

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: May 1, 2013

Location: Woodlands Motor Inn, Longlac

Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator	*	
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Ben Bartlett, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)		*
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester, Kenogami	*	
Tom Gross, Conservation Officer MNR		*
Jim Fry, MNR District Manager	*	
<u>Members:</u>		
Steve Crawford	*	
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Edgar Lavoie		*
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger		*
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish	*	
Louis Garon		*
Remi Moretton		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff	*	
Donna Pelletier		*
Scott Koski	*	
Andy Yesno		*
Aaron Dorland		*
<u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Davidson	*	
Martin Boucher	*	
Erin Symington-Armstrong	*	
Ken Stevens	*	
Eileen Johnson		*
John Espinola		*
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Jane Jantunen	*	
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Tom Hunt		*
Len McEathron	*	
Deanna Hoffman	*	

- I. Call to order –Hector called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. As there were some new faces, introductions were also made.

- II. Review of Agenda –Added a discussion of the License to Harvest Forest Resources for Personal Non-Commercial Use as VII. I) and removed Ask a Conservation Officer.

- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– Evan forwarded the draft minutes to Londa, Peter and Paul for review of their presentation. As of today's date, we have yet to receive their response, so the minutes will be reviewed at our June meeting.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Nothing carried forward.
- V. Financial Report – Evan displayed the Financial Report, noting the most recent deposit from the MNR and he also explained how he submitted the dollars in the budget. Perry Barkhouse moved to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Louis Garon – Financial Report approved.
- VII. Correspondence – Only the two letters from the Geraldton Chamber appointing Eileen Johnson as their representative for GANRAC and from Aaron Dorland appointing Deanna Hoffman as the alternate. Both appointments had already been addressed in earlier meetings.
- VIII. New Business

A. Kenogami Update – Char stated they have issued one more license – to AVTB. We then began discussion on the amendment needed for the Castlebar Road area - an area of forest was blown down by a wind event in 2011. There is desire to salvage this wood. It is approximately 283 hectares. It now comes under Salvage as it meets the MNR's salvage policy (dead and dying in 2-5 years). It's roughly 50/50 spruce/poplar. There is no guarantee that AVTB will harvest it – it will depend on who gets to harvest the area. There should be no wasteful practices in salvage. Toni Moroz moved to make this area a blow-down/salvage an administrative amendment. The motion was seconded by Scott Koski – all approved. Evan will ensure all interested parties (trappers, bear management unit, baitfish, etc.) are notified.

B. Smoke Signals Firewood, Inc. & Nedaak Silviculture Program – Deanna noted two revisions to the AWS have been submitted - skidding/processing areas and ORB addition for Bikerace and Alfred East blocks. Adjacency letters were sent out to those affected by adjacent harvest blocks (i.e. Hydro, Pipeline). Calls are being received by trappers with questions – most popular is timing of harvest

Silviculture program planning in full swing:

- Site prep – 2 contractors, Kashman and company based in Aroland
- Slash piling – ongoing – Toad, Pout, other areas
- Plant – 2.3 million trees – Haveman brothers , based in Nakina area
- Aerial Tending – Wes Kay via helicopter
- FTG – Wiltchire and Assoc. – part by air, rest by ground, based in Nakina area
- Summer staff hired – 2 First Nation (FTG, SIP), 1 local (SIP), 1 semi-local (plant)

Amendment Request: Cable addition – area that was planned for harvest in the 2005-2010 FMP, 2011-2012 Contingency plan was not harvested. As it was not harvested by the end of the 2011-2012 year, it became unavailable for harvest. There is desire for this to be put back into the 2011-2021 FMP for harvest. To do this, equal area must be taken out of Term 1 (2011-2016) by equal (or close to) forest unit and age classes within the Kenf subunit if possible. This was done with area taken out of what is left that hasn't been harvested or licensed to other parties. We, once again, revisited the various types of Amendments (Minor, Major and Administrative). AVTB would like an administrative amendment. Pays Platt is a proponent. Charlotte said there are no controversies she can recall. Scott Koski moved to make this a Minor Amendment – seconded by Steve Crawford – motion carried. This is not finalized on exactly how it would work, but since we're not meeting as a group this summer they wanted to proceed with the Amendment Request. Charlotte said they will bring it back to our group when it's finalized. Even if it rolls into term 2, it would still be an amendment.

C. Ogoki FMP Update – Ron reported there was a hiccup at the last meeting regarding Rickett Road – being proposed to be eliminated (Kap Road). The options will be displayed at the open houses with Rickett to be proposed, but may be eliminated for discussions.

D. Ogoki Update – Ben wasn't present so there was no Ogoki Update tonight.

E. AVTB:

Harvesting:

AVTB Licenses –

Operating area: Fleming/Crib, Johnson/Calvert, Rayner/Tillia, Seagram/Norse
Contractor –5 buncher crews

Other Licensees – Operating Areas – Toad Lake, Croll Area

Roads:

- Multiple washouts on the main roads as the creeks and river thaw
- Bridge inspections and resurfacing work being scheduled
- Km signs are ordered and will be put up this summer
- Road resurfacing (A-gravel) to be applied to the south end of the Catlonite
- Calcium program

Haul:

- Small Volumes off the highway moving
- Back roads hauls are officially shut down
- Haul potentially starting on May 21st (weather dependant)

Mill Inventory:

- 170,000 m3 of round wood/Chips in the mill yard
- Still a shortage of hog fuel
- More chips in the yard than round wood (running wood room to generate hog)

Other:

- Operations are active in the 2013-2014 AWS approved blocks
- AVTB Woodlands has moved into the new office
- AVTB is seeking amendment for Castlebar blow-down area

F. Kenogami Independent Forest Audit - Charlotte shared this report with our group. There were a total of 13 recommendations – 4 directed at the SFL, 3 directed at the MNR (2 at Corporate MNR), 5 at the SFL & MNR level and one to the planning team. Recommendation #1 has been completed, Rec. #2 & Rec. #3 concerns supervised tree planting; Rec. #4 is complete, #5 – has to do with formal roads monitoring/traveling program; #6 concerns Free to grow methodologies (Charlotte explained that this was completed prior to the surrender of the SFL). Rec. #7 (provincial) – silviculture effectiveness monitoring – requesting results go into the report; #8 –backlog area requesting F-T-G surveys and survey of 2 categories. #9 is payment of crown dues on unutilized or non-marketed harvested wood. Two companies are in bankruptcy – a lot of wood has been cleaned up and the dollars are getting back into the trust fund. #10 dealt with unused Neenah wood – that is complete. #11 – trust payments/dues, #12 – IFAPP, #13 – Corporate (removing Tembec) – completed. 25,000 meters/year in exchange for chips – never happened – Tembec released

Hector wonders how much money wasn't paid by Buchanan – it's in excess of \$60 million in dues, loans and forgiven loans. Why didn't they do something about not getting paid? Why was it permitted to get that high? Was there reluctance to make a decision maybe – jobs. vs. dues? Will this happen again? Will these dollars be a burden on the new ESFL holder? That is possible but they are looking an maybe not collecting it on the poplar.

G. Minor Items:

- 1). Snow chart – Evan showed us the snow chart (embedded below) – as you can see the snow is melting and moving down.
 - 2). Membership information sheet – Evan passed around the membership sheet and asked everyone to make sure their information on the form is correct. The sheet was turned back into **Evan at the end of the evening and he will update the list and distribute next week.**
 - 3). Wolf Project – 4 packs are now down to 3 – they are losing collars as they go offline. They've been killing caribou (3) – Evan put up a map to show where. The wolves made 35 kills (32 were moose, 3 caribou). There are 3 gps collars left out there. Those 3 caribou seem to be in rough shape – the moose was a mixture.
 - 4). Fishing Brochures – As many of you know, the MNR has requested the number of fishing regulation books be reduced to only one box per license issuer which means our brochures will be even more valuable. Scott Koski moved to produce another round of brochures at a cost of \$.18 each – them motion was seconded by Jane Jantunen – motion carried. Evan will order 2,000 at a cost of roughly \$500.
 - 5). Adopt An Access – Hartley, Rogers and Boobas Lakes are now available for someone to adopt them since Dennis Cowan is gone. Would AVTB be interested? **Evan will send a list to Scott for review and consideration by AVTB.**
 - 6). Community Fish & Wildlife Program - (they have given us money for our mugs in the past) now have only two different programs (community hatchery program and the land stewardship & habitat restoration) and these are two very large dollar projects. It doesn't look like there will be any money for our smaller projects in the future.
 - 7). Ken Stevens put together a great list of questions for our Ring of Fire Presentation. Although many of the questions couldn't be answered, Evan sent them to Londa and Peter for their review and eventual answers.
 - 8). Fur Prices – Evan covered some prices of pelts right now – beavers are averaging \$33 (top is \$300) and compared last years figures to this years. There has been a significant increase in martin and red fox. The price of beavers still doesn't make it worthwhile – they trap them only because they have to. Trappers made some money this year and are trying to get more people involved and moving old trappers out. The price of fur isn't significant enough to lure people in. Fur sales tend to be higher than selling locally. Experience and care need to be invested to get higher dollars and training is definitely helping that too.
 - 9). Cliffs Open House – coming in May sometime. Keep an eye out for scheduled times/places.
 - 10). Gerry White Field Trip – they are doing 4 tours with 10-12 people each in between Geraldton, Beardmore and Longlac and will depend on the interest. Is there interest from the group? One tour could be specific for GANRAC. A geologist for the MNM could go over what's going on, plans, drilling – whatever we want covered. The group needs to pick a date – probably sometime June, July or August. Transportation would be organized. **Evan asked George Horobec to see if he could get more information and a detailed description of what would be included and present it at our next meeting for a decision.** Evan suggested maybe the headframe (Premier properties) – core cutting, labs, etc. George will get back to us.
- H. Commercial Fishing License-Marshall Lake – revisited – Evan put up all the comments gathered by Toni and the group concerning this application. We reviewed each comment individually and based on the numerous negative comments made and received by our members, and based on general consensus, Toni Moroz moved to not support this application. It was seconded by Louis Garon – a vote was taken – no abstains, no nays – motion passed.
- I. License to Harvest Forest Resources for Personal, Non-Commercial Use – Evan gave everyone the new license which must be carried at all times while cutting and be presented to an officer of the Crown when requested. All cutting MUST occur within the area specified on the license. It notes the use of heavy equipment is not permitted without prior written approval by the MNR. Use of quads might be ok as long as you're not making roads/paths. This license will go out with all permits. The issuing guidelines have not changed.

- IX. Next Meeting – June 5th – should be in Nakina. Perry will check it out make some arrangements or get back to us about an alternate meeting place.
- X. Adjournment – Linda Beaulieu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Hector Vincent – meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.