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| **Attendance** | **Present** | **Regrets** |
| Charlotte Bourdignon, MNRF Management Forester |  | \* |
| Amie Nephin, MNRF LCC Liaison | \* |  |
| Becca Letkeman, MNRF A/Management Forester | \* |  |
| Melanie Shepherdson, Logistics | \* |  |
| James Yantha, MNRF Conservation Officer | \* |  |
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| **Members** |  |  |
| Bernie Baillargeon, Bear Management & Baitfish |  | \* |
| Deanna Hoffman, Forest Management | \* |  |
| Dina Quenneville, Mining | \* |  |
| Evan Armstrong, Chair/Facilitator, General Public | \* |  |
| Gary Selinger, Fishing/Hunting Interest | \* |  |
| George Horobec, Naturalist | \* |  |
| Hector Vincent, Crown Land Recreation |  | \* |
| James McPherson. Municipality of Greenstone | \* |  |
| Ken House, Cottaging | \* |  |
| Ken Stevens, Local Business | \* |  |
| Linda Beaulieu, Road Accessed Tourism | \* |  |
| Louis Garon, Trappingg | \* |  |
| Remi Moretton, Remote Tourism | \* |  |
| Steve Thuerig, AV Terrace Bay | \* |  |
| Vaughn Arsenault, Chamber of Commerce | \* |  |
| Denny Michano, Aboriginal |  | \* |
|  |  |  |
| **Alternates:** |  |  |
| Brent Henley, Remote Tourism |  | \* |
| Ed Hoffman, Forest Industry | \* |  |
| Eileen Johnson, Local Business |  | \* |
| Gary Emms, Crown Land Recreation |  | \* |
| Gerald Bolduc, Cottaging |  | \* |
| John Espinola, Road Accessed Tourism | \* |  |
| Len McEathron, Fishing/Hunting Interest |  | \* |
| Peter Johnson, Forest Management | \* |  |
| Tom Gross, General Public |  | \* |
| Travis Vernier, Trapping |  | \* |
| Brian Desrochers, Guest | \* |  |

1. **Call to Order: 6:10**
   1. Welcome and Introductions
2. **Review of Agenda**
   1. Addition to the agenda in Kenogami update. Compliance amendment presented by Deanna.
   2. George Horobec informed committee that there will be an Open house on Tuesday January 24th from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm for Energy East at the Geraldton Complex.
   3. Agenda accepted
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes (September 28, 2016)**

* Minutes from September 28, 2016 approved. Philip Wilson’s presentation to be added to the minutes when available. Motioned by Evan, all in favor.

1. **Business Arising (**Review of Action Items from **May 11 and June 16 (Joint)** Meeting**)**
2. Discussion regarding comments by Chris Magee, District Manager about information sharing
   1. ACTION ITEM - Evan to contact CFNO and a subcommittee made up of Eileen, Louis, Ken H and Evan to prepare a GANRAC article for the Times Star Newspaper. Moved from Business Arising to own Agenda Item to be discussed tonight.
3. Membership Review – members were asked to review contact information and send any corrections to Evan. All contact information is correct and can be loaded on to GANRAC website. **COMPLETE**.
4. MNRF to provide name(s) for possible Ogoki forest industry reps for LCC. Currently Robin Kuzyk is the Ogoki Unit Forester and will notify the LCC if an Ogoki representative is named.
5. Bridge inspections on the Kenogami Forest resulted in 3 bridges being deemed unsafe. One bridge was repaired, and two posted with signage and final decision on bridges to be determined. **ACTION: Charlotte to go to Resource Management Supervisor to see if there was material about the bridges (map) that could be posted on the GANRAC website - ONGOING.**
   * A public service announcement ran on CFNO and in the Chronicle Journal
   * Ken Q1. – where bridges are closed permanently, does the MNRF notify the public and current stakeholders it will be closed? Is there opportunity for public and stakeholders to provide finances to repair the bridge?

R.1. – Decisions to decommission a bridge are part of the FMP planning process and are based on resource sustainability and input from stakeholders is a deciding factor when decommissioning a bridge. Stakeholders are notified prior to decommissioning a bridge.

1. **Financial Report (Evan)**
2. Evan presented the January 11, 2017 budget status. Evan made motion to accept financial statement, Linda second the motion. Statement accepted.
3. MNRF required a budget submission for $2500 funding to GANRAC for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the submission deadline was in December prior LCC’s next meeting. Evan on behalf of the LCC prepared a budget submission and submitted to MNRF:

Q.1 – Ken: What is the district’s position to fund the LCC, i.e. lump sum annually or by expense?

R.1 – Amie: Currently the MNRF is looking at how LCCs are funding provincially. Some districts expense every transaction and some give a lump sum with a budget submission. Nipigon historically funds through a lump sum, however this may change next year with LCC financial provisions being looked at.

1. Cheques – currently down to 8 cheques, we are required to buy more and update the contact information on the cheque.
   * Cheques can be ordered in 2 different quantities. A) 50 cheques for $92.44 or

B) 200 cheques for $146.17

* + Phone number on the cheque for the Geraldton Field Office Management Biologist requires updating.
  + Steve motion to order 200 cheques with no phone number on cheque, Jamie second the motion. All approve. **ACTION: Evan to order 200 cheques for $146.17.**
  + There was discussion to add more cheque signatories. Process requires a letter to go and every signatory to go to the bank and sign a form. Decision made to keep signatories as is.

1. **Correspondence**
2. Where art thou Caribou? Musings from Alan Aubut
   * Raymond Weldon has asked for our comments on the article.
   * Philip Wilson willing to review article and make comments
   * Discussion on the article re: how scientifically based vs. false assumptions, Caribou/moose mortality due to CNRail, unreported harvest rates and the frequency LCC members have caribou sightings
   * There is information on caribou available, information is collected by observational data, reporting, collars, moose surveys, caribou surveys,
   * Recommendation that caribou in the boreal forest be an information session agenda item presented by a MNRF Regional Specialist for the Joint Kenogami and Lake Nipigon Forest LCC meeting in June 2017. **ACTION: Amie to coordinate with Raymond adding information session agenda item to the Joint LCC meeting.**
3. **New Business**
4. **Nedaak Update** (Peter and Deanna)

* Thinning ongoing east of Longlac in the burn from 1995. 10 thinners, doing well despite the snow
* AWS submitted, awaiting review from MNRF, final approval anticipated to be on time.
* Assistance with Amendments and Revisions from Mona Wiltshire – things transitioning to her. Deanna picking up the silviculture on the Lake Nipigon as well as continuing with the Kenogami.
* Nedaak office has moved to 101 King street – second floor – access either via the Rexall entrance and up the stairs, or the back entrance with elevator facing the Pizzeria at the back. Office hours 8:30 – 4:00

1. **Kenogami Update**: (Deanna)
2. *Insert Alfred South Map Cut Alfred Aggregate Extraction Area*

* Aggregate pit was returned to the Crown, proposal to reuse aggregate pit, requires an amendment submission to the AWS.
* Pit is outside of a branch or primary road corridor, 100 m outside of the operational road boundary and therefore needs to be amended into the FMP. The Km 21 pit is a further haul distance away. vs. gravel pit that is 8km away
* Amendment needs to be categorized; Remi Moretton motion that amendment be an administrative amendment, Louis seconded the motion. Motion approved.

1. Compliance amendment

* Rewording in the AWS, amendment is on the pre-categorized list, this is to inform you that the amendment is taking place. Resource users, such as: Trappers and BMA operators will be notified as per our usual process.
  1. **Forest Industry Update** (Steve)
* Moving fiber to Hornepayne (30 loads/week)
* Haul shifted to move to White River
* Longlac Mill on 2 shifts so consumption should increase
* Harvesting: Pagwa Area – Storm Rd, Stairs, ….
* Catlonite to Florrie – will be snowed in once haul is complete
* Busy on the 801
* Wood going through Geraldton is from Treptow and Fulford blocks going to Terrace, Longlac and further East. Wood from 801 going to Resolute.

(Ed):

* Inventory in Fulford
* Operating in the Big Pic back to the Kenogami in February
  1. **Ogoki Update** (Amie for Robin)

1. Current Operations (as of January 6, 2017):
   * Gordon Creek North block - Harvest operations have been completed
   * Maxon Lake block - Processing and hauling is taking place in 5 of the Compliance Reporting Areas
   * Dog Lake South block - Processing is taking place in one CRA, all other CRAs have suspended operations to resume in May 2017.
2. Reports:
   * 2015-16 Annual Report (Year 8) - Has been accepted and is available on the eFMP website.
   * 2017-2018 Annual Work Schedule - GFMI was awarded the contract for this product.  AWS was submitted on time and is under review by Nipigon District MNRF
3. Silviculture:
   * ~260,000 black spruce seedlings ready (in cold storage) for 2017 tree plant at the Painter Lake block
   * Anticipating ~20 hectolitres of jack pine cones from Ontario Tree Seed Plant to replenish some of the Ogoki seed inventory.  2016 was a bad year for seed, so numbers are lower than expected.  Any available seed will be ordered this year for seedling production for the 2018 tree plant.
   1. **Times Star Ad** (subcommittee)

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* Purpose for the newspaper ad: to make public aware of the LCC and its purpose
* GANRAC business card appeared in the Times Star 9x with no cost to committee (Thank you sent to the paper, after each appearance, on LCC’s behalf)
* Inserted draft was sent out via email for everyone to review, received 3 comments – 2 okays one with revisions
* Gary – WMU 21B should be added. ACTION COMPLETED at meeting.
* All approve revised ad.
* Recommendation: Evan submit the ad to Times Star as a 1x printed article, as local articles have no associated printing charges. Motion to approve, Louis, seconded by Ken, All in favor. Motion Approved. ACTION**: EVAN to submit article to the Times Star for printing, with $0.00 budget for printing**

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* Peak use in January, with steady use until April
* There is a new link with the sunrise/sunset times
* Confirmed that there is a link to all WMUs

1. **CFNO Ad**

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* Evan approached DougallMedia for radio advertising
* Suggested package was a 30 second time slot
  + Monday to Friday $25/airing up to 42 occasions or
  + 10 airing in a week for $210.00
* Too expensive to have radio broadcasting advertisements. At this time LCC will not pursue radio advertising, motioned by Linda, all favor. Approved.

1. Discussion on other options to increase LCC public awareness and LCC’s mandate that LCC represent sectors of the public and their interests/concerns to the District Manager when making decisions in Forest Management Planning
   1. Put an ad in Coffee Time paper – Decision was made at previous meeting that distribution was not wide enough, only distributed in Geraldton Ken – Have a booth at the Spring Trade Show of piggyback on someone else’s i.e. Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services Branch (Greenstone Fire Management ) or Fur Trader Council
      * Amie – more appropriate if MNRF put in a booth and LCC be a part of MNRF’s booth.
      * There is interest in having a booth at the Trade Show. **ACTON: Amie to follow up with DM and if a booth can be arranged.**
2. **Adopt an Access Sign Inventory** (Evan)



* + - Does not give the adopter any authority to the site or to remove structures
    - Adopter will go to adopted access point to clean up the litter
    - How to become an Access site Adopter
      * Approach committee member
      * Need sponsor’s name and Lake name
      * Should be within area GANRAC is responsible for
      * Check with MNRF first to see if there are any issues
    - Greenstone Wilderness Trails – E. Lavoie received signs in the past, however no one can verify if they have been posted.
    - Lucy Lake – issue of port-a-potties being left behind
      * After recreational use of crown land the site should be restored to a clean and safe condition, restored as much as possible to its original state
      * In order for there to be legal repercussions people leaving port-a-potties behind would have to caught in the act, or proof i.e. take pictures, use TIPS line
      * CO will often record locations of where people are camping/fishing/hunting to document what areas are being used or may be able to find some evidence that ties an individual to a location (receipts, letters, license plates, etc.).
    - **ACTON: Evan to put the Adopt-an-Access list on the website with a brief synopsis of the program**

1. **Bears** (George)

* Re: nuisance bears from the past Fall – who to contact
* Bearwise number -> or OPP if life or property is threatened->OPP engage MNRF
* Yearly district report has not yet been finalized; report breaks down all the call by community,
* Nipigon District has one bear technician out of the Nipigon office, technician can still set up bear traps to relocate, however there is a process that is followed
* Bearwise promotes education over relocation, as relocation has been ineffective
* Educates public to remove bear attractants first

1. **Ask a Conservation Officer** (James Yantha)
   * + Q1 – John E: If you shoot a nuisance bear for the protection of private property and threat to life can keep the bear and eat it?
     + A1 - Yes, you can keep a nuisance bear harvested out of season if harvested for protection of private property and threat to human life, criteria must be met which can be found in the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act. To keep a nuisance bear harvested out of season and you are not a trapper you would need a Notice of Possession which public can access at

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/keep-dead-wild-animal>

* + - Q2 - Ken: If you shoot a nuisance bear, who is responsible to clean it up?
    - A3 – Call a Conservation Officer, they may be able to help distribute meat.
    - Q3 - Are people free to shoot a bear in town limits?
    - A3 – Different municipalities have different by-laws, that question should be directed to your local town office.
    - Q4- If you transport a rifle/12 gauge hunting season in a WMU for self-protection and did not have a small game license would a conservation officer charge me?
    - A4 – Onus is on you to explain why you have a rifle/shotgun and each situation could be different. The rifle /shotgun should be transported unloaded in a case as well.
    - Q5 – Who has first rights to a moose hit on the highway?
    - A5 – Whoever comes upon it first and wants to pick it up. Requires a Notice of Possession Form. Some moose who are super damaged will by moved to a side road by MTO.
    - Q6 - Is there movement to increase the number of conservation officers in this area?
    - A6 – No. Nipigon has 6 Cos (currently 5 and one is the Acting manager)
      * According to new MNRF organization Nipigon District is at its full allotment
    - A7 – Louis – many people are unaware that their moose licence is the other portion attached to their moose seal and discard it once they have attached their seal. Would someone be charged if they did not have their licence due to this ignorance?
    - Q7 - In order for your tag to be valid the license and seal should be together. However if the hunter has lost/discarded their seal the onus would be on the hunter to explain. Conservation officers also have the means to know if the hunter has a moose license. Situations and results differ however it would most likely be a learning experience for both CO and hunter.

1. **Minor Items:**

* Snow Station

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* EBR Website – Evan will continue to send notifications on the EBR to the committee

Q1. Changes to Wild Turkey hunting: With the new changes to the hunting regulations are hunters who have a not taken their turkey hunting course grandfathered in and allowed to hunt turkeys without taking the course?

A1. **ACTION: James Yantha will follow up question and share with Melanie to enter into minutes. COMPLETE see response below:**

With regards to the question asked around the Wild Turkey hunting changes at the meeting:

* + - 1. The wild turkey hunter education course requirement has been eliminated and key components will be combined with the broader Ontario hunter education course.
      2. A spring wild turkey hunting season will now been opened in WMU 36 and a fall wild turkey hunting season in WMU 94.
      3. A fall bows-only hunting season for wild turkey from October 1-31 in all Wildlife Management Units that have a fall firearm wild turkey hunting season will be open in fall 2017.
      4. The opening date of the spring wild turkey hunting season will be April 25th every year.
      5. Shot size number 7 can now be used for wild turkey hunting in addition to shot sizes 4, 5 and 6.
      6. The minimum bow requirements for hunting wild turkey have been clarified in the regulations to match the requirements for white-tailed deer (e.g. minimum draw weight and length).

The “T” designation is now removed on newly issued Outdoors Cards. Because hunters are no longer required to take a stand-alone wild turkey hunter education course to obtain a wild turkey hunting licence the “T” designation is no longer necessary. Any accredited gun hunter may now purchase a wild turkey hunting licence

* **GANRAC Website – ACTION: AMIE to give to Evan a staff directory to be posted on the GANRAC website**
* Greenstone Gold Video **ACTION: Dina to bring to next LCC meeting**
* SAR vs. CFAS exemption (Steve):
  + Forest Managers manage forests under unique regulations and restrictions for managing some species, including species at risk like caribou under the Canadian Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA). Many other industries do not have these same regulations.
  + When the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was introduced in 2007, industry struggled to keep up with meeting requirements under both acts.
  + In 2013, Ontario forest industry was granted a five-year exemption to the ESA (2007) until a harmonized approach to requirements under the two acts could be developed.
  + This exemption will expire in June of 2018.
  + **ACTION: STEVE to send concerns/questions to Amie to be properly outlined in minutes and to allow for MNRF follow up**
* Louis Garon will be stepping down from the Local Fur Trapper’s Council President position and is preparing Brian Desrochers for the role.
  + Louis asked if Brian can continue to come to the LCC as a guest or a second trapping alternate until Louis steps down from his position
  + Recommendation from LCC that Brian becomes a second trapping alternate until Louis resigns from the LCC. Motioned by Linda, Seconded by Ed . Recommendation Approved.
  + **ACTION: AMIE to follow up with District Manager with recommendation to add Brian as a temporary second alternate.**

1. Next Meeting
   * + Discussion of dates for next meeting. Next meetings will be **February 8 and March 1st.**
     + Travis’ Trap cabins/trails agenda topic moved to next meeting
     + Gary’s Culver/bridge removal & road abandonment agenda topic moved to next meeting
2. Adjourned at 9:00 – motion by Ed, Linda seconded.

ACTION ITEMS:

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| 4.d | ACTION: Charlotte to go to Resource Management Supervisor to see if there was material about the bridges (map) that could be posted on the GANRAC website - ONGOING. |
| 5.c | ACTION: Evan to order 200 cheques for $146.17. |
| 6 last bullet | ACTION: Amie to coordinate with Raymond adding information session agenda item to the Joint LCC meeting. |
| 7.f | ACTON: Evan to put the Adopt-an-Access list on the website with a brief synopsis of the program |
| 7.i | GANRAC Website – ACTION: AMIE to give to Evan a staff directory to be posted on the GANRAC website |
| 7.i | ACTION: STEVE to send concerns/questions to Amie to be properly outlined in minutes and to allow for MNRF follow up |
| 7.i last bullet | ACTION: AMIE to follow up with District Manager with recommendation to add Brian as a second alternate. |

**Minutes prepared by: Melanie Shepherdson**