**Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes  
6:00pm November 4th, 2020  
Teleconference**

**ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MEMBER | PRESENT | REGRETS |
| 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 |  |
| VACANT, Fishing/Hunting Interest |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |
| Bob Baycroft, General Public | X |  |
| Brent Henley, Remote Tourism |  | X |
| VACANT, Aboriginals |  | X |
| Eileen Johnson, Local Business |  | X |
| Gerald Bolduc, Cottaging |  | X |
| Renald Beaulieu, Municipality of Greenstone |  |  |
| Scott Koski, Forest Management |  | X |
| Sean Antonson, Trapping | X |  |
| Steve Thuerig, Naturalist |  | X |
| Tanya Couture, Forest Industry |  | X |
| VACANT, Crown Land Recreation |  |  |
| 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 |
| Brittany Wannamaker, Conservation Officer | X |  |

1. **Call to Order & Introduction**

Meeting began at 6:10

* Introduction of Brittany Wannamaker, Conservation Officer, Geraldton Field Office.

1. **Review of Agenda**

* Evan will have one item to deal with in financial Report

1. **Approval of previous Minutes(September 23rd, 2020)**

* Tanya Couture should have been listed as an alternate not a guest.
* Moved to accept with noted change Ken Stevens, Seconded Brian Desrochers.

1. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Action Item: 7b MNRF will provide LCC summary of Ogoki access restrictions.

* Amie looked into having someone from the Region give the LCC the same presentation that was given to the Ogoki Planning Team. There are some upcoming changes to some of our policies, and it was decided that we should defer the presentation until the new policies are in place.
* Evan moved on to 7.6 Nedaak Update which were provided after the last meeting. Asked if anyone had any questions.
* Charlotte noted that the Kenogami forest is getting a new inventory using Digital Photography and Lidar. This product considers the heights of land and is used in conjunction with Digital Photography. There is a need to have some work on the ground completed to get the final product and Nedaak has been contracted to establish the field-level inventory plots. The flying for the Inventory and Lidar is not finished and will be progressing into the new year.
* Deanna thought that it was completed.
* Charlotte confirmed that it was completed for this year but more work to do into the next year.
* Evan moved on to 7.7AV Terrace Bay Update which was also provided after last meeting. There were no questions on this item.
* Evan moved to 7.8 Columbia Forest Products Update which was provided after last meeting. There were no questions on this item.

1. **Financial Report**

* Evan needs to provide a letter to the bank regarding Signing authorities. LCC requires at least one more non-MNRF so that he is not signing his own cheques. Suggested that Ken Stevens be added to the current signing authorities of Bob Baycroft and himself. Ken was agreeable.
* Evan motioned that Ken Stevens be added as a signing authority. Seconded by Brian Desrochers. Motion passed.
* For MNRF signatures, Amie Nephin will replace Dave Barker’s signature.

1. **Correspondence**

* There was no correspondence except the Ogoki Plan review notice.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Membership Review**

* Evan explained that under the Terms of Reference there is a need to identify if some categories have no attendance of three or more times.
* Gary Selinger has resigned after 12years. (Evan purchased a $75.00 Gift Certificate from Skinners as a Thank You for service on behalf of the LCC)
* This is leaving a vacancy for Fishing/Hunting Interest. Some concern over Road Access Tourism representative being inactive.
* It is important that all areas have representation.
* Evan suggested that Bob Baycroft be moved from the Alternate Public Interest position into the Fishing and Hunting representative. Motion to approve by Rob Haslam and seconded by Ken Stevens.
* Amie advised that Denny Michano, Alternate Aboriginal Representative was stepping down.
* Mining Representative has been empty, and Evan asked members to think of someone who might be an option to invite into that position.
  1. **Ogoki Update**

1. Robin has moved to the Thunder Bay District and will no longer be representing Ogoki on the LCC. Charlotte and Ray Weldon are covering for now.

Currently there is a harvesting crew in from Quebec until there is too much snow. At the moment there is no plan to keep the road open through the winter. Slash pile clean-up continues.

1. **Planning Team Update**

Draft Plan is online as of today. It is the same as what was presented at the last meeting by Richard Shwedack, GFMI, Ogoki.

Amie advised members to ensure they look at it and submit comments. There will be no open houses being run in the community. If you have questions, contact the planning team members.

* 1. **Kenogami Update**

1. Charlotte advised that there is not a lot on the ESFL, they are still working through to approvals. MNRF has received a final draft of the business plan and membership agreement and have accepted the documents in principle.

The new ESFL holder is in the process of creating the new company; the final name will be Ogwiidachiwaning Sustainable Forest Management Inc.

Nedaak’s Licence is expiring March 31st, 2021. Need new Licence for April 1st. We are currently looking at two options, we could extend Nedaak’s FRL for one year, or if the new company wants to hold the FRL, and act as SFL holder MNRF would not need to go through the competitive process to issue them an FRL as there is enough FN representation.

Nedaak is doing site preparation, prescriptions on the ground and slash piling. The annual Report is due on November 15th, 2020.

Charlotte informed the group that changes regarding the AWS became effective July 1st. Following the new manuals, the new product will be more of an information product. It will not require an MNRF approval. A presentation regarding the new FMPM requirements will be prepared for a later time.

1. Jamie indicated that there has been a lot of FMP material The Draft Plan will be ready for public consultation as of December 11th. They are looking at ways to make the information easily available to the public. It will be posted on the GANRAC website, but it is very difficult to see the details in maps. They are looking at finding possible window locations to post the maps. The group is looking for ideas. Evan suggested putting maps in the windows at the old McLeod’s storefront and will speak to Eileen regarding True Value windows being used. She will be looking into that. The tourist information centers are closed for the season and not an option. Locations such as the hardware store in Longlac or possibly the recreation centers which may have less restrictions are being investigated. Advertising the public consultation information through CFNO may be a possibility. Charlotte is still waiting for a response from Neil.

Action Item 7.3(b): Evan to follow up with Eileen regarding True Value location.

* 1. **Kenogami 2021-2031 Proposed Operations Information Session**
* December 11th is the beginning of the 30 day review period for the Stage 3 Proposed Operations**.**
* Notification will be made through newspaper notices, social media (twitter and facebook). There will be a mailout and looking at other possible options such as virtual skype sessions.

Presentation given by Deanna



* Evan asked when the draft maps could be made available to the LCC. Deanna advised they could have them now if they wanted. Members can make a request should they want them.
* Evan asked for clarification if the maps for review as of December 11th are the same ones that they want to put up and if MNRF staff have access. Yes, to both of the questions.
* Deanna indicated that if anyone is interested in a specific area, they would do their best to get it to them.
* Ken Stevens is interested in the Twin lake Area Map.
* Brian discussed that himself and trapping acquaintances believe road decommissioning is an issue. First, they lose the forest and trapping area to the harvest, then when harvest is done, and trapping becomes viable again the roads are decommissioned. Are there any steps they can take to request roads are not decommissioned?
* Charlotte explained that MNRF is very clear about not taking back any roads with water crossings of any kind. This is industry’s responsibility. During the 2011 FMP they developed a hierarchy chart on how to deal with roads and decommissioning.
* There are possibilities of putting fords in and other ways of decommissioning without ripping up the road.
* Part of the modelling includes what industry uses for road decommissioning and their responsibility to regenerate a portion of those areas.
* You could speak to the Company regarding certain roads and cc MNRF if you wish and go from there. This is a good time to have those discussions.
* Jamie advised that at a Municipal level they have been meeting with MNRF regarding Hunting, Fishing, Canoe Routes and road access. They are going to approach it from a Tourism angle. Jamie advised Brian to discuss his issues with Brent Henley if he wished.

Road Hierachy Chart provided my MNRF.



* 1. **Kenogami Amendment (Pit and ORB change) Deanna**



* Evan asked for clarification regarding LCC role in administrative amendments.
* FMP specifically notes that Salvage and contingency changes are considered administrative under the new manual (2020). Would not have been reflected in the pre-categorized LCC list and it will need to be updated.
* Deanna asked for clarification that the LCC would want the impacted stakeholders/users notified. In the past when LCC was asked about a similar Amendment they wanted Trappers, BMA and baitfish operators to be notified in order to move forward.
* The Aggregate pit is also being extended. There will also be a change in the road location to avoid a stream. How does the group feel?
* Evan moved to proceed as an administrative amendment with notification to Trappers, BMA, Baitfish notifications. Seconded by Brian.
* It was committed to retrofit the new canoe route prescription into the 2011 FMP by way of an amendment.
  1. **Kenogami FMP Extension Proposal**
* Charlotte advised that there is nothing in the manual that says this must go to LCC for review. However, the Ogoki proposal did go for 30-day review. They are asking for a 15-day review period from the LCC.
* The proposal is not quite done.
* Evan will decide after the presentation.
* Deanna noted that the LTMD took extra time and FMP planning started a little late. The 2011-2021 FMP will need to extend to after April.
* Evan asked if the 15-day review period by LCC would be enough time? Charlotte said yes, the amendment is about 11 pages.
* There is no formal requirement to do it, however want to be consistent with what was done to the Ogoki.
* Evan asked whether the AOC’s i.e. Canoe Routes would be included as the Plan had not addressed this well, the new plan is better. The answer was yes.
* Discussed the 2021 Canoe Route/Portage Trail AOC’s and that they would be applied retroactively to the 2011 FMP. They will check if the blocks being affected during this extension have any impact with these AOC’s.
* Evan asked for confirmation from the group if the 15-day review and comments back to Charlotte is ok. All agreed. Once Charlotte and Deanna work out presentation and get it to the LCC the review period starts then.
  1. **Canoe Routes – Rob Haslam**
* Rob provided the group his history of Canoe route involvement and usage of the routes by the Municipality of Greenstone in their Tourism strategy.
* He opened up some lengthy routes that were utilized by many locals and some users from the south.
* He understands that the new FMP has some good buffers around routes.
* It seems that the interests of the local community come secondary to Forestry companies. An example is building roads near swamps that backflow into canoe portages. He was disappointed that he was not notified when roads were put in. It will take 30 years to get the illusion of nature again.
* Charlotte stated that they have a meeting going forward to get ahead of any issues. Will get maps and work with Rob to identify area.
* Evan asked if there is anything to be done with the swamp road (Toupee Lake) that Rob is referring to. Charlotte said she is not sure but will look at it.
* Rob said that in the past he has not had good results with the Company. He has asked to leave trails etc. with no result. An example he used is the Rocky shore and Seagram Lake Portage that he worked 3 years on. Left in a terrible state (harvested by Kimberly-Clark).
* The potential for huge tourism canoe growth won’t be here if canoeists continue to see clear cuts etc.
* Evan asked if the LCC can put forward a motion regarding the protection of Canoe routes in Greenstone. Charlotte indicated no as that is what an AOC is.
* Rob is happy with the new AOC’s and that the discussion with Charlotte and Deanna is moving in the right direction. Rob said that Deanna has been very good at updating him regarding amendments.
* Brittany asked if there are maps available to the public. There is a Face Book link to all the Canoe route information. (Greenstone and Area Canoe Routes)There is also a link on our website.
* The LCC supports Rob and the Canoe Route initiative.
* Evan asked if in future if the Canoeing community (Greenstone & Area Wilderness Canoe Routes) can be notified for amendments as well. Rob mentioned that he does receive emails from Deanna already.
  1. **Nedaak Update**
* This was provided with the Kenogami update.
  1. **AV Terrace Bay Update**
* This was not available
  1. **Columbia Forest Products Update**
* Harvest is complete. They are not currently operating.

1. **Open Discussion**

* Brian asked if we will receive an email from the company on estimated road openings in December.
* Charlotte tries to get that around the holidays. She understands that the Ogoki will be snowed in.
* Brittany thanked the group for the opportunity to attend meeting. She welcomes questions anytime.
* Bob Baycroft noted that the Long Lake water level is the lowest he has ever seen for the winter. Evan explained about the Trout spawn and water levels are lowered to force trout into deeper water. Bob understands but wonders why it is still low.
* Jamie stated that Hydro watersheds are low due to lack of precipitation during September and October.

1. **NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 2ND, 2020**
2. **Adjournment 9:10pm**: moved by Ed, seconded by Bob

Future Agenda Topics: OPG Long Lake Water Management Plan Presentation – Philip  
LCC Mandate; Aboriginal Agenda; Far North Act & Community Based Land Use Plans  
AWS and new manual - Charlotte