**Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes
5:30 p.m. November 27, 2019
Greenstone Fire Management Headquarters** **Attendance**  **Present Regrets**

Charlotte Bourdignon, MNRF Forester Kenogami x
Robin Kuzyk, MNRF Forester, Ogoki phone
Nicole Gross, MNRF Logistics x
Amie Nephin, MNRF LCC Liaison x
Philip Wilson, MNRF Biologist x
**Members**Allan Gordon, Greenstone Metis Council x
Bernie Baillargeon, Bear Management & Baitfish x
Brian Desrochers, Trapping x
Deanna Hoffman, Forest Management x
Ed Hoffman, Forest Industry x
Evan Armstrong, General Public x
Gary Selinger, Fishing/Hunting Interest x
James McPherson, Municipality of Greenstone x
Ken House, Cottaging x
Ken Stevens, Crown Land Recreation x
Linda Beaulieu, Road Accessed Tourism x
Remi Moretton, Remote Tourism x
Vaughn Arsenault, Chamber of Commerce x
Yvette Metansinine, Animbiigoo Zaagi’igan Anishinaabek x
**Alternates:**Bob Baycroft, General Public x
Brent Henley, Municipality of Greenstone x
Denny Michano, Aboriginals x
Eileen Johnson, Local Business x
Gerald Bolduc, Cottaging x
Jason Booth, Remote Tourism x
John Espinola, Road Accessed Tourism x
Scott Koski, Forest Management x
Sean Antonson, Trapping x
Steve Thuerig, Naturalist x **Guests:**

Rob Haslam x

1. **Call to Order & Introductions**

Introductions were made as Rob was a guest at the meeting.

1. **Review of Agenda**
* Addition of an Amendment Categorization by Nedaak. Will be made during Kenogami update 7.d)
* Yvette would like agenda and minutes to reflect that she represents AZA specifically.
1. **Approval of Previous Minutes (June 19)**
	* Change to reflect Yvette represent AZA*Motion accept: Evan; Seconded: Sean Antonson*

**4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (June 19)**

* Removal and re-stencilling of Adopt and Access at the Kenogami River Access trail by Brian. Sign has been removed and assumption is that it is now with Ron Miron.
* **Ongoing. Sign is ready for pickup and Brian will pick up from Ron.**
* Amelie to reach out to OPG contact requesting a presentation to GANRAC
* **Philip Wilson will provide a presentation / update to the group on the Implementation Report on Water Management Plan which is due after December.**
* Evan to relay information regarding correct contact information for Nedaak to the consulting company working on Marten Falls all season road.
	+ **Complete. Evan forwarded correction to Nedaak contacts and website information.**
* Robin to confirm meeting date of July 17th 2pm for Ogoki Long Term Management Direction meeting.
	+ **Complete. Meeting was held July 17th. 6 people attended.**
* Eileen to forward thank you letter to Nakina mill with regards to the mill tour.
	+ **Ongoing. Evan to check with Eileen.**
* Amelie to bring forward Kathleen Hardy’s name for membership on LCC.
	+ Complete. Chris wanted to know more about her specific interests. Group felt that members should be someone tied more closely with Ogoki and Kenogami areas.

 **5. Financial Report**

* *Moved by Evan to be accepted as is. Seconded by Ed Hoffman*
* There will be a change to how LCC will be funded this fiscal and forward. MNRF will be reimbursing LCC operating costs as they are incurred rather than a lump sum amount. Funding amount remains the same but the way in which we spend will change.
* Members will need to claim travel expenses by submitting to MNRF directly.

 **6. Correspondence:**

* None
1. **NEW BUSINESS**
	1. **Membership Review**
* 
* Committee strives to have attendance from a variety of interest areas to achieve a balanced group. Some categories are not being represented due to lower attendance. A membership review is completed annually.
* Several members have perfect attendance and Evan recognized those in attendance. Vaughn, Ed, Gerald, Ken Stevens, Evan, Bob.
* Some changes:
	+ Linda Beaulieu will step down. John Espinola to be moved to main member. Motion by Gary, seconded by Brian.
	+ Remi Moretton will step down. Jason will move to main member remote tourism.
	+ George passed away this year. Rob Haslam indicated interest in the committee and will be put forward for the naturalist category as George’s replacement.
	+ Municipality has indicated that Renald Beaulieu will be replacing Brent Henley as alternate for municipality category.
	+ No replacement from GGM to date. Category could also be filled by someone in mining industry such as prospector.
	+ Membership with changes
	+ Note: one change not discussed at the meeting. Brent would like to remain on committee and Evan suggested returning to the remote tourism category to stay informed as he passes along information to tourism operators.
	1. **Ogoki Proposed Operations**
* Proposed Operations (Stage 3) is the opportunity to review and comment on the access, harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 10 year period of the plan; and the proposed primary and branch road corridors and proposed operational road boundaries.
* Stakeholder letters went out on October 4th advising of opportunity to review and information session at Nakina Community Centre on November 5th. Media notices were placed in Geraldton Times Star, Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, Terrace Bay Schreiber News and Nipigon Gazette.
* Ogoki Proposed Operation Information Centre was held in Nakina on November 5, 2019. On average there was around a dozen people from public there.
* 60 day Public comment period on proposed operations from November 5th – January 4th, 2020. Comments can be provided to Robin, K Richard Shwedack or the LCC reps (Brian and Ken) by January 4th.
* Information made available at meeting for review by committee members.
* Discussion regarding access restrictions on the Ogoki.
	+ Access restrictions were placed on the Ogoki mainly to protect remote tourism interests. It was put in place under the Public Lands Act not under the Forest Management Plan. Any change to that direction would be handled as a Crown Land Use Policy Amendment and would require public consultation and amendment process.
	+ Jason outlined the importance of the access restrictions to the remote tourism industry which has large investments in the area. Not sure of the exact number of remote tourism lodges or camps on the Ogoki but likely around 80-100. The quality of the fishery and hunting experience is largely due to these restrictions and opening it up would impact the industry significantly.
	+ There are lots of areas that are open to the public therefore area is very important to the market.
* LCC would like a summary presentation outlining the background and rationale for the access restrictions. A presentation was provided to the Ogoki planning team.
	+ *Action: 7.b. MNRF will provide LCC summary of access restriction.*
	1. **Ogoki Update**
		1. **Ogoki FMP Update**
* Planning team has had 2 meetings since last GANRAC meeting on LTMD on September 11 and October 11th. Updates included:
* Finalizing LTMD summary products and FMP tables.
* LTMD presented to Regional Director on September 10th. No issues were raised and RD provided preliminary endorsement of LTMD on October 2nd.
* Updated package of information to Resource Based Tourism operators.
* Work towards completion of the road realignment at the Witchwood River. Site visits conducted on August 15th with family members.
* FMP Development Schedule. Next formal opportunities for review:
	+ Stage Four – Info Centre re Review of Draft FMP – May 6, 2020
	+ Stage Five – Inspection of MNRF-Approved FMP – August 21, 2020
	+ Ogoki 2020-2021 Contingency Plan:
	+ Decision in August to have MNRF propose a contingency plan for the period between the expiry of the current FMP and approval of the 2020-2030 FMP.
	+ Draft CP proposal was sent out by email to GANRAC August 21st. GANRAC was in general support of the CP to allow harvest operations to continue. GANRAC recommended that affected trappers be notified, so a notification letter was sent out.
	+ CP proposal was approved by RD on August 29, 2019.
	+ CP is being led by Northwest Region. CP will be based on harvest areas that were already approved in the current FMP, and it will be aligned with the development of the 2020-2030 FMP.
	+ CP Production Schedule – Draft CP to be submitted January 31 for 15 day MNRF and public review.
		1. **Ogoki Operations Update**
* 2019-2020 AWS Operation Update:
	+ Active operations in Taiga North, Airport, Stag Lake, Africa north, Aikman, Witchwood (road construction), Lasook Lake, Wintering West 2 and 3, Cat Lake East, Sumac, Mitchell Lake, Heart Lake blocks.
	+ Continuing to work with industry to address utilization concerns to close outstanding compliance issues.
	1. **Kenogami Update**
		1. **Kenogami FMP Update**
* Planning team meeting Nov 13- overview of model calibration and fire cycles
* Desired Forest and Benefits meeting
* Modelling and Analysis Task Team – model calibration complete, starting to look at maximum parameters, will be adding constraints as we go forward to get to a final Long-term management objective
* Annual report submitted Nov 14
* Working on Annual Work Schedule
* Question was asked regarding a document that outlines who the representatives on the planning team are. Discussion that the information is outlined in the Project Plan and Terms of Reference. Asked whether this information could be shared.
	+ **Action Item 7.d.i) MNRF to follow-up whether ToR or Project plan can be shared publicly at this time.**
	1. **Nedaak Update**
		1. **Amendment Categorization**

****

* AVTB request aggregate extraction area for sand at km 16 on Catlonite. Area was a previous pit and within an old cut. Need to amend the FMP as it was not previously identified as an aggregate area.
* Letter has been sent to trapper, interested and effected stakeholders will get a notice. BMA operators will be included in this notice.
* Request that this amendment be categorized as an administrative amendment.
* Bob motion to approve as administrative, seconded by Gary, approved as administrative amendment by majority.
	+ 1. **Operations**
* Current harvest operations are:
	+ GDC –Harvesting in the Marron Lake Block
	+ AVTB – Storm north east, Goldfield, Kenwell, Pennant Lake, Aguasabon, Flail, Watini, Trio Road, Hamster, Pennant Lake, Nip-13 Salvage, ROW – Flicker, Wishbone, Lydia Lake, Miriam Lake
	+ Columbia – Sedgeman
	+ Lecours –Winter preparations for 2019-2020 underway
* Haul Operations:
	+ GDC – Marron Lake
	+ AVTB – Flail, Kenwell, Goldfield, Croll
* Compliance:
	+ Meeting with MNRF, industry and Nedaak on Dec. 4 – outstanding reports
* Annual Work Schedule – Draft due to MNRF Dec 31. Conducting open house meetings with Nedaak member First Nation communities.
* Longlac Lumber Inc mill is back up and running. Full shifts back by Monday.
	+ Discussion regarding factors that led to mill shutdowns and running out of inventory.
	+ AVTB has commitment of ~834,000 SPF off of Kenogami to AVTB mill. LLI gets their wood through business to business arrangements of trades of sawlogs / chips/ 8 foot / 16 foot. All wood was directed to AVTB to deal with shortage their which reduced the available inventory for the LLI mill.
	1. **Columbia Update**
* Completed the harvest and haul of the Gordon Creek block on the Ogoki Forest.
* Have just finished harvesting the Sedgeman West block.
* We are currently in the Abamasagi Road block and anticipate moving to the Kowkash block in a few weeks. These blocks are mostly second pass harvest from previous operations.
1. **Open Discussion**
* **Bait Management Strategy**
	+ Evan had shared proposal for Bait Management strategy with committee on Environmental Registry. Comment period was September 30 – November 14.
	+ Discussed reason that removal of stickleback was included in proposed changes. Stickleback was proposed to be removed from allowable bait to reduce the movement of the stickleback north.
* **Greenstone Gold Mine Hardrock Project**
	+ open houses scheduled for December 2 Legion 5-7 and Longlac 1-3 at Curling club.
	+ Updates to the project
* **Marten Falls All Season Access road**
	+ Open house in Longlac 5-8 at Legion
* **Membership**
	+ Rob Haslam put forward as member for naturalist category. Rob in agreement. Motion by Evan, seconded by Ed.
1. **Next Meeting: January 22nd at GFMH**
2. **Adjourned at 8:15pm**