



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

Thursday, October 4, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.
Friday, October 5, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

Bonnie View Inn
2713 Kashagawigamog Lake Road
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance.

Present		
County	Head of Council	Staff
County of Frontenac	Warden Ron Higgins	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Suzanne Partridge	Mike Rutter, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rodney Cooney	
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		Jennifer Moore, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden Joe Taylor	Troy Speck, CAO
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Robert Quaiff	James Hepburn, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Jennifer Murphy	Paul Moreau, CAO
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Ian McLeod	Tim Simpson, CAO

Regrets		
County of Hastings		Jim Pine, CAO
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	Ron Taylor, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden John Fenik	Kurt Greaves, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Mark Lovshin	
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden François St-Amour	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
Meredith Staveley-Watson	Executive Assistant, County of Frontenac

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order on Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. and Vice-Chair Jennifer Murphy welcomed everyone. Chair Robin Jones was in Oshawa this morning to present to the federal Standing Committee on Finance and will be arriving later this afternoon.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest - Nil

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Warden Cooney

Seconded by Mayor Quaiff

THAT the Agenda of the EOWC Inc. meeting of October 4 and 5, 2018 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of August 19, 2018 were presented. One minor change was made regarding the attendees present.

Moved by Warden McLeod

Seconded by Warden Lowry

THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting of August 19, 2018 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

5.1 Raymond Callery, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Greater Napanee – Impacts of Cannabis Legislation on Municipalities

Raymond Callery presented a slide deck regarding the impacts of the recent cannabis legislation on municipalities, namely in three categories: production, sales, and usage. He noted the importance of tracking costs as municipalities may be asked to prove them; furthermore, those costs should not be solely determined by sales, because there will be expenses in the other two areas. He discussed the potential effects on by-laws, the waste stream, health and safety for employees, emergency services, tourism-related issues, and driving concerns, among other issues.

5.2 Jeff Pajot, Consultant and Ergonomist, Public Services Health and Safety Association – Cannabis in the Workplace

Jeff Pajot discussed cannabis from a health and safety perspective, and concerns regarding the municipal workplace. He noted that policies need to reflect “fitness for duty” and safety-sensitive work. Training should be offered to managers and supervisors on recognizing impairment, for liability purposes. Further discussion ensued about detection, training, peer support, and liabilities. Self-disclosure should be encouraged for the benefit of the employer and ongoing communications.

The meeting was paused and will resume Friday morning at 9 a.m.

5.3 Richard Steinginga and Duane Potter, Collins Barrow Kawarthas – EOWC Financial Statements dated December 31, 2017 and EORN Financial Statements dated March 31, 2018

Richard Steinginga and Duane Potter presented and reviewed the EOWC financial statements, noting there were no significant changes in 2017 for financial reporting and that the statements were consistent with the prior year. They discussed the EOWC’s financial position and accumulated surplus. The deficit in 2017 was related to two payments for the Economic Development Strategy, which covered the 2016 and 2017 years.

Moved by Warden Partridge
Seconded by Warden Murphy

THAT the EOWC Inc. approve the EOWC Financial Statements, dated December 31, 2017, as presented, and that the Chair be authorized to sign the audit letter.

CARRIED

Mr. Steingina and Mr. Potter presented and reviewed the EORN financial statements and discussed EORN's financial assets. Although the EORN board approves the statements, the EOWC is asked to accept them.

Moved by Warden Higgins
Seconded by Mayor Quaiff

THAT the EOWC Inc. accept the EORN Financial Statements, dated March 31, 2018, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Reports for Review/Discussion

6.1 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) – David Fell

EORN Consulting Services (ECS)

David Fell explained that the new corporation is set up and running, with Robin Jones as Chair and J. Murray Jones as Vice-Chair. Staff received direction from the board to market ECS as much as possible. Although ECS received several requests to bid, most were not appropriate; however, it did sign another contract with the Province of Nova Scotia for \$50,000, to help set up its \$193-million broadband internet project.

Cell Gap Project Verbal Update

Chair Jones explained that she and Jim Pine appeared this morning before the federal Standing Committee on Finance. The presentation went extremely well and there were many questions from the MPs, including three Liberals, two Conservatives and one NDP. A meeting is scheduled next week with Ontario Infrastructure Minister Monte McNaughton, during which he will be asked to nominate the project at a Provincial level.

David Fell discussed the \$750-million broadband fund being managed by the CRTC, noting that only the private-sector telecommunications companies can apply to the fund and therefore, it is not an appropriate mechanism for what EORN is attempting with the cell gap project. Given the lack of a national strategy, EORN will prepare something for the federal government in an effort to solve this issue. Discussion ensued on next steps and past consultations and communications.

Moved by Warden Taylor

Seconded by Warden Lowry

THAT the EOWC Inc. accept the verbal report from EORN.

CARRIED

6.2 Recap of AMO Conference and MPPs Meeting – Chair Jones

Chair Jones read a letter from Minister Jim Wilson that was received this morning. Warden Murphy expressed that this was one of the best AMO Conferences that she attended with the EOWC. Others agreed, noting the overall success in messaging and the increased accessibility to Ministers.

Regarding the MPPs meeting in Frontenac County last month, the consensus was that it was very successful for both sides, and that the overall value and attendance is much greater compared to a breakfast meeting at Queen's Park. The Wardens agreed that this was the preferred format for future meetings, both with the MPPs as well as the MPs.

It was suggested that the MPPs also present a summary of what they have done in recent months, and to discuss how they can carry forward the EOWC's message back to Queen's Park.

6.3 Regional Strategy on Natural Gas Expansion – Chair Jones

Justin Bromberg presented the natural gas program announcement regarding cross-subsidization and the concept of a regional approach. There is a potential for a united pitch working with the gas companies, and EORN's approach can be transferable to natural gas. The approach could be very similar to the broadband and cell gap projects. Discussion ensued on whether EORN or ECS could take on that role.

**Moved by Warden McLeod
Seconded by Warden Partridge**

THAT a working group be created, including representatives from the EOWC, EORN, the two gas companies and the OFA, to brainstorm on a natural gas gap analysis and regional strategies, and to report back to the EOWC in early 2019.

CARRIED

6.4 Eastern Ontario Leadership Council – Andy Brown/Kelly Pender

Kelly Pender noted that the online survey has been completed and that the two highest priorities remain the lack of labour force, and cellular and internet coverage. Business optimism has generally increased across the region. The Municipal Innovation workshop has been postponed; there was an excellent response from companies, but little uptake from municipalities, likely due to timing. Regarding the Strategy refresh project, Mr. Pender noted that the Provincial government is looking for early wins and that Minister Wilson is supportive. The three priorities will not likely change; however, the EOLC and the EOWC will have a brand new influential document to present to the government in the coming months.

6.5 Priorities and Preparation for January 2019 – Chair Jones

Chair Jones discussed priority setting ahead of the ROMA Conference. She proposed to direct staff to continue working with the existing priorities, given the timing between the Inaugural meeting and ROMA. If the new Caucus wishes to make changes, this can be done for the spring. This will also allow for continuity and a stronger presentation to the Ministers in January. Discussion ensued on priorities for 2019 and the importance of relating them to provincial priorities and strategies – namely, job creation and reducing red tape. Potential priorities are the cell gap project, natural gas expansion, offload delays, and affordable housing. The CAOs can begin working with those topics ahead of the Inaugural meeting. It was also suggested to hire StrategyCorp to present to the incoming Wardens.

7. Closed Session (n/a)

8. Reports from Wardens

8.1 Chair's Report

The Chair reflected on the importance of this year, and how wonderful it was to get to know the Wardens. She thanked Warden Murphy for her work as Vice-Chair; Justin Bromberg for his availability and corporate memory; and Andy Brown for his close support over this past year.

8.2 Reports from Wardens

The Wardens provided various updates from their Counties and spoke to the pleasure of being a part of this group. The departing Wardens were bid farewell and the staff were thanked for their support. Warden Partridge thanked everyone for coming to Haliburton Highlands.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Outgoing

9.1.1 Letter to Minister Monte McNaughton regarding the Eastern Ontario Cellular Improvement Project, dated September 6, 2018

9.1.2 Letter to NDP Leader Andrea Horwath regarding the Eastern Ontario Cellular Improvement Project, dated September 7, 2018

9.2 Incoming

9.2.1 Letter from Minister Monte McNaughton regarding the Eastern Ontario Cellular Improvement Project, dated September 26, 2018

Moved by Warden Cooney

Seconded by Warden Lowry

THAT the outgoing and incoming correspondence be received.

CARRIED

10. By-laws

11. Notice of Motions

12. Confirmation By-law #18-08

Moved by Warden Higgins

Seconded by Warden Partridge

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 4th and 5th days of October, 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

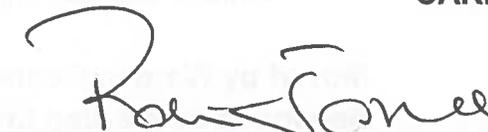
13. Adjournment

Moved by Warden Murphy

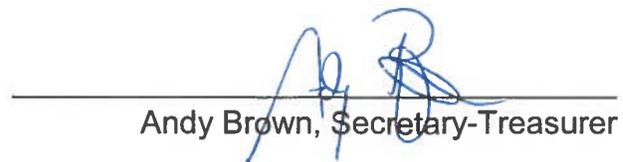
Seconded by Warden McLeod

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

CARRIED



Robin Jones, Chair



Andy Brown, Secretary-Treasurer