

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: February 8, 2012
 Location: Our Lady of Fatima Library - Longlac
 Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator	*	
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester, Kenogami		*
Ben Bartlett, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)		*
Tom Gross, Conservation Officer MNR		*
Guests: Len McEathron, potential member		
Jacquie Riou, Wild Goose Lake Resort		

Members:

Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Deanna Hoffman	*	
Edgar Lavoie		*
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger	*	
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish		*
Jamie Armstrong		*
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moretton	*	
Scott Koski		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff		*
Andy Yesno		
Donna Pelletier	*	*

Alternates:

Bill Davidson	*	
Cory Nephin		*
Ken Stevens	*	
Greg Riou	*	
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Jane Jantunen	*	
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Tom Hunt		*
Tracey Bradley		*

- I. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. We did introductions as we had some new faces at the table – Donna Pelletier from GCF, Len McEathron and Jacquie Riou were guests.
- II. Review of Agenda – Bernie requested to be added to the agenda for a quick question. Other than that, no other changes or additions were made.
- III. Approval of previous minutes – the January minutes were reviewed. Toni moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ken Stevens – minutes approved.
- IV. Business arising from previous minutes – Although Ron did not meet with the GCF board, some discussions were held and we now have Donna Pelletier from GCF representing them on our committee. Evan checked into the printing of the brochure through the MNR-preferred printers, but it was determined it was more cost effective and supportive of the community for the LCC to fund this project and order from Times Star as reported earlier. Evan ordered the brochures and they should be done by next week. Ben will be presenting the proposed “blanket list” of approved Administrative Amendments for our group to review at the March meeting. Charlotte did send Edgar the information he has requested concerning the AOC prescription for the Canoe Routes. Edgar in turn, has forwarded a letter to the MNR on this subject. **Tom Gross is to follow up on the Hunters Safety Certificate and the records maintained by the MNR.**
- V. Financial report – No financial report was given, however Evan did present the official Invoice from the LCC to the MNR for funding the budget.
- VI. Correspondence – no correspondence received.
- VII. New Business:
 - a) Ogoki Update – There is no activity on the forest, and Deanna isn't sure when there will be.
 - b) Ogoki Planning Team Update – Bill gave us an update on the planning team – they met for their first “official” meeting on January 9th. Most of the meeting centered around administrative issues – signing the terms of reference, background information, and development of a task team to concentrate on the harvest allocation and roads.
 - c) Kenogami Update –same as Ogoki Update above.
 - d) Kenogami FMP Update –Deanna stated they are moving along. All AOC changes have been made (using the suggested prescription form our group last month). Final submission has been moved back a couple of weeks and will now be March 2, 2011. Although it has been delayed by a couple of weeks, it will give everyone the chance to review everything and ensure correctness. Toni gave an overview of the report from the LCC to the FMP with the updated dates of Planning Team meetings as well as all of the GANRAC meetings where the FMP was discussed. This report is current as of Jan. 8, 2012. Toni Moroz moved to accept this GANRAC statement to the FMP as presented unless concerns are brought forth to Evan no later than Monday, Feb. 13, 2012. The motion was seconded by Ed Hoffman, motion carried – statement approved pending comments. The report is below.



e). Bernie's Question –Bernie asked if there was a website or report available that identifies how the money received through hunting and fishing licenses sold is distributed and what it is used for. Evan assured him the information is covered under the freedom of information act, but he wasn't aware of the report or where to obtain this information. The money is placed in a special purpose fund for our area and is used for moose surveys for sure. Baitfish dollars collected also go into this fund. The money is supposed to go to Game/Fish/Wildlife management. **Is caribou considered game? Evan will check into this fund and will report back.**

f). Riparian Buffers – Evan hooked us up with a webinar-type presentation on Riparian buffers and how studies have shown that by actually cutting closer to the waters edge sustains and promotes healthy habitat, contrary to today's prescriptions for lakes and waterways. Also too, by cutting to the shorelines it gives the forester more stands to use when dealing with other matters requiring protection and/or reserves. He asked afterwards if this was something worth listening to. The group agreed that it was and Louis asked if he could get a copy of it for reading and listening to later in order to more fully grasp the information provided. **Evan will see if he can "join" the audio and video portions together and will check to see if this is something can that be shared within the group.** The presentation is embedded below:



Riparian Buffers.pdf

g) Minor Items:

1. Canoe Route AOC – Evan showed the example of the canoe route with the 500 meter buffer zone on each side and where additional reserves already exist, another 20 meters will be added to a maximum of 110 meters. The campsite AOC will be 100 meters from the center of the fire-pit and the portage trails will be 30 meters on both sides of the trail. He asked the group if this was, in fact, what they believed they agreed upon last month. The group responded yes. Louis did ask whether or not this was going to be the "standard" procedure for canoe routes in the future. Evan said no, that it would be dictated by each individual forest management plan.

2. Wood Haul – Evan wanted everyone to know that wood is being hauled and is moving along Highway 11 out of the Big Pic forest, where Buchanan is not the SFL holder. This wood is going to the co-gen plant in Hearst and approved/authorized mills. It is not coming out of the Kenogami. The wood in the Kenogami must stay in the forest because it is now in receivership and/or bankruptcy. Long Lake Forest Products and its subsidiary, Nakina Forest Products, are in bankruptcy.

3. Snow Stations – Evan showed a graph of snow readings over the last two years in addition to the 10-year average. We have more snow in the last two years than is normal. Readings are taken weekly (station is located at the height

of land, going east near Beardmore) and they have at least 50 years worth of data. OPG and many group use this data to develop forecasts, etc. Toni mentioned they have 91cm down to 75cm of snow at the east end of Greenstone, so the entire Greenstone area has mostly the same snow levels. Evan commented that the longer we have deep snow, the worst affect it has on the moose and deer populations.

4. Retirement Letters – Evan put up the three retirement letters Toni typed up for Steve Crawford, Bill Arnott and Kyle Polesky. Steve, given he's had so many years of service to GANRAC gets a \$75 gift certificate from Skinners – the other two gentlemen receive the letter of thanks – as outlined in the guidelines established by this group for retiring members. Toni will mail the letters and will put a note in Steve's that we will **get his gift certificate when Skinner returns.**

5. Bags– Evan passed out more bags from the MNR with the moose, deer and caribou tracks – made available through the MNR and CFWIP to those who had not previously received one.

6. Elk Hunting – Evan noted there's an EBR posting concerning extending the Elk hunting season in southern Ontario. He showed us a map of the elk herd in that area – it's embedded below. The EBR posting number is 011-5624.



Elk EBR info.pdf



EBR Elk Hunting Season.pdf

7. LCC Workbook – Welcome Pack DVD – Evan passed out copies of the booklet for anyone who hadn't already received one which is an introduction to forestry, definitions, etc. designed for new members. He reminded the group that we have the LCC because of the forestry industry in their management of the forest.

8. Learning Compass – Evan identified a presentation available concerning global warming and the effects on wildlife. Is this something the group would be interested in seeing? We agreed that, yes, it would be of interest. **Evan will look into scheduling this presentation.**

9. Mining Claims Map – Evan showed copies of the website that is updated quarterly, identifying all the mining claims/stakes in and around the Ring of Fire and north of Greenstone. This was of great interest to the entire group so **Evan will send the maps and link to everyone.**



Claims Maps (1st Nations).pdf

10. KWG Updates – Evan asked the group if they wanted to continue receiving these updates via email. Toni receives them from KWG as a result of their meeting with us a couple of years ago. The group agreed that, yes, they do want to continue receiving them.

11. New member – Evan asked Len McEathron if he had decided whether or not to join our group. Len said yes he looks forward to being involved with us. Evan gave a brief explanation of the agenda, how we could add items we'd like to discuss, submit any kind of ideas to him on what types

of things you'd like to see discussed, etc. He also pointed out the importance of confirming your attendance at the meetings as it affects whether we will have a quorum and how much money to spend on those meetings involving dinner.

11. Moose Quotas – Evan has his moose quotas due on March 7th. He does not expect his areas to vary much from last year after reviewing the numbers. There will likely be some changes in 21A based on the study conducted this winter. Evan showed us targets and harvest numbers for his areas – 17, 18 and 19. Remi stated he would like to spend more time discussing moose quotas, tags, numbers etc. **Evan said he'd be happy to schedule a time to discuss moose once he has submitted his quotas.**
- VIII. Next Meeting – is scheduled for March 7th at the Fire Centre. This is to be a dinner meeting, so we'll start at 5:30pm. We had a small discussion on food, and Toni will be calling to make arrangements to have Chinese food catered to the meeting.
- IX. Toni Moroz moved to adjourn the meeting and Linda Beaulieu seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.