

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: October 10, 2012
 Location: The Greenstone Fire Centre
 Final Meeting Minutes

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator		*
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Ben Bartlett, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)	*	
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester, Kenogami	*	
Tom Gross, Conservation Officer MNR		*
Phil Couture, MNR Acting Geraldton Area Supv.		*
Jim Fry		*
<u>Members:</u>		
Steve Crawford		*
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Edgar Lavoie	*	
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger	*	
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish	*	
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moretton		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff	*	
Donna Pelletier		*
Andy Yesno		*
<u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Davidson		*
Martin Boucher	*	
Cory Nephin		*
Ken Stevens	*	
Greg Riou	*	
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Jane Jantunen		*
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Tom Hunt	*	
Len McEathron	*	

- I. Call to order – Evan called the meeting to order at 5-50 pm. No introductions were necessary other than to say hello to our guest – Alain Joseph.

- II. Review of Agenda – Item i) – Cliffs Open House was added to the agenda. No other changes or additions were made. Agenda approved.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– Toni apologized for the late delivery of the minutes. We took time to review them and Charlotte made a few “tweaks” for language sake and Ben made one correction. All changes will be incorporated as noted. Toni moved to approve the minutes (with revisions), seconded by Linda Beaulieu, minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes –**Tom Gross needs to advise the group if he has been given any direction on how to handle situations in the field with problem licensing.** Ben submitted the language for insertion in the Terms of Reference (send out to everyone via email) and will be reviewed this evening. All gift certificates were purchased and letters were signed and mailed. Evan found one paper to do with climate change/global warming and has also asked around the office for additional information. He handed out a Climate Change Research Report (CCRR-16) for those interested in reviewing it along with a distribution slip. We will also be watching a video/course on Climate Change later this evening. As is relates to a bear killed on a trap-line, in checking with various sources – the meat cannot be wasted but **Tom Gross needs to address this.**
- V. Financial Report – There was no financial report this meeting, but Evan did want to point out the reimbursement to himself for purchasing a gift certificate from Extra Foods as he used his private credit card since they do not accept cheques and wanted the group to be aware of it.
- VI. Correspondence – The group reviewed a letter from Charlotte to Deanna (since the Crown in handling the forest it was sort-of an internal document, but not).
- VII. New Business
 - A. AVTB (AV-Terrace Bay) – Scott noted the mill started operations Tuesday morning at 3:45am. They have 20+ days of inventory. AVTB has some forest resource licenses as does Pays Platt. Two bunchers are working on the Catlonite Road, two are on the Greta and one on the Crib. They are also hauling old wood (Buchanan cut) and inventory. More road maintenance is slated and they’re making bids for the winter. They’re starting slow. Winter cuts will be operating and cutting. When asked if all the old wood would be picked up, Scott said he hoped so but it’s a business-to-business transaction – deals and good effort are being made and they’re trying to get things cleaned up. Scott basically has the same job with Birla as he did with Buchanan (forestry operations). Getting the Longlac Mill operating is still just “talk”. George and others had heard rumors that they’re hiring people, but nobody is sure. AV is not affiliated with the Buchanan group. They’ve got chips coming from Dubreuilville and everywhere they can get it. There are definite plans to turn the pulp mill into a dissolving mill in the next couple of years and they appear to

be here for the long run. There are some operators from the area – one from Nakina and some local people are picking up other local guys for work. Birla wants an office in Longlac and is still looking for the right space.

Buchanan has no wood rights. They do have some spots for dedicated licenses (on other forests), but not in the Kenogami or the Ogoki. Scott was asked about the rumors of not being able to get truckers. He said there is a definite short-fall of trucks and drivers at the present time. Some truckers were complaining about prices and pay. Scott says they're working on efficiencies on hauling especially with the business-to-business relationships to make things run smoother.

- B. Forest Operation Update – Charlotte noted the crown unit is not an EFRL yet, but they're working on it. There have been trees ordered for 2013, but for 2014 there are lots of challenges because it's a crown unit. They have been working on some amendments (digital database) and updating the database and doing a few revisions. Culvert installations are going forward especially now that harvesting has started. Planning for the road in the AWS connecting the Big Pic and the Kenogami at the east end of the forest is underway.
- C. Kenogami Update – Charlotte said they have issued more licenses to AVTB. Wood is moving and road maintenance is happening - all good things. Once Birla is a dissolving mill they will be able to take all wood – including hardwoods.

The Kenogami is not yet “certified” – AVTB needs this forest to be a FSC certified forest (the mill now has a distinct and verifiable chain of custody) as it allows for zero risk if the forest is certified. If it cannot or is not certified then they must go through risk assessments, etc. There must first be a license holder (either long term or short term) in order for the certification process to begin. Louis asked who the trappers should contact with regard to issues. It will depend on whose license it is, but calls should be directed to Charlotte for now and she can advise who owns the license. Scott would be the guy for the AVTB licenses and also he would address any issues with trucks/hauling in addition to road maintenance.

An administrative amendment for the Trish Branch Road was circulated via email to the group and all supported the amendment. Evan put up a map highlighting the area of concern.

- D. Ogoki Update – Ben stated that it looks like the Ogoki will be surrendered back to the crown on or before November 1st. For the wood cut last fall (15-20 thousand cubic meters) – a license was issued to BWI to begin moving that wood. Term 2 planning needs to be started right away and will be ready for April, 2014. Ben will be handling this. The AWS must

also be ready to go. The Witchwood water crossing now has a better than 50/50 chance of getting done. Transport Canada needs an Engineer's Bridge Design and it will be done shortly. The money will be taken from the road forest fund. This particular job will run around \$150,000.

E. Minor Items

1). Terms of Reference – Evan put up a slide with the language Ben put together and that Evan had circulated to the group for review. Toni Moroz moved to accept the Terms of Reference, motion seconded by Ed Hoffman, Terms of Reference are approved.

2). Caribou Update – Evan put up maps of the area and explained about the caribou that had been collared in March of 2009. It appears the group around Stampede Lake in the Kenogami Forest has intermixed with the animals collared in the Hearst District. Another small pocket of caribou just NE of Longlac were tagged (2 males/2 females) and they too have moved north and joined up with the other group in the Stampede Lake area. Maps were done for the Jan-March period, the Sept.-Nov. (rut) period and in May-June (calving). Evan thinks there could be approximately 300 Caribou in the Auden Study Area. Linda asked if the cutting and changes to the forest have been successful for them – he said it would be another 40 to 60 years until the correct forest cut can be grown up and impacting them. Other studies have spun off this first study and now some collars have cameras on them to aid in monitoring.



Caribou

F. John's Wolf Letter – Evan put John's letter up on the screen for everyone to review. A few grammatical changes were made in addition to identifying to whom it will be sent (Minister Gravelle with a copy going to Jim Fry, the Nipigon District Manager). John's email address was also added for contacting him. John moved to approve the letter, it was seconded by Louis Garon – letter approved and will be mailed. There was some discussion as to whether this applies to trappers as well as hunters, but it is mostly meant for hunting.

G. Feeding and Sustaining the Fish & Wildlife Special Purpose Account – Bernard had originally asked the question where and how the dollars in the fund are spent in our area. Although it is not broken out by area a significant amount of funds are used in this area. The MNR is asking for input on ideas to increase funds (i.e., increase cost of licenses, raffles, product sales, corporate sponsorship, etc.). There is a pie chart in the Hunting Regulations showing how monies are disbursed from the account. The Conservation Officers salaries are derived from this account in addition to other wildlife projects. **Provide Evan with any suggestions you would like brought forward.**

- H. Conservation Reserves and the examination process – Alain Joseph spoke on this subject and explained that a Conservation Reserve is basically glorified crown land that allows for fishing, hunting, recreation, etc., but no development or industry (no mining or logging). There are no signs to indicate where the boundaries of the CR area and there's not a lot of time or money spent inside the reserve other than maintaining the entrance. Alain has been doing examination of the CRs and he's interested in any significant changes in landscape, etc. If everything is good to go, it will be another 10 years before another examination occurs. After this round no more sanctions exist for this purpose – and this could be the last one. So if anything major happens in a CR it could trigger another examination. Some CRs were deemed a CR after logging had already taken place, as looking at the map there are CRs where logging had already been done there. The CR was zoned after the logging – no logging is permitted once it's been determined to be a CR. The CRs started with the Ontario Living Legacy plan. The maps are embedded herein and Alain has provided his contact information to the group for future reference.



Kenogami_Ogoki_CR



Nakina_Northeast_Waterway_CR

- I. Cliffs Open House – Evan reminded the group to go to this open house sponsored by Cliffs in Geraldton at the Arena on Wednesday, October 17th from 4pm to 8pm. Cliffs and their consultants will be on hand to answer your questions and hear what you have to say. This is part of the Environmental Assessment planning process and feedback will be provided on the preliminary list of Valued Ecosystem Components, the results of the baseline studies and project alternatives assessment. George volunteered to bring questions forward at the session on behalf of the LCC.
- J. Climate Control Web-Based Course – Evan found these 20-minute courses on Understanding Climate Control provided by the MNR over the web. We watched Module #1 and most of the group found it to be quite interesting. Modules #2 and #3 are also available and we will try to work them into our schedule, however internet access is necessary. These courses are also available in a PDF format and as a link.
- VIII. Next meeting will be November 14 at the Woodlands in Longlac for supper – 5:30pm.
- IX. Adjournment – Linda Beaulieu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Hoff – meeting adjourned.