

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: October 5, 2011
 Location: Greenstone Fire Centre
 Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>In Attendance:</u>	<u>Present:</u>	<u>Regrets:</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator	*	
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Doug Haldane, MNR Area Supervisor	*	
Lynn Palmer, Lakehead University - Guest	*	
<u>Members:</u>		
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Deanna Hoffman	*	
Edgar Lavoie	*	
Ed Hoffman (Chair)		*
Gary Selinger		*
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish	*	
Jamie Armstrong		*
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moretton	*	
Scott Koski		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Yvette Metansinine		*
<u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Arnott		*
Bill Davidson		*
Cory Nephin		*
Ken Stevens		*
Greg Riou		*
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu		*
Kyle Polesky		*
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Tom Hunt	*	
Erin Symington-Armstrong (maternity leave)		*
Jane Jantunen	*	

- I. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm after a steak dinner. Introductions were made as we had a guest.
- II. Review of Agenda – no additions or changes were made to the agenda.
- III. Approval of previous minutes – the June minutes were approved via email in June.
- IV. Business arising from previous minutes – **Toni did not draft a letter to the OPP regarding riding ATVs on the road but will do it this month and will provide the group a copy for November's meeting.** Evan did follow up and talk with the person who sent an email to the GANRAC website.

- V. Financial report – Evan provided the Financial Report and reviewed it with the group. Toni moved to approve the report, seconded by Remi – report approved.
- VI. Correspondence – none
- VII. New Business:
- a) Membership Review – Evan passed around the attendance report noting that this is something always done the first fall meeting (Identified in our Terms of Reference). It is important that each group have representation by either the main member or the alternate. Geraldton Community Forest did not meet the target, however Cory doesn't have an alternate. The Municipality was present for half of the meetings, but now has full representation and things are on an even keel. The First Nations group did not attend one meeting, nor did they attend any meeting last year. Evan asked the group what they felt we should do, as this negatively affects our quorum numbers. Do we leave them there? Do we remove the group? Some discussion took place and it appears we will leave the group there but note the main and alternate positions as vacant so they won't count negatively towards quorum. Evan has tried emails and phoning Yvette with no response either way. Charlotte noted the entire FMP process looks to have First Nation involvement. The group is concerned about their lack of involvement so **Edgar suggested we send an invitation to recruit new First Nation representatives. Action Item: Toni to prepare a letter for 1st Nations and** Ron will discuss attendance with GCF at GCF's next board meeting.
- b) Kenogami Draft Plan – Deanna went through the draft FMP plan that was submitted for approval. She explained the harvest area (149,548 ha), the harvest volume (11,419,770 m³), roads, silviculture and wildlife (marten cores and caribou). Ron M. asked if the Kenogami can sustain the 3 mills now with the caribou plan in place. This was a long discussion about wood and how/where is it shipped. The answer ultimately was no, it can't really support 3 mills and there is no commitment to the Longlac and Nakina mills at the present time. Regarding caribou, it was noted that many other species benefit from the fire-driven forest, not just the caribou. Deanna more fully explained about marten cores and how they essentially are mini-parks for marten and represent areas of 3 to 5,000 hectares each and are totally off-limits for cutting.

Roads were another big discussion. Deanna brought maps to show everyone what roads would be transferred back to the MNR. Once transferred back, the MNR has the option of maintaining the road, or decommissioning them. Evan put up a slide showing what steps would be taken with each of the Primary, Branch and Operational roads. Roads allow corridors for predators to easily move through the bush and get at the caribou. Caribou need very large areas of no disturbance. 80% of the area must be regenerated back to forest to allow for a whole forest. Roads are to be planted to bring the conifer component higher. Access to stocked lakes and popular fishing holes will be a consideration. Much will depend on the public consultation. Louis is very concerned about the

scarification and planting of roads and wants them to be left for Mother Nature to deal with. He said the trappers need a 6 ft. corridor to be able to get quads and such back to trap lines. Hector, Doug and Charlotte explained that as much detail as possible is needed to discuss roads and how they will be treated. They encouraged Louis to work with the trappers and get maps on a bigger scale to highlight areas of concern and bring them to the MNR or GFMI. Deanna's presentation is embedded below:



GANRAC draft FMP presentation.pdf

Evan's presentation on transfer of roads is also embedded below:



Decommissioning

- c) Independent Forest Audit Review Summary – Evan had previously provided everyone with the Audit Summary to review, Charlotte gave a brief overview of the questionnaire and we completed it as a group. **Toni will email it, as required, by Oct. 6, 2011.**

- d) Selection of Ogoki Planning Team Member(s) – Evan explained the time involved and what it involved in being on the Ogoki Planning Team. The group will likely start meetings in November and will meet once a month. Usually there are two people who support each other – paperwork involved would be the LCC statement and the LCC report, both of which have templates for completion. Toni commented that it is definitely a positive learning experience and the work involved doesn't take much time. The District Manager has stipulated that at least one member from GANRAC on the planning team must represent remote tourism, otherwise we would have to look outside for this representation. Ron Melhuish agreed to let his name stand for the team and the group looked to **Remi and/or Perry to possible split the other position to meet the DM's stipulation. Perry said he did not have the time but they will review the situation to see if there are any other alternatives and will let Evan know their final decision.** GEDC expressed interest, but were not represented at the meeting.

- e) Ogoki Update –Harvest operation started on Painter Lake 1 Block on Sept. 14. Three feller bunchers currently harvesting with 1 more scheduled to start this week. The goal is to harvest and deliver 150,000m³ of wood before the end of winter. Schedule "B" (old BFPL road wood) will move with the new wood. Planning to cut Painter Lake 1 and Axel Lake 1 blocks this fall/winter. Road maintenance has increased

along Anaconda and Painter system. Phase Two planning is starting; site visit planned to Painter with MNR area forester next week.

f) Kenogami Update –Harvest for chips and bio-fibre at Jackfish. (2 chippers/2 hogs and skidders). Full tree round wood operations at Chorus Lake, Balkam (Sexsmith) Bankfield. Chipping operation at Lower Twin North Block. Most of northern crews will be heading to the Ogoki. Haul: Bankfield area 8 foot haul, Balkam block 8 foot haul, Lower Twin Chip haul and Jackfish chip/bio-fibre haul. Road maintenance is ongoing on most primary roads. SFI certification audit this week. Draft Plan submitted to MNR for review and 3 operational issues pending – nothing to report this meeting.

g) Minor Items:

1. Long Lake Water Levels – Evan noted research is being done on the lake trout in Long Lake. They spawn in the fall with the eggs hatching in the spring. The majority of the eggs are laid in 3 to 5 feet of water. Water levels drop 5 to 6 ft during the winter resulting in high egg mortalities. MNR has proposed that the water level be dropped by 2 feet prior to spawning to try and get them to lay their eggs and spawn actually at a lower depth than normal, so when the water levels go down, more eggs should survive. Louis asked about the day-to-day water level reports. There is a website from OPG that provides just that information, updated weekly. Evan will be going out to try and “fine tune” the actual spawning dates. Ron asked why fisheries aren't priority on Long Lake, like they are in Lake Nipigon. Evan explained that lake trout are not high on the priority list. OPG does provide much needed funds for research on trout (transmitters, egg studies, etc.). The sturgeon study on Chipman lake was paid for by funds from OPG.

2. Wawa Road access issues – There is a one-hour presentation available on this subject. Evan really didn't have a lot of information about this, but provided a link to the EBR titled: Land Use Planning for All Provincial Unregulated Crown Lands and Waters in Wawa District where much more information is available to anyone interested. Action Item: Do you want someone to come and give a presentation?

3. LCC Effectiveness Survey – Evan provided this survey to all members via email and had requested it be completed and turned in. He collected the completed ones and provided everyone who didn't have a copy with one asking them to complete it and turn it in to Hector before the end of the evening.

4. Fort Francis deer hunting regulations have changed for those interested. No loaded firearms between the fence lines in Zone 10 – this is for gun season only and suggested anyone hunting in that area check on the new regulations.

h). LCC Statement - We reviewed the LCC statement. Louis was concerned about signing it; however after much discussion (mostly on transferring roads back to the MNR and how they will be treated – see roads under Draft Plan), he agreed to sign the statement as long as it was agreed that

every concerned individual will have the opportunity to discuss every road in question. Doug, Charlotte, Evan as well as Deanna all agreed that would happen. **The statement will be revised and will be sent out to everyone, once again, for review.** A motion was made by Toni Moroz to approve the statement, motion seconded by Louis Garon, LCC Statement approved by vote. The statement is embedded below:



Local Citizens
Committee.doc

- i). LCC Report – the report had been previously prepared and submitted and met with everyone’s approval.
- j). Lynn Palmer from Lakehead University – Lynn is a community Forester interested on the actual decision making process and the two new versions on forest licensing. She is interviewing different people on their thoughts regarding community forests and the Kenogami. Her full presentation is embedded below. Ron asked if they were looking at what happens to forestry companies who have no SFL – can they get financing, etc. She is interested in finding out but does not know at the present time. There is a plan to bring communities together for the Kenogami. Charlotte explained to the group that the FMP will go forward Action: Evan would send out information to the group as to how to become involved.



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- VIII. Next Meeting – is scheduled for November 9th at Our Lady of Fatima Library in Longlac.
- IX. George Horobec moved to adjourn the meeting and Deanna Hoffman seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.