

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: Nov. 9, 2011
 Location: Our Lady of Fatima Library
 Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator	*	
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Doug Haldane, MNR Area Supervisor	*	
Tracy Bailey, GFMI – Guest	*	
Leigh Anne Cecchetto, GFMI (Guest)	*	
Ben Bartlett, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)	*	
Tom Gross, Conservation Officer MNR	*	
 <u>Members:</u>		
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	*	
 <u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Davidson	*	
Cory Nephin		*
Ken Stevens	*	
Greg Riou		*
John Espinola		*
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Kyle Polesky		*
Perry Barkhouse		*
Tom Hunt		*
Erin Symington-Armstrong (maternity leave)		*

- I. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm after our dinner. Introductions were made as we had guests.

- II. Review of Agenda – no additions or changes were made to the agenda except for clarification of Ben’s presentation.
- III. Approval of previous minutes – the Oct. minutes were reviewed. Jane asked that her name be removed from the GCF follow up as she is not on the board. Toni moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Scott Koski – minutes approved.
- IV. Business arising from previous minutes – Toni read her draft of the letter to the OPP concerning use of ATVs on the highways/roads. After some discussion, it was agreed by the group that we will not send the letter as we already have the law and that it would be totally at the officer’s discretion as to whether or not they would make it an offence to ride there. Toni also read out a draft of the letter inviting First Nations to join GANRAC. The group decided to include the hours, locations, things we discuss other than the forest management planning, as well as including a list of current members and categories they represent.
Toni will make revisions and will forward to Evan for review and ultimately Ed for signature. Ron was not able to attend the last GCF board meeting, so his discussions with them concerning their involvement with GANRAC will be carried forward to the next board meeting. Toni did email the Independent Forest Audit Review Summary we completed as a group. As is pertains to membership on the Ogoki Planning Team, **Evan has a deadline of Dec. 14th to determine who from remote tourism will sit on the planning team.** Remi is in Italy and won’t be back for a while. We decided that we would like to see the presentation on the Wawa road access issues. Evan said the presentation is about one hour long and they have agreed to come here to do it. **Evan is to contact Wendy LeClaire to schedule.** The LCC statement was revised, reviewed, signed and sent out. Evan also sent out an email concerning Lynne Palmer’s information about how to become involved.
- V. Financial report – No financial report was given, however Evan discussed with the group the fact that we’re running out of money and it appears we will be receiving \$3,585.70 from MNR as our operating budget for the year. This is substantially less than we need to operate.
- VI. Correspondence – Hector read the email we received from Bill Arnott respectfully submitting his resignation on this Committee and asked that any form of funds due to him for travel be maintained in the account for GANRAC use. Bill was the alternate representing Fish & Game, so a new member will need to be recruited.
- VII. New Business:
 - a) Ogoki FMP Phase II – Ben gave us an explanation of what Phase II is in that is it the second phase of the original 2008 – 2018 FMP for the Ogoki. Roads and harvest allocations will be determined in this phase for the next five years of the 10 year plan. The project deadline is spring of 2013 but the majority of the work will be done this winter and spring. They will be identifying harvest blocks, roads and using the new updated habitat/species at risk guidelines developed since the original plan in 2008. Ben also introduced Tracy Bailey who is the plan author with GFMI on the Ogoki and Leigh Anne Cecchetto with GFMI Operations for the plan.
 - b) Selection of Ogoki Planning Team Member(s) Update – Ron Melhuish has graciously agreed to sit on the planning team and Evan has the deadline

- of Dec. 14th to get someone to represent remote tourism on the committee. We prefer someone from the LCC, but it could possibly be someone in the remote tourism field. The LCC will receive, as they did with the Kenogami, regular updates from the planning team members.
- c) Ogoki 3-Year Annual Report – Leigh Anne gave us an overview of the Ogoki over the last three years. Obviously considering the blow down and lack of demand, less than 1% of the estimated allocation was harvested for a total of 23,695 sq. meters. The majority of the fibre went to Terrace Bay Pulp during the 2008/2009 harvest operating year while a small amount went for personal fuel wood and road building materials. All FMP planned mill destinations were closed in 2009-2010 AWS year. Terrace Bay Pulp resumed operations mid way through the 2012-2011 year, however did not receive fibre from the Ogoki forest at that time. She also reviewed renewal, tending and protection, renewal support, road construction and maintenance (new primary road construction on Painter Lake and new branch road construction on Gilhuly West Rd. No road maintenance was done. She also reviewed the operations inspections (42 inspections, 2 non-compliant) and regeneration and silvicultural success. No free to grow reported to date, but approximately 3,000 hectares are scheduled for spring of 2012. Evan questioned whether 3,000 hectares was a large section, and after some discussion, it was determined that the size of the areas will grow as harvest takes place. Ben also noted their confidence levels went up after a recent flight over the forest. Renewal areas that were targeted look good and targets are being met.

There was much discussion on alternatives to achieve long-term objectives in the absence of harvest – these include possible use of fire to achieve landscape patterns either through prescribed burn or allowing natural burn to occur with suppression. This prompted a few questions about allowing good forest to burn, but if left un-harvested and managed for fire, the forest could turn into something unnatural and that is not good for habitat or the forest in general. The Ogoki is full of very old timber and much of it is falling down. Prioritization of the harvest blocks need to occur while keeping in mind not necessarily suppressing a fire in a remote section of the forest – this could only help in the mosaic goals being achieved. Another concern was that so much wood is needed for certain projects, why can't the Ogoki wood be used? You cannot get to the wood as it would be too expensive of an endeavor and there is no real market for it currently. When asked if harvesting, once started, and the market was there, could they ramp up and cut whatever was necessary – definitely yes. Fast is better for caribou. Louis noted, again, his concerns over caribou habitat management strategies. Leigh Anne's full report is embedded below. Please note, this has not approved and will be sent to the District Manager for review.



Ogoki 3 Year Annual
Report Presentation.]

- d) Ogoki Update –Scott reported they are cutting wood wide open! There is a lower volume than what was anticipated in the FMP so more area will be required to meet FMP objectives. Scott's report is below:



LCC Ogoki
Update_Movember 9_

- e) Kenogami Update –No cutting right now. Scott's report is below:



LCC Kenogami
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- f) Minor Items:

1. Website Hits – activity on our GANRAC website (currently hosted by the Greenstone Portal) from January 1 through September 30, 2011 resulted in 1,000 views per month. It is highly utilized by many local and non-local people. The portal is under review right now with the council and could possibly “go away”. Jane and Ron explained that it has been poorly managed and is very costly (\$145,000/yr) of taxpayer money. The servers do, in fact, belong to the Municipality. Business on the portal should've been charged and will likely be charged once a final decision has been made as to its existence.
2. The LCC Effectiveness Survey – overall 83% of the LCC thought they were achieving the objectives. The goal was 61% so as a group, we're actually doing well.
3. Budget – Evan has submitted the final paperwork to get our budget for this year.
4. Scott Koski made a motion to reprint the existing Geraldton Fishing brochure with stocked lakes and regulations for the area to a maximum of \$500 worth. The motion was seconded by Linda Beaulieu – motion carried – **Evan will order the brochures.**
5. Business Cards – we're not certain what happened with the production of the cards, but now that the portal and website's future is in question, we will not be ordering the cards until things have been confirmed.

- g) Ask a Conservation Officer: Tom Gross was on hand to answer any questions from the group. Bernie asked if outfitters could carry a gun for protection while bear baiting. Tom answered yes, while baiting, as nothing is in season. Bernie then asked what about taking a gun with you while tracking a wounded bear. Tom also said yes, but that the outfitter could not do it unless he possessed a bear license/tag. (This was also confirmed later via email to the group). When asked if you're

retrieving a bear and carrying a weapon after dark, for protection, if that would be alright, you still must have a bear license. Tom said yes, as long as you phoned it in first. Same thing with when a moose is shot in one area, then crosses the highway, or river, into another area – can it be shot and tagged in that other area. This actually comes up a lot, and Tom said you must phone the MNR first before entering the other area to get the moose.

Evan had passed around a small glass container with something in it. He asked everyone in the group to take a look and guess what it was. After we all had a chance to look it over, Louis Garon was closest with his guess of moose ticks. Not quite correct but very close. It was moose tick larvae. They're on plants and wait to moose to go by and attach themselves to it. They then go through all 3 stages until it appears as a tick. These only affect moose. Evan noted it could be a bad year for moose mortality due to this.

Toni asked if a hunter shot a wolf if they have to do something with it. Tom said definitely – the hide/pelt must be used. Linda asked where the moose allocations topic went to that was on the bottom of the agenda under future agenda items. She noted that this was something she wanted to discuss, especially given the number of tags issued in areas 21A this year. Evan commented that the number of tags was the same (in area 19) as last year. He explained the ratio of bulls per cow and the high density of cows in area 21A. This has nothing to do with Caribou. Targets for moose in caribou conservation areas have been submitted for not approved yet. They must go through public consultation. Moose densities above 0.1 moose per square kilometer will affect caribou.

Evan also gave us an update on the wolves collaring project. He understands that some are starving and have been found curled up under a tree to die. Some also have mange. The study is in the process of placing more collars out there to monitor their behavior.

Bill Davidson asked about the Hunters Safety Certificate – it appears that once it's submitted to the MNR you no longer have a copy of it – the MNR keeps the information in a database. Evan asked the group if there was something they would like to see on the agenda to please let him know and he would do his best to get it scheduled and on the agenda. Bill asked what would happen if you didn't buy a small game license (only a fishing license) – would the information still be out there. **This was a follow up item for Tom.**

- VIII. Next Meeting – is scheduled for December 14th at the Fire Center in Geraldton.
- IX. Ed Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting and Linda Beaulieu seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

