

Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: March 9, 2011
 Location: Our Lady of Fatima School Library
 Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>In Attendance:</u>	<u>Present:</u>	<u>Regrets:</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator		*
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Doug Haldane, MNR Area Supervisor	*	
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester (Kenogami)		*
Tom Gross, MNR Conservation Officer		*
Kim Groenendyk, MNR District Manager (Nipigon)		*

Members:

Bernie Baillargeon		*
Deanna Hoffman		*
Edgar Lavoie		*
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger	*	
George Horobec	*	
Mary Moylan	*	
Jamie Armstrong	*	
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moreton		*
Steve Crawford		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Yvette Metansinine		*

Alternates:

Bill Arnott	*	
Bill Davidson	*	
Ron Melhuish		*
Cory Nephin		*
Ken Stevens	*	
Greg Riou	*	
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Kyle Polesky		*
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Scott Koski	*	
Tom Hunt	*	
Erin Symington-Armstrong	*	

- I. Call to order – Evan acted as facilitator in Hector’s absence and called the meeting to order at 6pm after dinner.
- II. Review of Agenda – no additions or changes were made.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes – no changes were made or noted. Toni Moroz moved to approve the minutes of Feb. 2nd, motion seconded by Bill Davidson, minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Scott Koski commented that there is no rule about having tarps over loads on bush roads, but when on the highway they must conform to MTO regulations. **In Steve Crawford’s absence we will carry forward the question concerning the parking lot at the by-pass for the**

Kenogami Dam. Mary checked and our website announcement could be submitted as a news article to the Times Star. **Evan will email the ad to the Times Star. Still need to look into Travis Shallock or someone from the Nakina Fish & Game Club to represent them at our meetings.** At the "Ask a Conservation Officer" section of our meeting, a question was posed about the legality of riding quads on the side of the road. **Tom Gross said there is no un-complicated answer, so he would like to present the answer at our next meeting – in person.** Tom Hunt also concurred that there are various rules & regulations, depending on what section of highway they're on. All other action items have been done or reported on.

V. Financial Report – no financial report made.

VI. Correspondence – we received a letter from the Auditors of the Kenogami and Ogoki with a copy of the audit. This information is not yet public but was forwarded to us as a confidential document. The report was passed around for anyone interested in reading it to put their name on the sign-out sheet. Each member is responsible for getting the report to the next person on the list. No copies can be made and no discussions may ensue outside this forum concerning this report. Charlotte will give us an overview at a later date.

VII. New Business:

A. Kenogami AWS Presentation – Erin gave us this presentation and covered aerial tending, plant block additions, bridging, second-pass harvest, the Kassagimini Road link, primary and secondary road construction, skidding, water crossings and AOCs . Her presentation is embedded herein.



Kenogami AWS
Amendment presenta

B. Ogoki AWS Presentation (2011/2012) – Erin also presented this and highlighted the harvest plans, renewal and tending, road construction, water crossings, fire prevention/preparedness, monitoring, etc.. There were some questions about rumours that the Nakina Mill might be opening up. These are still only rumours, but it definitely could open this spring. Erin's presentation is embedded herein:



Ogoki AWS
presentation Mar. 20

C. Ogoki 09/10 Annual Report –Erin also presented this. Nothing was harvested (basically). The report is embedded herein for review:



Kenogami
presentation March 3

D. Road Decommissioning – Bill Arnott felt it would be a good idea to post information on Road Use Planning and decommissioning on the GANRAC website, with a place for people to comment and feel like higher/local MNR and industry people can read/comment back. We could list the roads being considered for the next 5 years or so on there. Doug Haldane commented that over and above the Annual Work Schedule, there needs to be some other mechanism for getting information out to people – not just embedded into something else. Mary felt discussions on roads at the AWS open houses should be more structured, with presentations vs. just going up to look at maps and asking questions. After much discussion, it was agreed that **Doug, Evan and**

Charlotte need to get together and have a focused discussion on this and come back with some suggestions for making this information public locally.

- E. Ogoki Update – in Steve's absence Scott reported. Not too much to report here. The Annual Work Schedule has been submitted. He explained that the numbers are up due to 1.5 years worth of wood.
- F. Kenogami Update – in Steve's absence Scott reported. There was some discussion of the difference in hogging and chipping, as some local reports made it sound like good wood was being used for bio-fibre, but it was actually being chipped. **Mary Moylan also asked Scott to inform the company that the new drivers have been causing some problems in town, driving on roads where trucks are not permitted. Scott will talk with the Safety Coordinator and will report back.** The full update is embedded herein:



LCC Kenogami
Update Mar8_11.doc

G. Minor Items:

1). Caribou Habitat Regulation – stakeholder conferences are being/have been held in our region, in Hearst and Thunder Bay. Evan was wondering who in the group would be interested in maybe having a joint presentation with the Nipigon LCC – probably in Jellicoe or Nipigon. The MNR folks putting on the presentations could give us an abbreviated version. Evan showed us agenda details including proposed approach to habitat regulations. They use 32 slides and offer a chance for questions. We also were given instructions on how to go on the EBR and ask questions instead of going to the presentations.

Evan asked the group a number of questions:

Who would attend a meeting in Nipigon? (2 members said yes)

Who would attend a meeting in Jellicoe? (2 members said yes)

Who would attend a meeting in Geraldton or Longlac? (all present said yes)

Would you still be interested if only a presentation was available and no break out session? (all present said yes)

Evan will take this information back to the Region and will advise.

2). District Heating Systems Breakfast Seminar – This is a meeting primarily focusing on co-gen plants. Erin and John are planning to attend.

3). LCC Training – Evan passed out the step-by-step instructions on how to take the training course over the internet. **Evan has been able to obtain DVD's of the presentation and will make them available at the next meeting.** The training is not mandatory, but is suggested.

4). Snow Stations - Evan put up a graph showing snow depths at the Geraldton snow station comparing this winter to the 10 year average. We are higher than normal this year. Wolf activity is higher and wolf kills are higher also. There should be a lower number of deer expected this fall due to the high snow levels.

5). Retirement Gifts – Evan showed everyone the plaque made for Bill Hoff. Perry offered to take it to Bill and get Remi to make a presentation. Pictures will be taken with him accepting his plaque. Harry and Paul's certificates & gifts have been mailed to them.

6). Evan put up a Wolves Map with dots showing all of the active packs in our area. There have been instances where they've found wolves starved to death due to snow conditions making food sources limited. More killing of moose by the wolves have also been identified.

7). Agriculture/Wildlife Strategy – the livestock damages compensation programs have changed. They are posted on the EBR with expanded lists of species and listing the maximum value of compensation. EBR #011-2677.

- H. Business Cards – In Edgar’s absence we reviewed all of the pictures and proposed business cards. There was much discussion, but it was agreed that the purple/red ink should not be used as it seems illegible. The wording should be simplified by removing some of the verbiage. (No need to identify what the picture is or the message on the top right corner) Two additional pictures were selected to fill out the 10 per sheet. The bear picture should be rotated to better view the animal. Linda Beaulieu will coordinate with Edgar to finalize the pictures for this project.
- I. Moose Quotas – Evan informed us that he has submitted his quotas for areas 17, 18A, 18B and 19. He then went through the targeted numbers for bulls, cows and calves, noting very few changes from last year. This was a very informative presentation and everyone enjoyed knowing the stats.

VIII. Next Meeting – after some discussion on availability, by vote our next meeting will be on April 6th at the Geraldton Fire Centre– start time - 5:30pm.

IX. Bill Davidson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Louis Garon. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.