

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee  
 Date of Meeting: March 13, 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               |                | *              |
| Phil Couture, MNR Acting Geraldton Area Supv.     |                | *              |
| Jim Fry, MNR District Manager                     | *              |                |

**Guests:**

Steve Tureg (standing in for Scott Koski)  
 Sarah Armstrong, MNR (here concerning website)

**Members:**

|                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 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         |   | * |

**Alternates:**

|                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 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 – Evan called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. As there were some new faces, introductions were also made.
- II. Review of Agenda – nothing added to or changed on the agenda.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– There were no issues or comments regarding February’s minutes. Toni moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Perry Barkhouse – minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Toni was to report back concerning options for the website. This is on the agenda and Sarah Green is here with some more options. Ben did, in fact, report to Greenpeace that the SFL for the Ogoki had been surrendered. He answered a few basic questions and was done with that. Steve Tureg (standing in for Scott) reported that they are making signs and have given drivers explicit instructions about slowing down at the Cross-Country Ski Club crossing on the Crib Road. Evan asked about the pull-off areas around fishing lakes for parking – Steve said he’d make a note of it also. The last item was the fishing brochure, which is now on tonight’s agenda for discussion.
- V. Financial Report – There was no financial report given as it was covered last month.
- VI. Correspondence – The only correspondence we received was a letter from Greg Riou at Wildgoose Lake Resort thanking us for the time he spent on the committee, but felt it was necessary to step down. He will ask the Geraldton Chamber of Commerce to appoint another person to represent them on our committee. **Toni moved to make Martin Boucher the main member representing the Chamber of Commerce and that the new person they appoint be the alternate. Ed Hoffman seconded the motion, motion approved – Martin Boucher will be main member representing the Chambers of Commerce.**
- VII. New Business
  - A. Kenogami Update – AWS has been signed and is already available for viewing on the website: [www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans). The eFRL has been issued again for one year (Apr 1, 2013- Mar 31, 2014) subject to an SFL being issued. We have been looking at rolling over some licenses to complete harvest operations where it makes sense and issuing new ones where it makes sense.

AVTB is making efforts at negotiating next year's harvest allocations with the various current licensees. Once that is complete MNR will license. They are looking at shutting down the haul for some length of time during break up, but not the harvest.

Columbia has been purchasing poplar veneer from the Constance Lake licensee. It's going to Hearst. Hogging of the poplar previously harvested by LLFP in the Jackfish area is expected to occur starting late April - that's a good thing.
  - B. Ogoki FMP– The planning team is getting ready for May open houses – Geraldton is May 8<sup>th</sup>, Nakina is May 9<sup>th</sup> and Ft. Hope is May 14<sup>th</sup>. Newspaper ads will be posted 30 days prior to these dates. There is still some “tweaking” left to do and

there are some loose ends to clear up before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Perry asked about the times for the open houses. **Ben will send the times and dates/information to Sarah and Toni for the website and the Facebook page.**

- C. Ogoki Update – The forest license has been surrendered so the Annual Work Schedule has been submitted and should be signed and reviewed this week.

Harvest of 16,011 hectares  
12,395 he of Planned Harvest Area  
3,616 he of Salvage Harvest Area (not likely much harvest opportunity left)

Renewal/Site Preparation -430 hectares identified

Seedlings - Ordered 600,000 seedlings for planting in 2014

Roads Construction: 36 km primary road. This includes 3 km to realign the Witchwood River Bridge on the Ogoki Road.

Decommissioning: 4 water crossings. As explained below, these culverts/bridges are scheduled for removal; however no reduction in access is planned.

- OR 20 is the existing bridge over the Witchwood River. Access will be retained through the new alignment and water crossing location.
- OR 21 and 39566-22 are both small culverts that will be stranded when the Witchwood River Bridge is realigned, and will therefore be removed before completion of the realignment project. Access will be retained through the new alignment.
- Reckett #1. The operational road on the far side of the bridge was shelter seeded during the 2011-2012 operating period, and is therefore already considered to be decommissioned.

Jane asked if there was a way to get updates on forestry issues out to us ahead of time. Ben said he would try but so many things happen last minute it will be difficult.

- D. AV Terrace Bay –

AVTB Licenses – operating area: Parkinson, Catlonite km 65, km 22 Crib Rd. Four contractors – 9 buncher crews are working (roughly about 90 trucks running).

Other Licensees - operating areas: Chrous, Toad, Eldee, Croll.

AVTB is currently maintaining the following roads: Florrie, Catlonite, Crib, Greer, Mcloud, Pout, East Road and the Goldfield.

Haul – Hauling out of all active harvest blocks (Pout, Noel, Pollywog, Cat 65).

Bush should be clean going into breakup. Castlebar old wood is gone. They are looking for an increase in hog deliveries.

Mill Inventory – 200,000 m<sup>3</sup> of round wood/chips in the mill yard and still a shortage of hog fuel. They are looking at upcoming 2013/2014 blocks for spring and cutting should continue through the spring.

E. Minor Items

- 1). Evan showed us the snow graph – identifying the winters of 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 and the 10-year average. We are currently at 60cm (2 ft.) of snow. The late snowfall will definitely help the levels of the waters this spring.



Snow Station March  
11th

- 2). **Fishing Brochure – we have carried this forward for further review. 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). American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey – Evan noted there are openings for members in this area. You can pick your own route. No one in this area is doing it. Maybe Gary (who is currently conducting an owl survey) might be interested. It runs April 20<sup>th</sup> through May 20<sup>th</sup>. You would drive your route and listen for the woodcock – mostly of an evening. This is an all-volunteer program and there is no reimbursement for gas. There needs to be a certified number of stops to make it a sound survey. Please let Evan know if you're interested by the end of next week and he will get you in contact with the group directly.
- 4). Premier Presentation Overhead – Regulatory approvals to date and project milestones were listed. Target date for completion of the Preliminary Economic Assessment is June 13<sup>th</sup>. They will be evaluating the project and decide where they're going from there. They should be in production by 2017.



Premier Gold

- 5). Membership – As some of us may know, Ed Hoffman is now working for Columbia – which could represent the Forestry Industry on our committee – as an alternate to Scott. This would free up the alternate position under Cottaging as Steve and Ed are on the same lake it would make sense to effect this change. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the Alternate for Cottaging, please let Evan know. **This is an Action Item for follow up.**
- 6). Fish Eating Guides – Evan gave us a short presentation on the guide which deals with contaminant levels in fish. The larger the fish, the more contaminants it may contain (mercury). It starts with mercury in the environment transformed into methyl mercury which is eaten by the small baitfish, and then the mercury passes through it to the fish that eats that fish, and the next fish, and the human who ultimately consumes the fish. Evan showed us graphs in the book for Long and Kenogamisis lake and the contaminant levels of the fish based on size and the recommended number of meals of fish that can be safely consumed. Cooking the fish does not remove the Hg levels.



Fish Eating Guide

- F. Ask a Conservation Officer – Tom was not available this evening.
- G. Website options and Facebook – Toni presented the two proposals for our website. The first proposal was from Sencia in Thunder Bay and the second from Penny Jennings in Longlac. Both proposals were very much out of reach for our budget. Sarah Armstrong presented what she has done with some other websites in the area and gave us different options for domain names, servers, etc. **There was much discussion on the ins and outs of servers and prices, but we all agreed we would like to have Sarah present her suggestions and costs to us at our April meeting.** We all also agreed we should definitely purchase the domain name.
- VIII. Next meeting – Paul MacInnis & Peter Hinz can come in to do a presentation on the Ring of Fire, but he is only available on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Does that work for everyone? It appears, after some discussion, that April 17<sup>th</sup> will be the date. The Fire Centre is not available, so we will have it in Longlac again here at the Woodlands for dinner at 5:30pm.
- IX. Adjournment – Toni Moroz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Crawford – meeting adjourned.