

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: February 20, 2013
 Location: Greenstone Fire Centre
 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	*	
Phil Couture, MNR Acting Geraldton Area Supv.		*
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		*
 <u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Davidson		*
Martin Boucher	*	
Erin Symington-Armstrong	*	
Ken Stevens	*	
Greg Riou	*	
John Espinola		*
Linda Beaulieu		*
Jane Jantunen	*	
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Tom Hunt		*
Len McEathron	*	

- I. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Introductions were made as there were some new faces at the table.

- II. Review of Agenda – nothing added to or changed on the agenda.

- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– There were no issues or comments regarding the November minutes. They had been distributed for quite a while. Louis Garon moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ken Stevens – minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – It has been determined that Jane will remain as alternate for the Municipality. Vicki Blanchard and Jamie will be kept abreast of happenings via Jane and Ron. Scott Koski has been confirmed by AVTB as their forestry representative with our group. Also, Aaron Dorland will now be representing Forestry for the eFRL (NEEDAC). Donna Pelletier (GCF) reported (through Erin) that she had not gotten any new information on the portal and any new hosting opportunities. **Toni mentioned a few options and said she would look into the matter and report back to the committee next month.**
- V. Financial Report – Evan showed everyone the financial report and running balance. He reminded everyone to be sure to cash their cheques. Louis Garon moved to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Steve Crawford – Financial Report approved.
- VI. Correspondence – Evan put up the two notices we received concerning the Greenstone Landfill Site we received – it was also published in the paper and was dated a while back so it's actually a moot point at this time. We also received a response from Minister Gravelle to our letter concerning guns for shooting wolves. It appears the Minister regurgitated the law about using the rim-fire ammo, but it appears he missed our point. We will wait a while and maybe reintroduce this to the new Minister for his review – while possibly re-wording our concern to make it clearer.
- VII. New Business
- A. Kenogami Update – AWS Presentation– Charlotte provided the group with AWS for the Kenogami. Overall harvest levels are anticipated to be like a “normal” year. Treatments/planting will be lower than “normal” but will begin to increase in 2014. Renewal treatments to commence on previously harvested areas (2008-2010) in 2014. Seedling have been ordered for 2014 (requests for quotes sent out). The money for these comes out of the trust fund. Slash management will be a condition of overlapping licenses to perform slash management prior to leaving the block. This will not affect the price of the wood as money for the slash comes out of the trust also.

Road decommissions include Jemar, McLeod, Bankfield, Pout, Bawk, Greta and Howard Creek. There will be 36 kms of primary road construction and 15.7 km of branch road construction. Primary roads are Esker Lake, Castlebar, Chapman, Kassagamini, Lake Nipigon Link and Round Lake. Branch roads include Little Aguasabon, Jackfish, Boston and Hampster. The AWS was mostly prepared by the MNR with input from Resource License Holders (AVTB, Constance Lake) and also from the eFRL (who is responsible for the actual submission). Monitoring the roads will be done by the AVTB, but there will be a roads funding agreement with AVTB.

Ne-Daa-Kii-Me-Naan, Inc. was issued the eFRL for 2014 in the Kenogami. It will expire if an eSFL (long term tenure) is in place.

- B. Ogoki FMP Update – Ben stated they did just have their second meeting last month and are just now coming back together as a team. Projects (AOCs, etc.) are being outlined/reviewed. Dates for open houses have been decided for Nakina and Geraldton for Phase II (5-year term through 2018).
- C. Ogoki Update – The license was signed by the Minister as our group met and therefore the forest has been surrendered. Ben has been working on the Annual Work Schedule and will present it at the next meeting. The AWS will be the same as last year. Trees have been ordered for planting this summer. The question was asked if there was any wood left to haul. They moved a bunch of wood in the fall but Scott says there's some going to be moved this spring too. Louis asked how much is not use-able. All of it can be used but the stuff on the other side of the bridge re-alignment (that we did an amendment for but couldn't get the work done) is questionable since it's been cut since 2006 (approximately 15,000 cm). Maybe if we can get the bridge re-aligned this year the wood can be retrieved.

Ben also commented on the Boreal Alarm (paper issued by Greenpeace in December of 2012 that Evan had circulated a while back to all of us). They called it a wake up call for action in Canada's endangered forests (which they view Kenogami and Ogoki to be). The summary was that they do not want any more harvesting in either forest. This group can be quite vocal. They claim Terrace Bay Pulp Mill lost customers due to the controversy over logging? They did quote, however, possible new opportunities with AVTB. **Evan sent the link to everyone for review. Greenpeace asked Ben to let them know when the SFL is surrendered, so he said he would take care of that.**

- D. AV Terrace Bay –
Harvesting: AVTB Licenses – Contractors are employing local people, and AVTB Woodlands staff has 7 local staff. Operating area: Pollywog, Catlonite Km 65, Pout North, Km 22 Crib. 4 Contractors – 9 buncher crews. Other Licensees – Operating Areas - Chorus, Toad, Eldee and Croll. Roads: Currently we are maintaining Florrie, Catlonite, Crib, Greer, McLeod, Castlebar, East Road and Goldfield. Haul: Hauling out of all active harvest blocks. Moving wood out of Castlebar (cut in 2007 by BFPL). Moving old inventory out of Dodd (Cut by BWI 2011). Looking for increase in hog deliveries
Mill Inventory: 169,000 m³ of round wood/Chips in the mill yard. We are aiming for 200,000 m³ in the yard going into break-up. This is approximately 40 days inventory. Other: Donated 50 logs to Confederation College for sawmill program. Moving to new office on March 15th 2013. Fibre samples sent to Sweden for testing for dissolving grade pulp.

Jane asked Scott to remind the drivers about the Cross Country Ski Club crossing on Crib Road. Scott said he would see what he could do. Evan also asked him to mention the little pull-off areas around fishing lakes and such for parking. Scott said they've really clamped down on safety, especially at bridges and have been coming down hard on the drivers. Radar has even been set up. They are supposed to drive just like they had no radios because the small vehicles don't have them.

- E. Minor Items

- 1). Evan showed everyone what the new outdoor cards will look like. They will be the same for residents and non-residents alike. And, unlike in the past, you will not receive a notice that your card is expiring. It will be up to you to make sure you have a valid outdoors card. There will be only 3 types – hunting/fishing/apprentice and the printing will not be “raised” as in the past. The card will be similar to the Health card.
- 2). Fishing Brochure – Evan said we are out of the fishing brochures and wanted to know if the group was interested in reproducing them, or maybe even an outfitter or group to sponsor them. **3000 or more will cost 18.5 cents each; less than that will cost 23 cents each.**
Action: This item will be re-visited at next meeting for direction from the group.
- 3). Snow Station – Evan showed us the snow levels from this year compared to years past. We’re almost at the “normal” level for this year so far. About 10 cm below the 10 year average snow depth.
- 4). Evan also showed us the Fish On-Line program offered by the MNR. It’s a on-line or app program that provides great information about any lake, the depth, area, fish, stocking, etc. A great tool for everyone to use. Check it out – click on fish & wildlife under the GANRAC website, then click the “Fish On-Line” button.

F. Ask a Conservation Officer – Tom made himself available for any questions and lucky for him, there were none this evening.

G. Climate Change Module #2 – Evan put this module on the screen and those interested in watching stayed and enjoyed finding more about how climate change is affecting our forest and what we can do to work with it.

VIII. Next meeting will be on March 13th in Longlac at the Woodlands Inn for dinner at 5:30pm. Toni will coordinate.

IX. Adjournment – Scott Koski moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Perry Barkhouse – meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.