



# City of Kenora Minutes

Of a Committee of the Whole of Council  
August 24, 2010  
3:30 p.m.

**Action**

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**Present:**

**Mayor L. Compton, Councillor W. Cuthbert, Councillor C. Drinkwalter, Councillor D. McCann, Councillor R. McMillan, Councillor J. Parson, Councillor Van Walleggem.**

**Staff:**

**Karen Brown, CAO, Joanne McMillin, City Clerk, Tara Rickaby, Planning Administrator, Jennifer Findlay, Economic Development Officer**

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**A. Public Information Notices**

N/A

**B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature thereof**

N/A

**1) On Today's Agenda**

**2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance**

There were none declared.

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**1. Update – A.M.O. Conference**

Committee reviewed Karen Brown's August 23 report on the AMO Delegation Summary. Mayor Compton indicated to the Media the CAO would email a copy of the revised report to them this afternoon following the meeting.

**K. Brown**

*Councillor Parson attended at 3:45 p.m.*

Mayor Compton then asked those Members of Council that participated in the AMO delegations to present the summary of meetings as set out in the report (see copy of report attached to these Minutes).

Mayor Compton thanked Karen and her staff involved with the preparation of the AMO packages for a job well done, noting this was one of the largest slate of Ministries this Council has been fortunate to meet with during an AMO Conference.

**2. Information session with Todd Sellers, Executive Director  
Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation**

Todd Sellers, Executive Director of the Foundation together with Board of Directors Member Tony Stephens and Summer Student Joelle Thorgrimson attended. Mr. Sellers gave a presentation to Council regarding the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation, specifically as it relates to the recent success in getting an International Joint Commission (IJC) for Lake of the Woods and the IJC's upcoming consultation meeting in Kenora on September 1.

Todd Sellers gave a PowerPoint Presentation to Committee highlighting various areas the Foundation is involved with for purposes of an update. He noted the Foundation is the 'Champion' for Lake of the Woods Water Quality; seeking to control nutrients and phosphorous from entering the lake with algae blooms being the main problem, and that really no-one is 'in charge.'

The Foundation is not sure of a solution, however the IJC argues they should be involved and have a role in the management plans to protect the water quality that affects two provinces and one state. Mr. Sellers noted a number of cities, towns, countries; LOWDPOA, NWOTA, First Nations and US Tribes have been involved with getting the message out. A Bi-National Task Force was recently established (local Kelli Saunders is part of the Task Force) and its report will be required by July 15, 2011.

There is a need for a permanent Water Quality Management Board with the watershed, incorporating the function of the Rainy River Pollution Board (identify nutrient-loading issues as a priority). The goal is that by December 2015, there will be plans in place with the permanent Water Quality Management Board.

The next steps for the Foundation is to make sure the Stakeholder Advisory Group 'gets it right' with a year to get it done. The Foundation is looking to the City of Kenora to participate and be involved and to continue to support the Foundation's efforts as they have in the past. It was mentioned that Kenora as well as Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls should be making presentations and being involved with the process with the Task Force.

It was asked who the key players are and Mr. Sellers noted MOE, MNR at the provincial and local level; as well as land-use planning and pollution control centre(s). Mr. Sellers noted the Foundation would like more of a lead at the local level, referring to the great work the City did with Black Sturgeon water quality for example, along with the efforts of LOWDPOA.

Mr. Sellers was asked how the testing is completed for emergent threats, and he noted the phosphorous and algae blooms are not as much a problem at this end of the lake as they are in the south. He mentioned with their testing there is not any heavy metal or organic contaminates but they have to keep monitoring these areas.

It was explained the Foundation helps with providing/exchanging information with the Northwestern Health Unit however they do not have a specific relationship with the NWHU.

In responding to a question Mr. Sellers indicated the Foundation attempts to keep the public informed and educated through community meetings, creating educational programs for schools, regular newsletters as well as posting information on its website.

Mr. Sellers reiterated the importance of continuing to push the provincial government to also assist with getting the message out regarding this issue. It was suggested perhaps the City should be passing a resolution at its September Council meeting and forward same to the province for this purpose. Mr. Sellers indicated this would be much appreciated and that he'd email a sample resolution to Karen Brown, along with a copy of today's presentation.

Mayor Compton thanked Messrs. Sellers, Stephens and Ms Thorgrimson for attending today's meeting.

### **Adjournment**

**3. Moved by R. McMillan, Seconded by C. Drinkwalter & Carried:-**

That this meeting be now declared closed at 4:30 p.m.

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## **DELEGATION SUMMARY report prepared by K. Brown, CAO**

### **A. Meetings with the Ministers**

The City requested a number of meetings with various Ministers, the list with amendments having been previously circulated to Council, together with a summary of each issue being brought forward for discussion. As in previous years, a general more detailed presentation package was prepared based on both Council and staff input for distribution to the Ministers, also previously circulated to Council. For 2010, the City was fortunate to receive a total of 10 delegations with either Ministers or Ministry staff. Specifically, City representatives met with the following during the AMO Convention:

Hon. Michael Gravelle, Northern Development, Mines & Forestry  
Donna Cansfield, PA to Minister Bradley, Municipal Affairs & Housing  
Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Natural Resources  
Phil McNeely, PA to Minister Duguid, Energy & Infrastructure  
Mike Colle, PA to Minister Bartolucci, Community Safety & Correctional

#### Services

Hon. Michael Chan, Tourism & Culture  
Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Transportation  
Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Community & Social Services  
Hon. Chris Bentley, Aboriginal Affairs (& Attorney General)  
Hon. Margaret Best, Health Promotion

**K. Brown/  
H. Kasprick**

Each Minister and / or Parliamentary Assistant received three copies of the City's general presentation package and one copy of the City's Economic Development Package 2009. Due to a conflict in the delegation schedule, I did not personally attend the meeting with Minister Jeffrey (Natural Resources). Councillor Chris has provided that update for inclusion in this report. The following provides the highlights from each delegation, including any resulting action items:

- **Hon. Michael Gravelle, Northern Development, Mines & Forestry** – Minister Gravelle advised that he was very familiar with all the issues the City was bringing forward. He noted that he had heard from many groups advocating the opportunity to be used as a pilot project for the Forest Tenure reform. He further advised that the Ministry was committed to testing the principles included in the proposed forest tenure scheme, and while he could not provide a time frame, the intent was to proceed as soon as possible. Minister Gravelle noted that he had had a positive meeting with Kenora Forest Products (KFP). With regards to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its potential impacts on forestry, Minister Gravelle noted that his Ministry is committed to moving forward, and that Minister Jeffrey would confirm that all Ministers are attempting to make a case for this issue. He reiterated that the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines & Forestry (MNDM&F) is the advocate for the Forestry Industry and Minister Jeffrey supports this and understands the difficulties of moving forward.
- **Donna Cansfield, PA to Minister Bradley, Municipal Affairs & Housing** – A number of issues were discussed, including:
  - *Twining Hwy 17* – Mme Cansfield indicated she felt they will go north of the existing road bed as there are too many environmental concerns to do otherwise. The delay in pulling the billboards down was noted, and Mme Cansfield suggested that the City look into other signage alternatives such as used in Chatham Kent – things like landscaped signage (examples included signage built into a berm or landscaped with rocks). As an aside, Mme Cansfield noted surprise that the City had not yet been able to proceed with a rest stop, which had been some time in process with the Ministry of Transportation.
  - *Homelessness* – Mme Cansfield advised that the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) has the lead on funding. It was noted that the Province has recognized there is an issue with three ministries involved in this area, and they are working on a more consolidated approach. Mme Cansfield questioned if the City had approached the Federal Government to recognize that this is an aboriginal issue, and suggested that the City follow up with Diane Kelly of Treaty 3 and native fellowship centres on the potential for collaboration.
  - *KDSB* - Mme Cansfield noted that the issue with the use of uploaded savings to supplement other budget areas was pretty universal across the Province, and while the control for budget approval was ultimately at the local level, she could see the issue of larger municipalities only having one vote at the table.
- **Minister Linda Jeffrey, Natural Resources** – With regards to the Forestry Industry, Minister Jeffrey indicated she understood that both time and energy could be saved on both sides if the lines related to responsibilities for the forestry industry were made clearer between Natural Resources (MNR) and MNDM&F. Minister Jeffrey further noted that she was

aware of the pending downtime at iLevel, and that she felt a solution to the high wood costs is on the radar as the forest tenure reform moves ahead. She noted she was pleased to hear the City supported the report from Justice Iacobucci relating to fibre security and First Nations. With regards to the Bear Wise funding, while no promises were made, the issue appeared to generate some Ministry attention and while nothing was promised, questions were asked related to this issue.

- **Phil McNeely, PA to Minister Duguid, Energy & Infrastructure** – The Ministry requested that Kenora provide them with a priority list and note which type of projects should be considered Ministry priority. The Ministry was further interested in input to the previous COMRIF funding program, as well as whether ongoing infrastructure funding initiatives should be specific to certain kinds of infrastructure (eg. Roads & bridges) or more generic to allow municipalities the opportunity to determine priorities. There was a great deal of interest in the fact that Kenora had completed its Tangible Capital Asset (TCA) inventory, as well as some recognition of Kenora's issue with its topography.
- **Mike Colle, PA to Minister Bartolucci, Community Safety & Correctional Services** – The Ministry provided an update on the progress of the new forensic labs. The Ministry continues to be in discussion with the successful respondent. They are still negotiating and the timetables tend to be fluid. It was noted that they are coordinating a number of projects over a short period of time, but that they will check to see if Kenora can be moved up on the construction timetable. This could, of course, be impacted by weather. The Ministry confirmed that they would bring back our request and see where this process was at. PA Colle further indicated that they would see if there is any way to get the shovel into the ground as soon as possible.
- **Hon. Michael Chan, Tourism & Culture** – Minister Chan thanked Kenora for manning the Ontario Tourism outpost during the off season. He advised that Kenora and NW Ontario had not been forgotten by his Ministry, referring to the Regional Tourism Organizations (RTO's) and noting that the 3 sectors each receive \$.5M for marketing. Minister Chan advised that they would look at moving the Ontario Travel Information Sector (OTIC) as quite a lot of dollars are currently going in to this, noting that these dollars could be of assistance to provide additional marketing dollars. With regards to the snowmobile permit reform and accessible trails issues, Minister Chan noted that Tourism in Kenora makes sense, and that it is always good to diversify our tourism strategies. He advised he will look into and engage his Ministry partners on this issue, specifically MTO for snowmobile issues, and Health Promotion for accessible trails. With regards to the billboard issue for Hwy 17 twinning, Minister Chan suggested looking into the Tourism Oriented Directional Signage (TODS) program, indicating that the City could apply for signage on the highway under this program (although it is recognized that this may have already been investigated by City staff). With regards to Kenora as a Tourism area, Minister Chan requested the City to send a letter detailing the additional red tape encountered by a local business as a result of the failure of the Province to recognize Kenora as a tourism destination area.
- **Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Transportation** – A number of issues were discussed, including:

- *Rest Stops* – It was noted that the Province has identified \$1M to be put into improvements to existing rest stops. No funding is being put into additional rest stops until the study is complete and direction is received on future locations. It was discussed, however, that the Ministry would respond to the recent Kenora letter on a rest stop, and following that a discussion on funding for development was requested by the City.
  - *Twinning Hwy 17 & Billboards* – Minister Wynne noted that they have engaged with Chief Mandamin of Shoal Lake for discussions, and that while she believes this is a complicated situation, they have a better chance of working it out now. She further noted that the Province is going to extend the moratorium on billboards and that the Ministry was going to look at existing policy and work with the City to ensure the policy is reasonable.
  - *Snowmobile Permit Reform* – The Ministry expressed concern that there would be an increased cost and that there was no existing reciprocity. The City was referred to the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) to pursue this issue. Finally, the Province recognized that funding for roads and bridges was a challenge to all municipalities across the Province, although no solution was offered at this time.
- **Hon Madeleine Meilleur, Community & Social Services** – Key issues discussed include:
    - *Homelessness* – Minister Meilleur noted that no shelter has a fixed budget. It was noted by the Ministry, however, that they are currently doing a review of various funding programs to see if they can obtain more equity. The Ministry committed to following up with the regional office to have discussion on funding the shelter and see what that office could do to assist. (Rory noted that the regional office was aware of the issue.) The Ministry further advised that there was a review going on through a number of Ministries right now, and that they would bring this issue forward to the table for discussion, noting that there may be an opportunity to move forward there.
    - *KDSB* – Minister Meilleur advised that she had heard a concern with weighted voting from other municipalities during the conference, noting that part of the issue was that the unincorporated had the same vote. She advised that it was up to the municipalities to affect the vote at the local level, where a change in voting structure could be approved. She further noted that it was a local decision what to do with the savings from uploading and that she strongly recommended that these savings be used for community services, such as the homelessness issue.
    - *Rent Scale* – Minister Meilleur noted that the rent scale is the responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. She advised she will speak with that Ministry on this issue, and encouraged the City to write a letter to that Ministry as well.
  - **Hon. Chris Bentley, Aboriginal Affairs (& Attorney General)** – Minister Bentley thanked the delegates for the information on the Miitigoog partnership, and advised he would speak with both colleagues (Ministers Gravelle and Jeffrey) to try to help in Miitigoog’s quest to become a pilot for the forest tenure reform, noting that partnerships generally start on a stronger note than independent operations. In closing, he noted his recent

meeting with Chief Mandamin and Minister Wynne on the twinning Hwy 17 issue.

- ***Hon Margaret Best, Health Promotion*** – Minister Best advised that she wanted to make sure the challenges currently being faced by the government were understood re the economy. At the same time, her Ministry's mandate was to make Ontario healthier. She advised that she will continue to work with municipalities and will provide voice however she can to help. She requested a copy of the Trails & Beaches study.