

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: September 12, 2012
 Location: The Woodlands Meeting Room
 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.	*	
 <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 – Evan called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. No introductions were necessary.

- II. Review of Agenda – No additions or deletions was made to the agenda.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– Ben requested we insert the word “recommendations for administrative amendments” under the Ogoki Update – everyone agreed. Bernard Baillargeon moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Louis Garon – minutes approved. Evan will make sure to embed Andy’s presentation in the final distribution.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – since the July meeting was mostly presentation, the action items from the May meeting were reviewed. In consideration of the special purposes account, some of the money is definitely used for Caribou. Evan also noted that Edgar will be making a presentation on the global warming effects type presentations available to our group later this evening. **Tom Gross did check in with Toni around opening day to see how things were going with the new licensing system, but he still needs to advise the group if he has been given any direction on how to handle situations with problem licensing.** Louis Garon did look into possible places for a BBQ in Longlac but because of many date changes, nothing was set in place. Toni made arrangements with The Woodlands for tonight’s meeting.
- V. Financial Report – Evan passed around the Financial Report – there were no questions or comments. Toni Moroz moved to approve the Financial Statement, seconded by Linda Beaulieu – Financial Statement approved.
- VI. Correspondence – Hector read the email we received from the GEDC declining their continuing membership in our group. Membership will be discussed later on this evening.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Forest Operations Update – Charlotte noted two forest resource licenses have been issued – one to AVTB and the other to Pays Platt. October 1 is the start up of the mill in Terrace Bay and there is lots of pressure to get moving wood continuously. They are moving the wood cut by Buchanan and are looking at older wood to see if it’s usable. Road maintenance is taking place in certain areas and is looking to start more operations later. In the Kenogami forest, the wood is dedicated to AVTB and they’re hauling over the Catlonite Rd. and the Goldfield. Louis asked who owns the wood – Charlotte stated the crown owns the timber, but legal reviews must be done on each “pile” of wood to determine legal ownership. No more wood is to be taken off the forest, all wood and fiber goes to Birla in Terrace Bay. The Ogoki has not been allocated but all other wood has.
 - B. Sawmill Update - There could be new names for sawmills in Longlac and Nakina but nothing concrete. As of today there are no buyers for the mills and there are two secured lenders (possibly one bought the other). We’ve heard there will be two separate entities – Nakina Lumber, Inc.

and Longlac Lumber, Inc. – are possibilities. They need to get a business plan together – a lot of the deals will be business to business relationships. It appears there is room to work. Nobody has approached the MNR for wood supply (yet). There is definite support but no requests – only rumors. The Kenogami is ESL, and the Ogoki could go into that or right now is a good potential for wood to go to ABTC. Phil Couture noted that they are trying to get people out there to cut wood and balance with the forest tenure requirements – it's a very stressful time for many involved. Bill Davidson asked how many more people are asking for licenses right now. Charlotte said none, right at this moment. Linda Beaulieu asked if the 2011-2016 Plan is still good. Charlotte said yes, there are no changes to the plan (other than timing). There will probably be some amendments going forward, but nothing has to be redone. Ben is still working on the Ogoki Plan.

- C. LLFP Bankruptcy Process/Ogoki Update – Ben said the forest is still separate and will probably be surrendered back to the MNR to become a crown unit (maybe around October). At that point they will have one more AWS and then Term 2 needs to be completed and do the FMP for the next 5 years (if it's still a separate unit). When asked who would be the industry participant, Ben said maybe Nakina Heritage and/or First Nations, but nothing is solidified. The plan can be done without an industry partner.

The 1800 hectare tending project was completed. Witchwood – all transfers and licenses are making it difficult but it could be possible to get it done this fall – there's a 50/50 chance. Submissions are difficult and complicated especially if the licenses go to the Crown. Hector asked about the Ontario Parks – Ben has had discussions with them and it's fine with them – it's the District Manager's decision for conservation reserve but the decision is at the district level. If roads and money run out, would this project still go? Maybe, Ben stated. The wood is on the other side of the bridge and is really getting old. It needs to be gathered/cut (it was cut in 2007) and might not be any good after this winter, but it's a winter haul so maybe in can get out of there.

Louis asked if Birla shows any interest in buying the other mills. Ben said no, not that he was aware. They're interesting in certifying wood. When you buy certified lumber it's stamped with regard to certain forests where all the wood handled in an environmentally friendly manner. It will be interested to see if they can get the wood certified in the Ogoki, so they are interested in the wood.

- D. AVTB (AV Terrace Bay) – Steve Crawford is a consultant for Birla and gave us an update. They have spent 16 million on the mill since Aug. 1st with lots of upgrades. All employees are being called back and it's going well. The company converted to mills to Rayon Pulp Mills from softwood pulp in New Brunswick and they've spent upwards of 3 million dollars

over three years. They are not using hardwood except for hog fuel right now – at least until the conversion is complete. Scott Koski is working for Birla as is Gary Emms so they have some experienced people on staff. They are unsure of the number of employees they will end up with and they are looking for office space. Wood cutting is starting this week or early next week. Hauling will start Monday. Buchanan is hauling too and Lecours is running one chip truck to Terrace Bay. The Blueberry Road is being graded – Buchanan is contracted to do it on certain road. Pierre Pelletier is doing road maintenance work; they're behind on deliveries, but want to start Oct. 1. Phil asked if the fatality at the mill affected the start-up. Steve said he thinks the damage was repaired but it was a welding-type accident.

- E. Membership and Terms of Reference – Evan had previously distributed the ToR requesting comments. Only three replies were received. After some discussion we agreed that **Ben would put together some language to cover the Administrative Amendment Process to be embedded within the ToR and will be reviewed and finalized at next month's meeting.**

Evan passed out the attendance record that must be completed every year – identifying those areas where representation was less than the required amount. Toni Moroz, Bernard Baillargeon and Deanna Hoffman had attended 6 out of 6 meetings and were given a small token of appreciation for that. Geraldton Community Forest, Forestry Operations and First Nations representation was less than the minimum. Ben explained that Andy Yesno (First Nations) agreed to join our group since he could attend the Forest Management Planning meetings on the same day. He lives in Fort Hope and would not make the long trip for a GANRAC only meeting and since the FMP isn't meeting, it doesn't make any sense for him to attend.

- G. Minor Items:
- 1). Wolf Hunting Firearms – John Espinola asked a good question – it seems it states in the Hunting Regulations that firearms with greater muzzle energy than 400 ft-pounds are allowed if a hunter possesses a valid license to hunt deer, moose, elk or black bear. However, it doesn't include wolves in that category. Smaller caliber bullets work fine for varmints, but are unethical for a wolf. He has gone to as many organizations as possible and all agree, but told him he should bring the matter to the attention of our group for a possible recommendation to change the hunting regulations. After some discussion, we agreed John should draft the letter for Ed's signature – Evan would forward to everyone for final review and/or comments before sending it.
 - 2). We have 4 retiring members – Deanna Hoffman, Scott Koski, Erin Symington-Armstrong and Jamie Armstrong. We agreed with the amounts for gift certificates based on years of service (Erin receives only

a letter of thanks). **Toni will put the letters together for Ed's signature. Evan will gather the gift certificates for Jamie and Deanna – Toni will get the one for Scott from Skinners.**

- G. Climate Change – Global Warming Presentations – Edgar provided us with a review of the summary of current and projected future climatic conditions for ecoregions and selected natural heritage areas in Ontario. It's best to plant tree seed in places with climatic conditions similar to those where the seed tree naturally originated because trees from that seed will be genetically suited to those conditions. However, if the climate continues to change as expected tree seed will become increasingly less suited to where it originated. The study looks at how the increasing temperatures affect tree growth, productivity and wood quality; which tree populations will be best adapted to expected future climate in a given region; and is planting southern tree populations further north the best approach to maximize tree survival and growth. The FMP calls for plans from appropriate seeds in seed zones. These zones have been broadened over the years to accommodate for climate change. There are many variations of genetics and seeds and we should probably stick with the same species we have currently. Edgar would like a presentation – possibly by the authors/researchers of this work. Evan noted the MNR does have a strategy for climate change (Jerry Racey?). Do we want to get silviculture specific or general population/wildlife issues regarding climate change? Edgar would like to see the silviculture aspect. **Evan will try to find the paper the researchers mention and will see who might address our group/concerns.**
- F. Bear Meat – Louis Garon asked if a bear is killed on a trap-line used for fur, does the meat have to be used? The general consensus seems to be yes – it cannot be wasted. **Tom Gross needs to answer this.**
- VIII. Next meeting will be October 3 at the Fire Base – BBQ steak for dinner so start time is 5:30pm.
- IX. Adjournment – Linda Beaulieu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bernard Baillargeon – meeting adjourned.