**Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes  
6:00pm March 3rd, 2021 – Teams/Teleconference  
ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |
| Gerald Bolduc, Cottaging |  | 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, 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 |  |
| Tara Rooney, MNRF Forester, Ogoki | X |  |
| Charles Brooks, Conservation Officer |  | X |
|  |  |  |
| **GUESTS** |  |  |
| Daniel Martin | X |  |
| Isabel Gannon | X |  |
| Hannah Rideout (GFMI) | X |  |
| Richard Shwedack (GFMI) | X |  |
| Colin Shawinimash (ADC) | X |  |

**1. Call to Order and Introduction**

* + 6:03 pm

**2. Review of Agenda**

* + Accepted as presented

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes – January 13th, 2021**

* + Motion to approved as presented by Evan, Seconded by Bob Baycroft

**4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes** Action Item 8.1 FSC Presentation to LCC

* + Completed at this evenings meeting

GANRAC Local Fishing Pamphlets out of date.

* + 1000 new pamphlets purchased with some funding from the Municipality. The Municipality was given 1/3 of the brochures to supply the community of Longlac and our own Tourist businesses. Evan distributed brochures to businesses in Geraldton and to MNRF. Charlotte will bring a supply to Pennock’s in Nakina.

**5. Financial Report/Website**

* + Evan reviewed report and highlighted the shared cost with the Municipality ($200) for the printing of brochures. MNRF has also budgeted to support the printing of the brochures.
  + Evan questioned whether MNRF would continue to fund the website. It costs about $150 CDN. Charlotte indicated that it has been put into her budget which has been moved forward for approval.
  + Evan asked the group whether the website should be continued. There was a consensus to continue with it, however Rob suggested also using other platforms such as Facebook or Twitter which have no cost associated with them. GANRAC may even receive mor feedback using these different platforms. Evan indicated that it had been discussed in the past, however there is no one currently able to manage those.
  + Charlotte advised that the Ministry has and continues to move to platforms such as Facebook and Twitter with links to website for easier access.
  + Some discussion amongst members was had as to the logistics of doing this. It was decided to be tabled for another discussion. Rob and Evan were to discuss more offline.
  + Evan moved that the Financial Report be accepted as presented, Ken S. Seconded.

**6. Correspondence –** There was none.

**7. New Business**

**1. FSC certification process on the Kenogami Update** (Daniel Martin**,** Isabel Gannon)

 

Regarding the presentation…

* Rob indicated to Daniel that he had received an email and had sent back a note that he has concerns but had not received any response. Daniel said he did not see it but will follow up on it.
* It was noted that the auditors had met with some communities regarding cultural values but some communities were not willing to meet due to covid.
* Jamie stated that Caribou Habitat has been an issue for 20 years on the Kenogami. He is curious to see why caribou isn’t an issue. How are they able to move forward with the process without First Nation input? Daniel indicated that they do have some input from some First Nation just not all of them. He also stated that they are comfortable where they are at as First Nation are involved in the Kenogami FMP. In the short term there is no ability to meet. Jamie cautioned moving forward as the First Nation has not been totally involved.
* Regarding the water boundary allocation (72,000), Rob questioned if this was a buffer beside rivers and lakes and if it varies 30m and up? Daniel responded yes on both counts – it fits the FSC definition. Rob doesn’t see that as a protected area. Daniel stated that the point is it is not a protected area. Conservation Area network is to protect the value (safeguard a value on the forest) This fits the definition of biodiversity.
* Rob asked if he can get more information on Parks and protected areas. Daniel advised that he can provide that to Rob.
* There are three options for caribou:
  + SARA approved management strategy – no formal process
  + disturbance level, caribou population
  + use the Federal recovery as baseline (9 elements to evaluate)
* the Ontario strategy is not about disturbance levels; it’s about creating habitat. The Feds have a 35% disturbance threshold. FSC feel they meet the Ontario criteria.
* Daniel questioned Jamie whether this explains things. Jamie indicated yes, however re-iterated that the Caribou has been such a big issue for 20 years.
* Isabelle stated that Caribou is an issue and they acknowledge the need for consultation, and that FSC recognises there are different opinions.
* Jamie asked if Caribou would be a game stopper. The response was no. He noted that in previous attempts, FSC has said no regarding caribou on the Kenogami.
* Discussion continued about Conservation Areas (vi) and Large Landscapes (vii). They acknowledge that caribou is a contentious point. The FSC relies on the 35% disturbance factor. The other model creates habitat for caribou.
* Regarding two-sided streams, Isabel did not include them all, but noted that these types of riparian areas do provide value.
* Isabel explained conservations values/with narrower diameter.
* Rob stated if they are including numbers in this plan why not bump it up to 200m to save canoe routes and portages? Daniel advised that the FSC does not affect the FMP. There is no direct impact on FMP allocation.
* There was some discussion regarding the difference between Conservation and Protected Areas. There will be discussion offline to clarify this to Rob.
* Regarding Nedaak’s “moosification” of the FMP, will be presenting to the auditors as part of First Nation values… moose over caribou and feel that the FMP has made a great compromise.
* NEXT STEPS: Auditors review completed by March 15th at which time they will reach out to Stakeholders. The Field Auditor will do a field visit the first week of April. In early April the Audit will be closed.
* Evan questioned whether there needs to be more presentation to the group. Daniel indicated that there is not, however if the group wants to have an update after the audit is completed, they can provide that. Evan requested a presentation after the audit.
* Brian stated that it sounds like the audit is going well and that there are not a lot of issues because Nedaak and MNRF are doing so well. Daniel feels confident but never knows. After the pre-assessment from the Auditor they were left with an extensive list. They are working hard to address them. No doubt that the Caribou management is a contentious issue with the FSC. He also noted that FSC fits very well with Ontario’s forest management planning process so we are already doing a lot of the “evidence”.

**2. Ogoki Planning Update**

**(a) 2020 FMP Update (Hannah)**

* + - * Submitted February 20th and should be about a two week approval turn around time.

**(b) 2021-2022 AWS (Hannah)  
 **

* + - * Amelie introduced Tara Rooney as the new Forester for the Ogoki Forest who will gradually move into the role.

**(c) Planning Team Update (Ken/Brian)**

* + - * All items have been previously covered.

**3. Ogoki Operations Update**

**(a) Ogoki Update (Charlotte)**

* + - * Charlotte was not aware that Colin Shawinimash (ADC) would be attending meeting and asked that he provide update.
      * Colin stated that they are working with one line of their own equipment. They are harvesting their own fibre and work exclusively with Wolverine. Their focus currently is trying to complete the Caribou blocks.
      * Colin emphasized the need for start up orientation to anyone new on their forest to try and eliminate any issues.
      * Amelie advised that there is a seat available on the LCC for ADLP if interested. Colin could provide updates to the group as required. Colin said he would like to have him or the GM sit on the committee.
      * It also could be NLI or Wolverine. ADLP feels they have a good relationship with them all. It also could be Richard or Hannah.
      * Evan will send more information to Colin.

**4. Kenogami Planning Update**

**(a) Kenogami FMP Extension (Deanna)**

* This plan was submitted February 26th. It will be implemented April 1st, 2021.

****

**(b) 2021-2022 AWS (Deanna)**

****

* Regarding the road decommissioning and planting, Brian asked if this is a good time to tell local trappers to apply for trail permits so that planted seedlings don’t get destroyed, or should they ask for certain roads remain open. Deanna advised that they should be coming to talk to Nedaak and the sooner the better.

**(c) Planning Team Update (Jamie/Evan)**

* Meeting planned for Tuesday, March 9th. Detail report went to Deanna for Plan submission on March 12th, 2021.

**(d) LCC self-evaluation of its effectiveness in plan development (Charlotte)**

* Charlotte explained to the group that this evaluation is basically the same as the one completed for the Ogoki FMP. This one has worded the questions to reflect that this is group evaluation not individual in order to more easily respond.
* Individual evaluations will be emailed out tomorrow morning (March 4th, 2021). The deadline to complete them is March 10th. This group survey will be summarized for Plan submission on the 12th of March.
* The group evaluation was completed.

**5. Kenogami Operations Update**

**(a) Kenogami Update (Charlotte)**

* ESFL is on track. Looks like April-May-June for signoff of SFL
* Spoke with all parties of SFL regarding what they would like to do for the FRL prior to the SFL being issued (i.e. who should hold it, new eSFL company or Nedaak), the eSFL company (Ogwiidachiwaning) is not fully operational so it was decided to extend Nedaak’s FRL and Agreement. .
* There is a caveat that if SFL is issued the FRL will be null and void. They are hopeful for a new SFL by the end of spring.

**6. Nedaak Operations Update (Deanna)**

****

* Deanna is hoping to submit the FMP March 12 although she is aware there may be problems with the NRIP web portal.
* Nedaak has 6 job postings for summer positions (July/Aug). You can find them on the Nedaak website, More Than Words and the Nedaak Facebook site.

**7. AV Terrace Bay Operations Update (Kellie)**

* Hauling 42,000 m3 round wood in the mill yard which will do us for about 25 days.
* North-Kenogami: Active in Singing and Watini
* South-Kenogami: Active in Danger Bay and a chipper in Goldfield 110
* Active haul at Goldfield Km 110.
* There is a stockpile at Longlac sawmill and Truax. The roads are not operational in the spring so they will use these stockpiles at that time.
* Deanna noted that Buchanan is cutting for AVTB up the Storm Rd as well.

**8. Columbia Forest Products Operations Update (Ed)**

* Ed not available but Deanna advised that there are no operations on the forest. There is a potential for hauling at Km 82.

**8. Open discussion**

* Ken Stevens asked if anyone else was having difficulty with error issues after leaving a teams meeting. There was some discussion as to what his problem could be.
* Evan requested that when people confirm meeting requests please copy him so he can determine if there would be quorum. Using TEAMS, meeting requests have been going to Neil Graham since we are using his account. Hopefully the district will have a TEAMS account with audio come April.

**9. Next Meeting:** May 5th, 2021 – 6pm – Teams

* Evan asked the group if the approval of tonight’s minutes could be done via email. The group agreed.

**10. Adjournment: 8:45**

Moved by Ken Stevens, Seconded by Rob Haslam