**Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes  
6:00pm May 5th, 2021 – Teleconference**

**ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MEMBER | PRESENT | REGRETS |
| Allan Gordon, Greenstone Metis Council |  | X |
| Bernie Baillargeon, Bear Management & Baitfish |  | X |
| Brian Desrochers, Trapping | X |  |
| Bob Baycroft, Fishing/Hunting Interest | X |  |
| Deanna Hoffman, Forest Management | X |  |
| Ed Hoffman, Forest Industry | X |  |
| Evan Armstrong, General Public | X |  |
| James McPherson, Municipality of Greenstone | X |  |
| Jason Booth, Remote Tourism | X |  |
| John Espinola, Road Accessed Tourism |  | x |
| Ken House, Cottaging | x |  |
| Ken Stevens, Crown Land Recreation |  | X |
| Rob Haslam, Naturalist |  | X |
| Vaughn Arsenault, Chamber of Commerce | X |  |
| Yvette Metansinine, Aboriginals | X |  |
| VACANT, Local Business |  |  |
| VACANT, Forest Industry Ogoki |  |  |
| VACANT, Mining |  |  |
| ALTERNATES |  |  |
| Brent Henley, Remote Tourism | X |  |
| Eileen Johnson, Local Business | x |  |
| Kellie Chippett, Forest Industry | X |  |
| Renald Beaulieu, Municipality of Greenstone |  | X |
| Scott Koski, Forest Management |  | X |
| Sean Antonson, Trapping | X |  |
| Steve Thuerig, Naturalist | X |  |
| Tanya Couture, Crown Land Recreation | X |  |
| VACANT, Aboriginals |  |  |
| VACANT, General Public |  |  |
| VACANT, Cottaging |  |  |
| VACANT, Road Accessed Tourism |  |  |
| MNRF |  |  |
| Amie Nephin, MNRF LCC Liaison | X |  |
| Nicole Gross, MNRF LCC Logistics | X |  |
| Charlotte Bourdignon, MNRF Forester, Kenogami | X |  |
| Chris Magee, District Manager |  | X |
| Philip Wilson, MNRF Biologist | X |  |
| Charles Brooks, Conservation Officer |  | X |
| Tara Rooney, MNRF Forester, Ogoki | X |  |
| **GUESTS** |  |  |
| Scott Boone |  | X |
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|  |  |  |
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**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

* Called to order 6:05pm

**2. Review of Agenda**

* Accepted as presented.

**3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes-(March 3rd Mtg)**

* There were no Action Items to review. Minutes were approved via email

**4. Financial Report – Evan**

* Motion to accept report as presented; Bob Baycroft, Seconded Amelie

**5. Correspondence – Evan**

* Gerry Bolduc, Cottaging representative is retiring. In the past a Gift Certificate was given to a retiring member. Evan suggested that a $50.00 cheque be given in lieu of a Gift Certificate. Gerald has 7 years of qualifying service. Brian motioned that a cheque be given, Seconded by Bob Baycroft.

**6. New Business**

**1. Ogoki Planning Update**

**a. Planning Team Update – Tara**

* Plan has been approved

**2. Ogoki Operations Update**

**a. Ogoki Update - Tara**

* + - Hauling at Michael/Grinch, Dog Lake South and Sumac. Processing Airport and Dog Lake North

**b. Amendment Water Crossing Protocol Update – Phil**



* Steve questioned whether this amendment would apply to the Kenogami as well as the Ogoki Forest
* Phil indicated that the amendment is considered in the Ogoki Forest only as it is an approved Plan. In theory there should not be an amendment in the Kenogami FMP as it will be put into the Draft Plan.
* Evan asked about this applying to the Nipigon Forest. Phil stated that it was applied in the addition to 2.5.
* Steve asked if the wording was the same as in the Ogoki Amendment. Phil advised that it was.
* As a general comment Steve indicated that the implementation should be consistent and there would be better results.
* Tara noted that an error was caught on one of the volume tables coming from Draft to final Plan and will be amended at the same time as the water crossing amendment.
* Require a recommendation from LCC on the categorization of the amendment.
* Evan asked Steve if he would be ok with it being an administrative amendment. Steve was ok as was Brian.
* Motion that this item be an administrative amendment was made by Evan and Seconded by Steve.

3. **Kenogami Planning Update**

**a. Planning Team Update – Deanna**

* Draft Plan has gone public
* Comment period is from April 20th to June 21st, 2021
* Plan is for final submission August 10th, 2021.
* AZA stage 4 presentation will be next week.

**b. Kenogami Draft Plan Presentation**



* Jason asked what happened with the Tree Planting for 2020 and what will happen this year with covid. Deanna said they planted 2.6 million ;last year on the Kenogami. . As the same protocol from last year, for this year, the planters need to quarantine for 2 weeks prior to the tree plant. Then they live in a self contained bubble at the plant camp. They have already been working in Atikokan for 2 weeks prior to arriving on the Kenogami.
* Charlotte noted that there were no issues with covid in any treeplant camps across the province last year.

**c. Meta/Ara/Brace Lakes Outfitters Consortium requesting the formal issue resolution process - Deanna**

* Deanna provided a background of the issues at hand.
* *Initially the concerns were about the caribou nursery area no harvest AOC being changed to a timing restriction and the proximity of the harvest to their lodge. They were also concerned with the visual aspect of the harvest being seen from the lake and the potential of unauthorized access to Meta and Ara lakes.*
* *During the meeting other concerns arose regarding the added noise from the Ogoki road trucks as well of their disagreement with the 30-90 m slope based WQ1 AOC’s on all creeks and streams flowing into Meta and Ara lakes being not enough. They wanted a 150m on them.*
* *The following solutions were offered:*
* 200m AOC on Ara lake; 300m AOC on Meta Lake with 400m AOC on cabin (all no harvest AOC’s).
* Area identified during viewscape analysis dropped from allocation.
* 0-1,000m timing restriction May 15 – October 31st.
* 301-500m no roads (Meta), 201-50m no roads (Ara)
* 501-1,000m no new all weather roads to be built
* Roads decommissioned
* Preplanning of road locations with outfitter
* Area regenerated ASAP
* Group was not satisfied with any of the options. Nedaak felt they had exhausted all options acceptable to them.
* Protocols for informing outfitters at all stages of the FMP were followed.
* Steve commented that the AOC’s seem very close and asked if they were adopted from Wawa. Deanna indicated they were not. Steve said they may want to look at adjacent areas that have a lot of outfitters it may be a good reference.
* Jamie stated that his understanding is that the Outfitters want to be similar to the Ogoki Forest and are not concerned with other forests.
* Phil said that AOC on the Ogoki follow the Boreal Landscape Guide and that all areas will be the same. The difference may be the timing restrictions.
* Steve asked about the Crown Land Use Atlas. Charlotte explained that the Kenogami follows CLUA but it doesn’t have the same level of detail for the Kenogami that other management units might have as the Geraldton District Land Use Guidelines were never approved.
* Evan asked how common is it that a lake goes from a 1000m no cut then down to 120m? There was a 1Km AOC for calving. Phil explained that this was due to the location of the Caribou calving area having changed slightly.
* Charlotte further explained that decisions can be made before entering blocks. Once a commitment is made to enter a block with no 1km caribou AOC then the direction is to deplete the entire mosaic block.
* Deanna indicated that they had switched a block as it was a highly used caribou area. i.e.a B block was switched to a C block southwest of Lucy Lake as it is a documented high use caribou area
* Jason asked if the roads were off the Ogoki or Abamasagi. He was advised that they would be off the Ogoki.
* Jason, Steve and Brian all agreed that this could be precedent setting.
* Brian asked if these roads would be accessible to all people. Jason stated that they are not in the summer but in the winter.
* Jason said that there are about 20+ fly in camps, besides these 4 outfitters. The standard should be applied the same across the whole Kenogami.
* Jason asked if there had been any exceptions in the past such as any extended AOC’s like 120m to 300m. Deanna indicated that yes it has but is dealt with per outfitter. Charlotte said the Kimberly Clark used to do a type of view scape using their helicopter, but thatthe KC standard for tourism was 120m.
* Brian said it may be good to remind the outfitter that some areas that were cut in the last 5 years are hardly noticeable now.
* Jason said he is fine as long as there is no cutting during the season and agrees with a bigger buffer around the camp.
* The biggest concern is that public access be protected to remote camps through to the end of Moose season.
* Charlotte indicated that the roads are already posted for access restrictions through the summer and there should be no change. Jason mentioned there is a very active conservation officer in the area and this will help.
* Evan asked Brent his thoughts. Brent said he agrees with Jason and that there should be standards across the board.
* Evan asked if the group supported negotiations with the outfitters or not.
* Brent commented why was the prescription 300m for 1 outfitter and 200m for the other and that each Lodge should be the same. Jason said 300m around the lakes is good but should be applied to all the outfitters/lakes.
* Brain asked for a further explanation as to why caribou calving has moved. Phil explained all objectives:
  + Policy is we should be regenerating on the same 20 yr consistent age
  + We used to have species specific guides, but we no longer have them
  + Esnagami Lake had the 1 Km and cutting within that 1 km and there are still caribou using that lake
* Bob stated that it is fine to say there is no standard however every situation in unique.
* Bottom line Evan wanted to know what the group wishes to be brought forward. The difference of the 300m and 200m buffers is that one lake has a lodge with trails and one lake has no lodge in that portion of the cut.
* Steve asked if the viewshed would be the same at 120m reserve? Deanna said if everything is moved to 300m reserve, the analysis would identify less visible allocations in the viewshed analysis, including blocks that may be past 1km of the lake.
* The group concurred that they should be both 300m buffers, and that the viewscape was important as well as consistency and wanted that brought forward.
* Jamie added that the viewscape and ditching. Flying over cutovers that’s not the concern, it’s once the guests are at the camp that is the concern.
* The 200 m on Ara Lake is because Ara Lake camps are not within the proposed cuts on that lake. If the camp is on a lake and the people are on the lake, 300m on Meta is because of the trails along the lake at the lodge.
* Evan went around the group and asked each member for comments:
  + Gerald, Brian and Ed are all ok as is
  + Vaughn is ok as presented
  + Steve suggests looking at adjacent units but if folks are confident it’s defensible, he supports it.
  + Tanya believes that 300m because of the additional lodge and trails is fair. She also feels 200m with no lodge and trails plus the viewshed is fair. She doesn’t feel a blanket policy works as some lakes have big hills and others don’t.
  + Kellie agrees
  + Ken House agrees
  + Yvette is ok as presented
  + Eileen is ok
* Tanya asked if the outfitters were contacted directly? Deanna confirmed that there was a mailout as well as direct contact with the Outfitters on the lake.
* Evan asked whether the outfitters could be involved when layouts of reserves are being done. Deanna confirmed that they could, and this has been done with allocations up the Abi Rd.
* The Issue Resolution meeting will be held May 6th and will involve Nedaak, MNRF and outfitters. Charlotte will bring the LCC recommendation forward and Evan may be contacted for further information.
* Jason asked if they could receive an update on the decision. LCC will be advised.
* **ACTION ITEM 3.c: Advise LCC members of Resolution decision.**
* Charlotte explained the Resolution process. There are 15 days to set a meeting. If there is no conclusion at the meeting then the District Manager has 7 days to make a decision and provide a resolution. This will be in writing and Evan can share it with the group. If the Outfitters are not satisfied with the District Manager’s resolution they can go to the regional director for final resolution. There is no longer an opportunity to do individual E.A.’s.

**4. Kenogami Operations Update**

**a. Kenogami Update – Charlotte**

* Moving along tracking the issuing of SFL and set for LRC approval May 18, and Minister’s signature after that.
* Should have new SFL holder on the Kenogami Forest within 2 months.

**5. Nedaak Operations Update – Deanna/Scott**

* Summer staff started Monday. Training will carry on the remainder of this week and next.
* Lidar training being held next week. Have 135 LiDAR plots to do this year.
* Plant scheduled to start May 24th. Planters will be camping at Cordingley Lake.
* 3.6 million seedlings to be planted by 60 workers.
* Site preparation will begin towards the end of May or early June. This will be done mostly south of Longlac.
* Deanna advised that the public should watch out for washouts.
* Slash piling is currently at Watini then to Truax and maybe Robertson after that.

**6. AV Terrace Bay Operations – Kellie**

* We have 19,700 m3 of round wood at the mill yard in Terrace Bay and 44,000 tons of chips
* Currently hauling out of the Longlac stockpile, hoping to be hauling out of the bush by next week, waiting on roads to dry up.
* South Kenogami – active operations on Seagram Rd and Danger Bay off the Goldfield.
* North Kenogami – active operations in Dusk off the railbed on the Waba Rd side. Bawk at km 40 on the Blueberry will be active starting Monday, May 10th and Shamokan near Nakina is also slated to begin operations on May 10th.

**7. Columbia Forest Products Operations Update – Ed**

* Harvesting Kowkash bridge
* Haul complete at Km 82 Ogoki
* Still wood to haul at km 87 Ogoki

**8. Open discussion**

* Charlotte advised that she was notified that Shamokan will start up on Monday. AVTB has reached an agreement with the Municipality.
* Kellie noted that a concern was that the power line does not belong to hydro, it is owned by Nav Canada.
* Charlotte also noted that there was a Regulatory Change in July to the Public Lands Act. *The companies usually apply for LUP for wood storage yards. Up until this change there was a cost associated to these LUP’s. Once it has been approved there will be no fees for these LUP’s going forward. FMP’s have wood storage yards included.*
* Evan noted that there is a change to the brochures he had printed regarding zone 2 and 6 smelt use. He’s had more brochures printed with the proper notation as this was an error at the print shop.

**9. Next meeting:** June 23rd, 2021 - 6pm – Via Teams

**10. Adjournment:** 9pm Motion by Ed, Second by Sean

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