

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: November 21, 2012
 Location: The 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	*	
Phil Couture, MNR Acting Geraldton Area Supv.	*	
Jim Fry, MNR District Manager	*	
<u>Guests:</u> Scott Koski – AVTB		
<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	*	
Andy Yesno		*
<u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Davidson	*	
Martin Boucher	*	
Cory Nephin		*
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 this was Jim Fry's first meeting with this group. After

introductions he gave a short synopsis of his tenure with the MNR and described his position as the new District Manager for the Nipigon District.

- II. Review of Agenda – Martin requested we discuss adding an Economic Development Officer from the Municipality to our committee. It will be listed as item A).
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– There were no issues or comments regarding the October minutes. Louis Garon moved to approve the minutes, seconded by George Horobec – minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Tom Gross told the group he had received memos regarding the new licensing system – mostly to do with seals, printing, etc. Overall he thought it went better than he thought it would. He had lots of hunters complaining about the seals and not being able to read them for correct notching. He asked everyone to please make an extra effort to notch the date and time correctly as this is a legal requirement. Toni mentioned there would be a meeting with outside issuers (outfitters and retailers in Greenstone) and hopefully some staff from Peterborough to go over the issues of last year to make sure the coming year goes more smoothly. Also – Tom reinforced the fact that any meat from a bear killed on a trap line must not be wasted.
- V. Financial Report – Evan showed everyone the financial report and running balance. He reminded everyone to be sure to cash their cheques. Steve Crawford moved to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Toni Moroz – Financial Report approved.
- VI. Correspondence – No correspondence has been received.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Membership – Evan gave us a background regarding the GEDC and how they were members of the LCC. Vicki Blanchard, the Economic Development Director for Greenstone has requested a closer working relationship with our group – even though Ron does make information available to her as the LCC Rep for the Municipality. Evan suggested a possible solution and Jim agreed that since Jane hasn't been able to attend too many meetings, maybe Jamie (who works for Vicki) could take her place as alternate with the Municipality rather than having another category of representation. **Ron will talk with Jane and will advise.** Scott Koski will also likely be the representative for AVTB on our committee. Chris Magee has been working on this and Jim will discuss it with him, but AVTB needs representation and given Scott's background and experience with the group, and he is a forester, it only makes sense. **Evan will advise.**
 - B. Forest Operation Update/Kenogami Update – In Charlotte's absence Evan provided this update. Harvesting licenses have been issues to AVTB,

Pays Platt, Ginoogaming, Constance Lake and one pending for Aroland. BWI is to haul previously harvested lumber. These are Enhanced Forest Licenses (eFRLs). Ron asked if the municipality can be represented on the eSFLs, but not on the eFRLs. The municipality cannot hold shares so do they have to have a share? Jim explained it's more of a board of directors. Phil thinks the municipality can have direct representation. Ron ran over a few scenarios and Jim/Phil explained more details on the eSFLs Board concerning shifting, cutting allowances, etc. New users/entrants into the market would need to present a new business plan and, if wood is available; they may be able to partake. There is a fee on the wood (above the stumpage) that is charged to operate the board of directors/corporation/eSFL. NEEDAC is a non-political group and they need to be represented in GANRAC, but nothing has been formalized yet. **Evan will keep us posted.**

- C. Ogoki Update – In Ben's absence, Evan provided us with the Ogoki Update (herein embedded). Scott and Steve said they are trying to get the wood out of the Painter/Axel blocks, but weather has closed some roads down. Hector asked about the other sawmills – and a business plan has been submitted.



Ogoki Update

- D. AV Terrace Bay – Scott said they are moving about 50 loads/day to Terrace Bay. Some roads are shut down for the haul due to weather – the roads need to freeze. Winter roads will be maintained – using the Roads Funding money. AVTB will be looking at keeping them open and Scott will advise the group of any closures/snow-ins, etc. There is 20 days' worth of wood in the yard and 3,000 tons of HOG fuel. They are trying to get more. The mill produced 900 tons per day with no issues. Total output capacity is around 1,100 tons but they are shooting for 1,000 tons a day. The eFRL has changed some things but AVTB is working with the MNR to balance things out. An annual work schedule should be finalized soon but there will be tweaks to it. Evan asked who is responsible for regeneration. NEEDAC would be as it's their responsibility. AV has also taken over all category 9 gravel pits. Pays Platt has bunchers working. Constance lake is doing cutting above Klotz Lake. Most of the first nations groups are hiring out the cutting/hauling.

- E. Minor Items

1). Lillian Amendment – Evan put up a slide showing the original area and caribou (using the wetlands for calving). They came up with a solution; he showed us an aerial map with the areas removed to protect the caribou and access to the corridors for them, with a minimum of 20 meters right-of-way. They would like to put this forth as an administrative amendment. The BMA holder, trappers and anyone else affected by this will be notified. Toni moved to make this an

administrative amendment, seconded by Louis Garon – approved as an administrative amendment.



Overview Map of Lilian



Lilian Cut

2). Auden Hair –The wolves study is tracking the source of food for them – beaver and moose mostly. Anyone shooting a moose in that block – Evan would like hair samples. Take about a dozen hairs and place them in an envelope, noting the identification & location (GPS waypoints would be best). They will be able to determine what the wolves are eating based on the wolf, beaver and moose hair chemical analysis. They will also be conducting scat analysis as well.



3). Deer & Moose Tentative Hunting Schedule 2013 & 2014 – Even though these are tentative dates, they are fairly confident this is good information. Please feel free to distribute to other outfitters or anyone who may be interested. Extra tags are still available. The MNR is trying to promote the harvest of deer in the area. It takes a couple of really good snow seasons to knock down the deer population. They carry brainworm and although may not be affected by it, pass it along to moose and caribou and it is terminal for them. Below are both schedules:



Moose Seasons



Deer Seasons

4). Portal – The Municipality sent a letter explaining that as of June 30, 2013 they will no longer be maintaining it as a portal, but more as a website for the municipality. We need to look at other options. **Donna from GCF is looking into it and will advise when some information is available.** The letter is embedded below.



Municipal Portal



Web Site Use

5). Caribou – one of the previously collared caribou has died – they just heard about it. The collar gives off a signal if the animal hasn't moved in a while. They collar hasn't been retrieved yet. Also, one of the Pagwa caribou that was collared has died too.



Caribou Mortality

F. Marshall Lake Commercial Fishing License Proposal – There currently is a commercial fishing operator on Ara and Meta Lakes (Evan showed us a map) and this same gentleman desires a license on Marshall Lake as well. The MNR wants LCC input on this matter as it is a resource allocation issue. Some things to consider:

- Clients of remote tourism lost due to dislike of commercial fishing license. Netting removes large trophy fish.
- Access – no motorized vehicles from May 1st to Oct. 31st. Why should a commercial fisherman have access?
- The License would be designed to specifically target whitefish.
- The license would be valid for open water ion the Fall only (whitefish spawn)

If allocated it would not be effective until next fall. Remi stated that all but one outfitter in the area is totally against the idea as it takes all the big fish in the lake and that's not good for client relations. They would like the commercial license removed from Ara and Meta Lakes as well. Evan explained that the licensee would use 5" nets and would have small incidental quotas set for walleye, perch and pike in addition to the majority of the catch being whitefish. Anytime a target would be reached, the license ends – regardless of the type of fish. Turn in your thoughts and ideas to Evan. The entire presentation is embedded below.



Marshall Lake LCC
presentation Nov 201

G. Ask a Conservation Officer – Although the meeting was running late, Tom made himself available for any questions. He was asked about the overall moose count this year. Tom indicated it definitely wasn't one of our better years for moose.

VIII. Next meeting will be most likely be in January on the 9th (unless there is a reason to have one in December – but it doesn't look that way) at the Fire Base. The date is yet to be finalized.

IX. Adjournment - Louis Garon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by George Horobec – meeting adjourned.