

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Warden St-Amour

Seconded by Warden Lowry

THAT the Agenda of the EOWC Inc. meeting of June 20, 2018 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of April 19 and 20, 2018, and the closed session meeting of April 19, 2018, were presented. Warden Taylor requested a change at item 5.1, from “lower-tier CAO” to “lower-tier fire chief”.

Moved by Warden Higgins
Seconded by Warden Cooney

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of April 19 and 20, 2018, and the closed session meeting of April 19, 2018, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

5. Delegations (n/a)

6. Reports for Review/Discussion

6.1 Recap of MP Breakfast and Upcoming MPP Breakfast – Chair Jones

Discussion ensued on the MPs breakfast and finding a better mechanism to identify the EOWC, its composition and its priorities, given the size of the federal government. Given the cost of hosting this breakfast, several members were disappointed with the turnout among Eastern Ontario MPs. Jim Pine suggested hosting the breakfast on a Wednesday rather than a Monday, and that the Wardens speak with their MPs to have their input. Warden Murphy stressed that the MPs have to be in the room in order to build relationships. Warden Higgins felt the purpose of the breakfast was to secure the federal government's commitment to the cell gap project and he does not feel the EOWC was successful on that front. Mayor Letham suggested that a breakfast could be held during the AMO Conference. The Chair asked that CAOs to discuss this at their next meeting and bring back it to the Wardens at a future meeting, possibly next January.

Moved by Warden Higgins
Seconded by Warden Taylor

THAT, rather than hosting a large informal breakfast, the EOWC handle future events by inviting the Ministers responsible for the subjects being discussed, along with Eastern Ontario MPs or MPPs, the Chair and Vice-Chair, and other Wardens as required.

CARRIED

Chair Jones noted that the MPP Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3. Warden Taylor and Warden Higgins noted this would represent an opportunity to make a formal presentation to the new MPPs. Warden

Murphy noted the importance of having Wardens personally invite MPPs and Ministers to this event. Some Wardens will not be able to attend. The Chair suggested that the Wardens travel from Toronto to Haliburton County immediately after the breakfast. Warden Partridge noted that CAO Mike Rutter is working on finding a location. After further discussion, it was also suggested that the Wardens could organize a local meeting with the Eastern Ontario MPPs instead of the breakfast event at Queen's Park.

6.2 Updates and Discussion on Future EOWC Priorities – Chair Jones

Chair Jones noted that the EOWC needs to align its priorities or asks with the arrival of the new government, based on the current reality. The cell gap project does not appear to be hampered. She recalled that the EOWC must be careful not to have too many priorities. Warden Murphy noted that many MPPs will be new to Queen's Park, and a "light" briefing might be useful to inform them of the many challenges facing rural municipalities: long-term care, social housing, natural gas, infrastructure, etc. Warden Partridge suggested the EOWC could target one "ask" after the briefing. Jim Hutton and Jim Pine discussed the recent long-term care workshop and the need to bring those issues to the new government. Mr. Pine suggested meeting with the 11 MPPs from Eastern Ontario as soon as possible – rather than only Cabinet Ministers – to discuss these issues.

Social and Affordable Housing

Brenda Orchard explained the social housing proposal being prepared by the County of Lennox and Addington, which it is prepared to submit on behalf of the EOWC. A few Social Services Directors are already working together, while Queen's University and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation have vetted the proposal. The purpose of the Solutions Labs funding is to research examples of successful affordable rural housing and find new strategies to improve housing opportunities for rural regions.

Moved by Warden Higgins

Seconded by Warden Fenik

THAT the EOWC Inc. endorse the Solutions Labs application for rural housing funding, being prepared by the County of Lennox and Addington, and that the County submit the application on behalf of the EOWC.

CARRIED

Expansion of Natural Gas

Warden St-Amour discussed the need to raise natural gas expansion with the incoming government. The Ontario Energy Board, which is largely represented by the hydroelectricity sector, previously rejected the idea of cross-subsidization; yet the hydro network continues to be developed that way. He noted it would take 90 nuclear plants to replace the energy currently produced by natural gas, and suggested the EOWC ask the Minister of Energy to examine the OEB's mechanisms. Warden McLeod added that natural gas is also an economic driver; cost savings would be placed back into the economy. An additional \$1 or \$2 on every customer's bill, throughout Ontario, would help bring natural gas to every home in the province. The two gas distributors have a plan, but they require cross-subsidization, not a grant program. After further discussion, it was decided that staff would follow up with Enbridge and OFA and put together a brief research paper outlining the request to the new government.

6.3 Preparation for AMO Conference Delegations – Chair Jones

Chair Jones asked the Wardens to discuss plans for the coming months. It was agreed to meet with Eastern Ontario MPPs in the summer, ideally before the AMO Conference, and cancel the breakfast at Queen's Park. The CAOs will work on preparing a two-pager "introduction" to the EOWC and its priorities, to be used for that meeting and the AMO Conference.

The Chair requested that the Wardens present some issues for discussion that could be raised with the Eastern Ontario MPPs and possibly during the Multi-Ministerial delegation at the AMO Conference. They were:

- a. Offload delays at hospitals
- b. Aggregate fee royalties
- c. Expansion of natural gas
- d. EORN Cell Gap project
- e. Rural education strategy
- f. Social services agreements
- g. Long-term care issues
- h. PTSD presumptive legislation (Bill 119)
- i. Social and affordable housing
- j. No additional Provincial downloads

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Ministerial delegation should focus on the EOWC's top priority and the new government's new priority. The Province will be looking to cut costs. Members decided to focus on celebrating existing wins (EORN Cell Gap project and EOLC Economic Development Strategy) and providing a platform for natural gas expansion and avoiding new downloads. The delegation request should include the Ministers of Infrastructure, Energy, Economic Development, Health and Long-Term Care, Housing, Finance, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Municipal Affairs. Separate requests should also be sent to Infrastructure (cell gap project) and to Housing (Solutions Labs proposal).

6.4 Workgroup on Transport of Hazardous Goods – Chair Jones

Chair Jones presented the Highway Operations Safety Review document from the Ministry of Transportation. She outlined the Ministry's efforts to work with Eastern Ontario on this file, including the transport of dangerous goods. She will provide an update on the review's results in the future.

6.5 Marmora Pump Storage Project – Warden Cooney

Warden Cooney provided an update from Northland Power on the latest version of the proposed Marmora Pump Storage Project. He noted that there have been improvements, and that the project would not require any government funding. Northland Power has asked the EOWC to reaffirm its support for the project to the new Provincial government.

Moved by Warden Cooney

Seconded by Warden Fenik

THAT the EOWC Inc. provide a letter of support to the Minister of Energy for the Marmora Pump Storage Project, signed by the Chair.

CARRIED

6.6 Eastern Ontario Leadership Council (EOLC) – Andy Brown

Andy Brown provided a significant update, via PowerPoint, on the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council and its recent activities. Among other things, he discussed the Strategy refresh project and the consultation and data compilation work being provided by MDB Insight. Warden Fenik stressed the value of this project and the good return on investment for the EOWC.

Moved by Warden Fenik

Seconded by Mayor Letham

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the report on the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council as presented.

CARRIED

6.7 Eastern Ontario Regional Network – David Fell / Lisa Severson

Lisa Severson provided an update on support for the cell gap project, noting that most of the Counties have adopted resolutions to date. Many separated cities are also on board and those resolutions are forthcoming. MP Francis Drouin has been helpful in securing federal support, and the next step will be to secure the incoming provincial government's support.

David Fell explained that the new board for EORN Consulting Services has been incorporated, using the same board as EORN, with Robin Jones elected as Chair. EORN is the primary shareholder for ECS, using the \$81,952 in profit from the Nova Scotia project as initial funding. Mr. Fell reviewed the governance and accountability structure.

Mr. Fell presented the letter from Xplornet to Minister Bains regarding the federal government's proposed changes to the 3500 MHz spectrum band. He noted that the EOWC successfully lobbied the government in 2014 to protect spectrum for 11,000 rural subscribers. Telus has been lobbying the government to acquire the 3500 MHz spectrum, arguing that it is required for 5G, although Mr. Fell stated this is false. He added that 31,000 fixed wireless subscribers would be at risk of losing their service, and presented several arguments that could be made in a letter to Minister Bains.

Moved by Warden St-Amour

Seconded by Warden Fenik

THAT the EOWC Inc. send a letter to Minister Bains, signed by the Chair, and request a Ministerial delegation on this particular issue.

CARRIED

6.8 Federal Pre-Budget Submission Process – Jim Pine

Jim Pine informed the members that the Standing Committee on Finance has launched Pre-Budget Consultations ahead of the 2019 federal budget.

The deadline for submissions is August 3. This is a good opportunity to advocate for the cell gap project, in addition to pushing for long-term funding for 50/10 broadband expansion. The EOWC and EORN could also ask to present a delegation in front of the Standing Committee.

Moved by Warden Murphy

Seconded by Warden Higgins

THAT the EOWC Inc. submit a Pre-Budget Submission to the federal Standing Committee on Finance regarding the EORN Cell Gap Project.

CARRIED

6.9 GreenON Funding for Social Housing – Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton noted that as a result of the provincial government's decision to cancel the carbon pricing system, the GreenON program has been cancelled. This has funding impacts on any planned upgrades to social housing buildings, including \$540,000 for the County of Renfrew. Mr. Hutton suggested verifying the status of any social housing upgrades.

6.10 Letter regarding AGCO Fee Hike – Warden Cooney

Justin Bromberg presented a letter from Potter Settlement Winery in the County of Hastings to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario regarding a significant fee hike for Special Occasion Permits. Wardens discussed the impacts of the fee hike on community events.

Moved by Warden Cooney

Seconded by Warden Partridge

THAT the EOWC Inc. write a letter expressing its concerns to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, signed by the Chair.

CARRIED

6.11 Long-Term Care Case Mix Index (CMI) Funding – Jim Hutton

Jim Hutton explained that the Case Mix Index (CMI) funding model for long-term care facilities is not working, as both County and Provincial staff are spending countless hours recording and analyzing data. This time would be better spent providing direct care to residents. With re-indexing by the Province at year-end, fixed funds are re-indexed and distributed regardless of the CMI. He will bring additional information in August.

7. Closed Session (n/a)

8. Reports from Wardens

8.1 Chair's Report

Chair Jones discussed the Williams Treaties Settlement. The AMO board is currently discussing the matter. If there are any questions, the Wardens may contact the Chair or Monika Turner at AMO.

8.2 Reports from Wardens

The Wardens discussed federal government funding for LIDAR mapping; long-term care facility upgrades; expansion of natural gas to Fenelon Falls; farm-tax rebates and a new program in Prince Edward County to help young farmers instead of modifying tax ratios; a meeting between SD&G, Prescott and Russell, and the natural gas distributors; active transportation; and social housing corporations.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Outgoing

9.1.1 Letter to Chief Dave Murphy, Bonnechere Valley Fire Department, regarding legislative changes to fire services, dated May 11, 2018

9.1.2 Letter to Deputy Commissioner Gary Couture, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), regarding legislative changes to policing services, dated May 11, 2018

9.1.3 Letter to Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath on improving cellular coverage and capacity, dated May 29, 2018

Moved by Mayor Letham

Seconded by Warden Lowry

THAT the outgoing correspondence be received.

CARRIED

9.2 Incoming

- 9.2.1 Resolution from the City of Kawartha Lakes supporting the HKPR Board of Health letter to Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, dated April 18, 2018
- 9.2.2 Resolution from the County of Northumberland regarding the protection of Lake Ontario, dated May 16, 2018
- 9.2.3 Letter from Eastern Ontario resident Deb Reddon regarding future EOWC Priorities, dated May 18, 2018

Moved by Warden Murphy

Seconded by Warden McLeod

THAT the incoming correspondence be received.

CARRIED

10. By-laws

11. Notice of Motions

12. Confirmation By-law #18-06

Moved by Warden St-Amour

Seconded by Warden Cooney

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 20th day of June, 2018 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 Fenik

Seconded by Warden Higgins

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

CARRIED



Robin Jones, Chair



Andy Brown, Secretary-Treasurer