

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: April 17, 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>Guests:</u>		
Paul MacInnis- MNDM-Aboriginal Liaison-Ring of Fire		
Peter Hinz-MNDM Team Lead, Exploration and Mineral Development		
Londa Mortson- Regional Land Use Planning Supervisor		
Mayor Renald Beaulieu – Municipality of Greenstone		
Roy Sinclair, CAO Municipality of Greenstone		
Jonathan Dart, British Consul-General Toronto & Director General of UK Trade & Investment Canada		
Mathieu Blandford, Political and Public Affairs Officer at the British Consulate		
<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	*	
Eileen Johnson	*	
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Jane Jantunen		*
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Tom Hunt		*
Len McEathron	*	

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

- II. Ring of Fire Presentation – Peter Hinz started with his presentation in explaining the Exploration and Mineral Development. He explained what Chromite is and its value in the world. He passed around a piece of Chromite so everyone could see what it actually looks like. There have been significant mineral discoveries in the Ring of Fire (ROF) area - Copper-zinc, Nickel-copper-platinum, Chromium-iron-vanadium. There are approximately 14,472 claim units covering an area of 2,316 sq. kilometers and they are located within Ontario's Far North. This is a very remote, wet (edge of Lowlands) area with no power or access.

Twenty-one companies currently hold claims in the ROF belt. The area with the most intensive exploration is 12-20 km long. \$292 million has been spent on exploration from 2002 to 2012 and \$84 million was spent in 2012 with \$73 million forecasted for 2013. Chromite and nickel are the most significant development opportunities at this time.

Peter showed us the proposed developments – an underground mine portal, the open pit mine, the ferrochrome refinery (in Sudbury) and 85-tonne haul truck road. Right now it appears it will be the north/south corridor will be used and has been included in their terms of reference and will be confirmed through the environmental assessment process. This is an historic opportunity to think strategically and plan for economic development in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Cliff's project is worth about \$3.3 billion, including mine, transportation and processing facility. The company estimates a total of 1,200 new direct jobs will be created (including Sudbury processing facility). Noront estimates their project to represent a capital investment of about \$609 million; 700 construction jobs and 300 ongoing jobs. Spin-off business opportunities would generate direct and indirect employment of approximately 5,000 people per year in Ontario beginning in 2016/2017. The project also provides economic opportunities in a remote and undeveloped area, especially for local First Nation communities.

Current Status: Federal and provincial Environmental Assessments (EA) processes are underway for Cliff's and Noront's proposed projects. The companies would like the EA process to be done by the end of this year, but this is likely optimistic. Ontario is working with First Nation communities to develop community based land use plans; the joint planning dialogue builds a shared understanding of perspectives, goals and interests. Once a land use plan is in place, activities on the landscape must be consistent with the plan's land use designations. Regional long-term environmental monitoring will be developed with First Nations. Companies are targeting production in 2016/17.

Ron M. asked what the secretariat does. The Secretariat is in place to do introductions, specialize in infrastructure, planning, and EA specialists. Theirs is not a regulatory role, but more of a facilitator. Ron wants to make sure there is oversight of needs (power, etc.) to make sure economies of scale are utilized. Discussions are ongoing concerning the companies' desires for cost-sharing of the road. The cost of the road will be a low of \$600 million with an estimated high of \$1.6 billion. These discussions are happening at the highest level.

Londa gave us an introduction to the EA process. Both companies (Noront and Cliffs) have volunteered to put their projects through an Individual Environmental Assessment process. Both have submitted their terms of reference to the MOE and the MOE is deciding whether to accept their terms of reference. Permits cannot be issued until the terms of reference and EAs have been approved. Aggregate permit applications (Cliffs) have been submitted. All applications are complete but permits can't be issued until the EA is approved. The Cliffs road easement is accepted but not approved. Some pre-feasibility work can be done. She was asked if the federal EA people are working with the MNR. Yes, it's a coordinated process. Requirements of both will be fulfilled but there will be only one report for the Federal and Provincial levels. The role of the Secretariat/MNR is vital in dealing with crown land management, remote access in crown land and how the Far North Act applies. The project crosses over 50 streams/rivers and the road will cross three different waterway parks. The companies have been collaborating with the MNR and have been sharing information about work on caribou. A Land Use Permit (LUP) has been issued at McFaulds Lake for a camp right there at the ROF. There are no completed applications from other companies. The Nipigon District will be the MNR district responsible for compliance.

Paul gave us an overview of the Far North Community Based Land Planning (CBLUP) initiative which is community based using a consensus based approach. It identifies which lands to dedicate for protection and which are to be open for potential sustainable economic development. The CBLUP process is very similar to that of a forest management plan. There is the initial engagement (initiated by First Nations who have an interest in preparing a community based land use plan), then background information is gathered, they establish a joint planning team, determine terms of reference, draft a land use plan, have open houses and community input, then develop the final land use plan. Since 2010 over 30 different communities have become involved in this process and are in various stages of completeness. Most of the planning involves protection around the river systems. They are not generally disputing land issues. Protocols have been set up in the communities to communicate with each other.

- III. Review of Agenda – due to time constraints the forest updates were postponed until our next meeting. Minor items were also moved to next meeting.
- IV. Approval of Previous Minutes– There were no issues or comments regarding March's minutes. Louis Garon moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ed Hoffman – minutes approved.
- V. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Ben did send notices to Toni & Sarah concerning the open house schedule for the Ogoki FMP. The website is on the agenda for this evening. **The fishing brochures were carried forward to next meeting.**
- VI. Financial Report – There was no financial report given due to time constraints.
- VII. Correspondence – Carried till next meeting.
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Ogoki Update - The next planning team meeting is April 24th. They will be reviewing information that will be presented at the Information Centres scheduled for May. Information to review includes harvest allocations, AOC prescriptions and potential herbicide application areas. Ben scheduled the Information Centres in Aroland (May 15th), Marten Falls (May 22nd), Eababmetoong (May 14th), Nakina (May 8th) and Geraldton (May 9th). The Information Centres will present the proposed harvest areas, primary/branch road corridors and Area of Concern (AOC) prescriptions for 2014 through 2018. This is the only Information Centre that will be held for this phase of the forest management planning. A harvest license has been issued to Buchanan Woodlands, Inc. for 2013-2014 for the purpose of processing previously felled wood from 2011.
 - B. AV Terrace Bay – Harvesting:
 - AVTB Licenses –
 - Operating area: Fleming/Crib, Johnson/Calvert, Rayner/Tillia, Seagram/Norse
 - Contractor –6 buncher crews
 - Other Licensees – Operating Areas – No operations
 - Roads:
 - No new road construction started until spring.
 - Lake Nipigon Road link bridge engineering work to done next week
 - Repair work on the Taylor's bridge
 - Other bridge resurfacing work to done this spring
 - 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
 - Bush is clean (swamps all hauled)

- Looking for increase in hog deliveries
- Back roads are unofficially shut down
- Successful winter haul
- Mill Inventory:
- 213,000 m3 of round wood/Chips in the mill yard (41 days)
- Still a shortage of hog fuel
- More chips in the yard than roundwood (running wood room to generate hog)
- Other:
- Operations are active in the 2013-2014 AWS approved blocks
- Mill is running at 850-900 tons per day output
- AVTB Woodlands has moved into the new office

E. Minor Items

- 1). Membership – Ed Hoffman has accepted the change to Forestry from Cottaging as he is now working for Columbia Forest Products. This left an opening in Cottaging for which George suggested Gerald Buldoc. Ken Stevens moved to invite Gerald to our next meeting, it was seconded by Toni Moroz – motion approved – we will invite Gerald to our next meeting to see if he would be interested in joining our group. Deanna Hoffman is back in our group for the Forestry section as an alternate to Aaron Dorlan (eFRL). Eileen Johnson is here tonight in her new role as alternate for the Chambers of Commerce, representing the Geraldton Chamber.
- 2). Evan showed us the website Sarah has been working on. Everyone was very impressed with her work and appreciative of her time and initiative. This site would cost us less than \$100/yr. Evan did mention that would have to be GANRAC.com, and not GANRAC.ca due to the constraints of the server. Also, all files (maps, etc.) must be 10 MB or less to be posted. No one expressed concern over either issue. Evan can also be listed as administrator and can access the site if Sarah is not available. Ron Melhuish moved to support this website through Wix, the GANRAC.com name and Sarah to continue the administration (at no charge). This motion was seconded by Linda Beaulieu, motion carried. We also agreed that we should not consider putting any advertising on the page at the present time.

F. Ask a Conservation Officer – **Carried forward to our next meeting.**

- IX. Next meeting – Having our meeting on May 1 would bring us back on schedule, but the Fire Base is still not available so this meeting will be in Longlac again. Toni will make arrangements with the Woodlands. So – next meeting is May 1, 2013 at 5:30 pm – Woodlands Inn in Longlac.
- X. Adjournment – Scott Koski moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Hoff – meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.