



## Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus MINUTES

**Tuesday, June 28, 2016  
County of Northumberland  
Cobourg, Ontario  
9:00 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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	Warden Frances Smith	Kelly Pender, CAO
County of Haliburton	Warden Carol Moffatt	Mike Rutter, CAO
County of Hastings	Warden Rick Phillips	Jim Pine, CAO
County of Lanark	Warden Gail Code	Kurt Greaves, CAO
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Warden David Gordon	Andy Brown, CAO
County of Lennox & Addington	Warden Henry Hogg	Larry Keech, CAO
County of Northumberland	Warden Gil Brocanier	Jennifer Moore, CAO
County of Peterborough	Warden J. Murray Jones	
County of Prince Edward	Mayor Robert Quaiff	James Hepburn, CAO
County of Renfrew	Warden Peter Emon, <b>Chair</b>	Jim Hutton, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell	Warden Guy Desjardins	
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Warden Jamie MacDonald	Tim Simpson, CAO

<b>Regrets</b>		
City of Kawartha Lakes	Mayor Andy Letham	Ron Taylor, CAO
County of Peterborough		Gary King, CAO
United Counties of Prescott and Russell		Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO

<b>Others Present</b>	
<b>Delegation/Guests</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Justin Bromberg	Communications and Policy Coordinator, EOWC
David Fell	Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Ontario Regional Network
Lisa Severson	Communications Stakeholder and Relations Officer, EORN
Stephen Seller	Senior Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Maddison Ellis	Administration Intern, County of Hastings

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

The meeting was called to order and Chair Peter Emon welcomed the members. Warden Brocanier welcomed everyone to the County of Northumberland.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest – N/A**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Warden Jones  
Seconded by Warden Smith**

**THAT the Agenda of the June 28, 2016 meeting be adopted as amended.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting and the closed session meeting of April 22, 2016 were presented.

**Moved by Warden Code  
Seconded by Warden Gordon**

**THAT the Minutes of the EOWC Inc. meeting and the closed session meeting of April 22, 2016 be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

## **5. Delegations**

### **5.1 Terry Rees, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations**

Terry Rees, Executive Director, explained the objectives of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, namely to promote stewardship for the many waterfront properties in Eastern Ontario, as well as good land use planning and improved rural services for rural residents, including police and emergency response. FOCA believes in having strong stewards, such as academia and government, and its members are highly educated and earn good salaries (average age 46, median income \$100,000). Mr. Rees suggested that the EOWC and FOCA work together with these seasonal and waterfront property owners as a source of new local entrepreneurship.

Warden Jones proposed a game plan to proceed with this kind of thinking and perhaps attract residents to stay in Eastern Ontario longer than they would otherwise. Mr. Rees referred to the high-speed infrastructure in the Muskoka region, which has encouraged people to extend their time in the community. He reiterated that FOCA and the EOWC are much aligned on issues and priorities, as both are largely based in rural areas. Jim Pine suggested that Mr. Rees work with the Leadership Council to promote such economic development opportunities. Andy Brown and Kelly Pender will contact Mr. Rees and arrange a meeting with the Leadership Council.

### **5.2 Joe Tiernay, Ontario Good Roads Association**

Joe Tiernay, Executive Director, Ken Laupé, Vice-President, and Scott Butler, Manager of Policy and Research, explained the history behind the OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference, which occurred from 2000 to 2016. Mr. Tiernay noted the groups decided to merge in 1999 to better serve municipal representatives, and he discussed the many changes, feedback and improvements that OGRA has brought to the conference over those years in an effort to make it more relevant to rural municipalities. OGRA will continue to offer the same programming in 2017, despite the split with ROMA. The theme for 2017 conference is Leadership Matters. Mr. Tiernay noted a letter is being circulated from the Township of South West Oxford requesting that ROMA reconsider its position. For OGRA, the door is open for ROMA to come back. The loss is strength in numbers.

Warden Phillips raised the issue of whether OGRA has done enough to focus on rural matters. Mr. Tiernay replied that ROMA is welcome to put those issues forward and has been given that opportunity. Chair Emon noted smaller issues like severances and invasive species don't always get the attention they deserve. Mr. Butler said that OGRA ran sessions on these issues and worked to find speakers from the rural sector, realizing there needed to be more emphasis on rural issues. Mr. Tiernay added that the Connecting Links program was a result of the combined conference, and these results simply can't happen in isolation. He invited the EOWC to participate in the conference planning, and is prepared to provide it with greater exposure and profile, and to be part of the OGRA Conference.

Responding to questions from members, Mr. Tiernay acknowledged that the dispute began when ROMA asked to revise the revenue-sharing agreement. He noted OGRA plans the conference and ROMA attends a two-hour planning session, and OGRA later provides \$100,000 to ROMA. The issue of the fire-medic session at the 2016 conference was raised. Discussion ensued. Several members agreed that a combined conference is in the best interest of municipalities. Chair Emon asked OGRA to send its invitation, which will be referred to the CAOs in July for discussion.

### **5.3 Doug Carr, Chief Negotiator, Algonquin Land Claim**

Doug Carr introduced himself as the new Provincial Chief Negotiator for the Algonquin Land Claim, as well as Sydne Conover Taggart, senior lands negotiator, who has worked on the land claims package for several years. He noted the claim has been under negotiation since 1994 and that an agreement in principle was reached earlier this year, supported at 94% by the Algonquins of Ontario. The claim is for 117,000 acres spread across the Ottawa Valley, as well as \$300 million and other measures in order to provide the Algonquins with compensation for the lack of a treaty. It is the only Aboriginal group without a treaty. The Province remains confident that the Algonquins will approve the agreement shortly, and that the Pikwakanagan council will find significant support for the agreement in principle, after which both parties can begin the five-year process of negotiating the text of the treaty, which will be constitutionally enshrined. The claim impacts about 220 parcels of land, with the majority in Renfrew and Frontenac, with some in Hastings and Lennox and Addington. The creation of self-government for the Pikwakanagan community will also affect hunting and fishing rights in the Ottawa Valley for all Algonquins.

#### **5.4 Stephen Seller, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

Stephen Seller noted that speculation was rampant that there would be a Provincial cabinet shuffle. Following Minister Ted McMeekin's resignation, the Ministerial portfolio has been split. Minister Bill Mauro is responsible for Municipal Affairs and Minister Chris Ballard will handle Housing. Laurie Leblanc remains as Deputy Minister.

Mr. Seller noted that the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act* were approved before the Legislature rose for the summer break. There are still some regulations regarding ranked ballots to be finalized.

### **6. Reports from Wardens**

#### **6.1 Chair's Update – Peter Emon**

Chair Emon provided a brief update from the last AMO meeting, including discussion on the new Blue Box Steward Obligation, which determines the funding municipalities receive for providing 2014 blue box services. The ruling is for about \$400,000, but AMO has concerns and will continue to push for increased municipal representation and compensation. AMO is also assembling a marijuana legalization task force to study the impacts of the legalized regime on municipalities. The number of federal inspectors in Ontario might not be sufficient to inspect hundreds of businesses. There were additional consultations regarding the What's Next Ontario plan. Finally, AMO has taken a position on the Provincial Review of the OMB, and supports scoping its jurisdiction as to not create new risk of court actions, improving processes through rigorous pre-screening and vetting of appeals, and ensuring OMB members are focused on good planning. Chair Emon asked Kelly Pender to provide a brief update on the last Leadership Council meeting.

#### **6.2 Updates from Wardens**

Wardens provided updates from their respective Counties. Mayor Quaiff thanked the group for attending the Picton Terminals visit yesterday and for its support of the project. The County's new fire truck is being received tomorrow. Haliburton County submitted its concerns regarding policing

costs to the Ombudsman, which welcomed the submission. Warden Code noted that an agreement was signed for a multi-use trail in Lanark County and Renfrew County. Warden Gordon noted that the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville is undergoing a service delivery review. Warden Smith invited the group to attend a dinner hosted by Frontenac County at Fort Henry on September 14. Warden Phillips spoke about the \$1.1-million project for Highway 2 in Hastings County. Warden Brocanier discussed the ongoing success of the Agri-Food Venture Centre in Northumberland County, as well as the study for the GO Transit expansion east of Oshawa that will eventually bring rail service outside the GTA. Warden MacDonald noted that the United Counties of SD&G submitted its Official Plan to the Ministry. Warden Desjardins mentioned the widening of County Road 17 and the upcoming Ottawa River Festival. Chair Emon noted that Renfrew County recently signed an Economic Development Memorandum of Understanding with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan.

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

### **7.1 Advancement of 2016 Priorities – Chair Emon / Jim Hutton**

Chair Emon stressed that availability of electricity capacity is increasingly an issue for new development. It was noted that the Township of North Stormont passed a resolution regarding the *Green Energy Act*. The CAOs will discuss the issue in July and determine if the EOWC should lend its support. Warden Gordon expressed concerns about the need for natural gas in rural areas. Many businesses continue to complain about lack of energy capacity. Lisa Severson reminded Wardens to forward any energy issues to EORN. The CAOs will emphasize energy issues as part of the EOWC's strategy for the upcoming AMO Conference.

### **7.2 Report on EOWC Advocacy and Recommendations (Jim Pine)**

Jim Pine explained that Kathryn Wood was asked to prepare a report on the EOWC's advocacy work over the last 10 years, which included 147 recommendations. Ms. Wood provided scorecard results based on those that the EOWC acted upon and those that were supported by either the provincial or federal government. The EOWC must now decide how to take action on the report. The CAOs will review the report over the next month and provide recommendations to the Wardens in August.

Generally speaking, Mr. Pine noted that the EOWC has had a number of successes over the years, and a net positive effect of \$1.3 billion for rural Eastern Ontario. The EOWC should be proud of this achievement and reiterate that number, though the group will update its existing reports and review the recommendations to further improve upon those successes.

### **7.3 ROMA and OGRA Conferences in 2017 (Chair Emon / Jim Hutton)**

Chair Emon stated that the EOWC will ask ROMA Chair Ron Holman to make a presentation at its next meeting, similar to OGRA's presentation. A decision can be made following ROMA's presentation at AMO in August.

### **7.4 Eastern Ontario Growth Plan Interviews (Chair Emon / Jim Hutton)**

Jim Hutton noted that most Counties have conducted their interviews with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs consultants and that the message was largely the same among the group. He recalled that the City of Ottawa has created its own commuter problem by having so many residents living inside and beyond the Greenbelt. Mr. Hutton made a presentation on this issue to the EOMC a few weeks ago, noting the group was somewhat split in its views. Chair Emon added that the interview was a good opportunity to provide comments on the need for increased hydroelectricity capacity and natural gas availability as beneficial to future development.

### **7.5 Recap: Meeting on Parliament Hill with Federal MPs (Chair Emon)**

Chair Emon recalled that the meeting with federal MPs on Parliament Hill was largely a success, and suggested the EOWC pursue similar meetings on an annual or twice-annual basis. All Wardens were in agreement.

### **7.6 Discussion Topics at AMO Multi-Ministers Delegation (Chair Emon)**

Chair Emon presented the list of discussion topics for the Multi-Ministers Delegation at the AMO Conference and asked for feedback. Following discussion, the approved topics were joint and several liability; the Eastern Ontario Growth Plan; the cell gap project; policing costs; Service Ontario and Registry Office closures; hydroelectricity costs and natural gas; the fire-medical proposal; and infrastructure funding. A letter requesting the delegation and outlining the topics will be forwarded to the Province.

### **7.7 Provincial Support for OPFFA Fire Medic Proposal – Jim Pine**

Jim Pine noted the Fire-Medic proposal is an extensive decision by the Premier's Office that could have a major financial impact on municipalities. Warden Jones suggested raising the issue with individual MPPs. Many Wardens noted that volunteer firefighters have not requested paramedic training, and furthermore, additional funding is still required for emergency services. The EOWC will send a letter to the Premier, supporting AMO's position and stressing that this proposal is unnecessary.

### **7.8 Approval Process for Hauled Sewage – Warden Moffatt**

Warden Moffatt explained that in September 2015, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) issued an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for a waste disposal (raw septage) site in Algonquin Highlands. There are several such sites in the County, and the Ministry can issue these approvals without consultation with the public or a municipality. In this case, Warden Moffatt stated the MOECC granted the ECA to an area zoned rural – which shouldn't have received approval as per the township's zoning bylaw – and the only course of action is a legal injunction to force the landowner to change the zoning. Ministry approval documentation states that an applicant is responsible for ensuring that all legislative obligations are met, including re-zoning, however the Ministry will not compel a property owner to do so. In this particular situation, the property owner refused to apply for re-zoning and instead hired a lawyer to defend his interests. The municipality opted not to pursue the case, to avoid a costly legal battle and a potential Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

Among other issues, this particular application has resulted in an MOECC decision to update the Hauled Sewage Program. A review is underway and Warden Moffatt has been asked to seek the input of the EOWC member municipalities. Minister Glen Murray wants to end field spreading within five years, though the Province hasn't presented a viable alternative to field spreading or offered funding for sewage plants. This review will cover three aspects: policy, standards and program delivery. It will mainly impact rural municipalities and is expected to change sewage programs going forward. It was agreed to send a letter to Minister Murray once the review is further advanced and distribute it to all member municipalities.

### **7.9 Property Assessments and Policing Costs – Warden Smith**

Warden Smith provided a summary of the press release distributed by the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario (RMFEO), noting the group met with the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau, MPAC and ROMA last month to review its analysis of police services costing based on property counts.

The RMFEO found a discrepancy between the growth in property counts provided by MPAC to the OPP and the new growth it could identify in its municipalities, leaving an amount of about \$232,000 unaccounted for in OPP billings that had to be recovered from the existing tax base, above and beyond the phased-in increases already experienced in 2016. Warden Smith noted the RMFEO will follow up to see if any resolution is possible, although the OPP isn't aware of the source of the discrepancy.

### **7.10 Joint and Several Liability – Chair Emon**

Chair Emon explained that a request was forwarded to Attorney General Yasir Naqvi's constituency office in Ottawa, requesting a meeting to discuss the joint and several liability issue. If the meeting does not occur, the EOWC will meet with the Attorney General at the AMO Conference.

### **7.11 EOWC Queen's Park Day – Chair Emon**

Chair Emon noted the EOWC Queen's Park Day was largely a success last year, and a good opportunity for the group to meet Ministers outside of the conference delegations. It was recommended that staff should work to plan a similar event again this October in Toronto.

### **7.12 Cross-Border Municipal Ambulance Billing – Kurt Greaves**

Kurt Greaves noted that several CAOs are meeting next month with the new City Manager in Ottawa, Steve Kanellakos, to discuss the cross-border municipal ambulance billing issue. The Eastern Ontario Treasurers Group is working on an update with the regional Paramedic Chiefs, and will be presenting recommendations to the EOWC in the coming weeks. Mr. Greaves will prepare some statistics and a detailed report in advance of the meeting with the Mr. Kanellakos on July 21st.

### **7.13 EOWC Statement of Operations – Jim Hutton**

Jim Hutton presented the EOWC's statement of operations as of May 31, 2016, noting that expenses and revenues are well within budget.

### **7.14 Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Reports – David Fell**

#### **7.14.1 EORN CEO Report**

David Fell provided an update on EORN's recent activities and advocacy, including a meeting with representatives from the Province of Nova Scotia to provide an overview of the EORN project, as it prepares for a similar project; the completion of the Municipal Wi-Fi White Paper, which will have a professional design review by Redbrick Communications ahead of its release to municipalities in July 2016; the development of municipal and small-medium business e-business toolkits; and a planning session with Deep River municipal council to discuss the advantages and opportunities for a potential fibre to the home project.

#### **7.14.2 Cell Gap / Mobile Broadband Report**

Jim Pine noted that EORN continues to deliver presentations on the cell gap project and meet with various federal and provincial ministries for advocacy purposes. Additional meetings in Ottawa are scheduled in July. EORN will be requesting that every County pass a resolution in August to support the project, as part of its business case.

Lisa Severson explained that several municipalities are in the process of signing contracts with Bell for the municipal fibre/DSL project. She noted that there is a delay of six weeks for the new contracts to take effect.

**Moved by Warden Phillips  
Seconded by Warden Brocanier**

**THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus receive the Cell Gap Project Report as presented.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.14.3 Leadership Council Innovation Ecosystem Report**

David Fell provided an update on the Innovation Ecosystem Report, noting it was reviewed by the Leadership Council and the next step is to develop a strategic response to expand and enhance the regional innovation ecosystem. The report will provide a basis for applying to any potential new programs announced by the federal government. EORN will work with other stakeholders, partners and funders to distribute the report and organize a workshop in September to review the results and identify opportunities to work together for implementation of the recommendations. The goal is to work together as opposed to competing for funding.

**Moved by Warden Jones**  
**Seconded by Warden Moffatt**

**THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus accept the Ryerson / Leadership Council Innovation Ecosystem Report as presented.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.14.4 CRTC Final Report**

David Fell advised of a potential legal issue regarding a submission to the CRTC critical of EORN and Bell Canada. EORN previously responded to the complainant's allegations, centered on the possibility of double funding to Bell Canada through both EORN and EOWC funding and deferral account funding. Mr. Fell noted the allegations are false and that EORN has had all its contracts, invoices, accounts and procurement practices reviewed by OMAFRA, INFC and audited twice by Deloitte. No further action is recommended or required on this file at the present time.

**Moved by Warden Code**  
**Seconded by Warden Hogg**

**THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus accept the Ryerson / Leadership Council Innovation Ecosystem Report as presented.**

**CARRIED**

## **8. Closed Session (n/a)**

## **9. Correspondence**

### **9.1 Outgoing**

- 9.1.1 Letter to Ryerson University regarding the Ontario Human Capital Research and Innovation Fund, dated April 22, 2016
- 9.1.2 Letter to Ben Doornekamp regarding support for proposed Picton Terminals Expansion project, dated April 26, 2016
- 9.1.3 Letter to Minister Jeff Leal regarding suspended intake of the Rural Economic Development Program, dated April 27, 2016
- 9.1.4 Letter to Warden Henry Hogg regarding his acclamation at the County of Lennox and Addington, dated May 12, 2016
- 9.1.5 Letter to Prime Minister Justin P.J. Trudeau regarding bank branch closures in rural communities, dated May 24, 2016
- 9.1.6 Letter to Minister Navdeep Bains regarding the Community Futures Development Corporations, dated May 31, 2016

**Moved by Warden Smith**

**Seconded by Warden Moffatt**

**THAT the outgoing correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **9.2 Incoming**

- 9.2.1 Letter from Mayor Conrad Lamadeleine regarding a proposal to increase revenues for municipalities, dated April 10, 2016
- 9.2.2 Letter from Minister Ted McMeekin regarding the Multi-Ministers Delegation at ROMA/OGRA, dated April 15, 2016
- 9.2.3 Letter from the Township of Huron-Kinloss supporting the EOWC's advocacy efforts on natural gas, dated April 20, 2016

- 9.2.4 Letter from the City of Belleville supporting the EOWC's advocacy efforts on natural gas, dated April 27, 2016
- 9.2.5 Letter from Minister Navdeep Bains regarding renewal of the Eastern Ontario Development Program, dated April 28, 2016
- 9.2.6 Letter from Minister Jeff Leal regarding suspended intake of Rural Economic Development Program, dated May 4, 2016
- 9.2.7 Letter from the Township of Douro-Dummer supporting the EOWC's advocacy efforts on natural gas, dated May 13, 2016
- 9.2.8 Letter from Elgin County supporting the advocacy efforts on natural gas expansion, dated May 17, 2016
- 9.2.9 Letter from the County of Peterborough supporting the EOWC's advocacy efforts on natural gas, dated May 20, 2016
- 9.2.10 Letter from the City of Welland supporting the EOWC's advocacy efforts on natural gas, dated May 31, 2016
- 9.2.11 Letter from Minister Ted McMeekin regarding the EOWC's submission on the Growth Plan, dated May 31, 2016
- 9.2.12 Letters and Resolutions from various EOWC Counties supporting the Picton Terminals project, dated June 2016

**Moved by Warden Phillips**  
**Seconded by Warden Desjardins**

**THAT the incoming correspondence be received.**

**CARRIED**

**10. By-laws**

**11. Notice of Motions**

**12. Confirmation By-law #16-08**

**Moved by Warden MacDonald**

**Seconded by Warden Moffatt**

**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 28th day of June, 2016 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.**

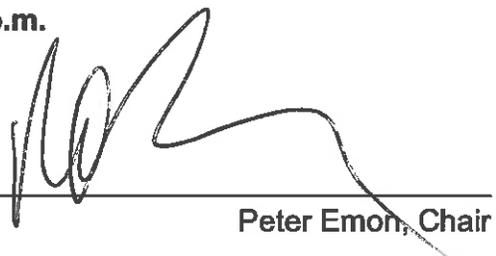
**2. THAT the Chair and the proper officers of the Corporation of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. are hereby authorized and directed to do all the things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain any approvals where required, and to execute all documents as may be necessary, and the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to affix the Corporate Seal to all such documents.**

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved by Mayor Quaiff**

**Seconded by Warden Gordon**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:38 p.m.**

  
Peter Emon, Chair

  
Jim Hutton, Secretary-Treasurer