

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: March 19, 2014

Location: Geraldton Fire Base

Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator		*
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester, Kenogami		*
Jim Fry, MNR District Manager		*
<u>Guests:</u>		
<u>Members:</u>		
Gerald Bolduc		*
Steve Crawford		*
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Edgar Lavoie	*	
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger	*	
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish		*
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moretton		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff	*	
Deana Hoffman	*	
Scott Koski		*
<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 –Ed, as acting facilitator, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm after our dinner. No introductions were necessary. Evan played Evelyn Hoffman's GreenstoneTrapper's Council video during supper.
- II. Review of Agenda – No changes or additions were made to the agenda. George wanted to ask the group if we might be interested in a presentation from the OPP to cover topics like boating and 4-wheeler safety and possibly road information. We agreed this would be an interesting presentation. **George will follow up with Carl Pettigrew and get a date scheduled for this year.**
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– Minutes from January were sent out only today which didn't give most people enough time to review them. Martin Boucher moved to approve the minutes pending any changes. All changes are to be submitted no later than Monday, March 24th. Louis Garon seconded the motion, all approved.

- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Deanna will provide us with a map identifying all road links (previously being provided to the group by Scott). The First Nation's letter is still on hold at least until September, but **Deanna will provide the contact information for Darcy and Calvin to Evan.** Evan did submit the budget and it was approved for the amount requested. A cheque has already been cut and deposited into the account from the MNR. The Adopt-An-Access Point is on the agenda for discussion this evening. Toni did contact Linda regarding her Adopt-An-Access Points and they definitely want to keep the ones they have, noting they have the Fernow Lake sign at their camp waiting to be hung up. Toni checked into the cost of providing business cards and, with Evan's approval, ordered 1,500 business cards for a cost of \$38.00. Also she provided the cost from Times Star about advertising our website (\$15.00/month). The group decided not to pursue this. George and Ken both received their pocket calendars.
- V. Financial Report – Evan showed us the Financial Report noting the newly deposited funds. He reminded everyone to please deposit their cheques as quickly as possible. Evan also showed us some stale-dated cheques and reminded us of the importance of cashing these so the accounting works. Toni Moroz moved to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Perry Barkhouse – Financial Report approved. Evan noted that we need to change the signing protocol at the Royal Bank for our account since he's retiring from the MNR in April and there are many names that need to be removed. This involves sending a letter to the bank outlining the signing protocol (two signatures must be on each cheques) at least one must be from MNR, a list of new signatories and a copy of the minutes stipulating the above direction. **Toni will prepare the letter for Ed's signature.** Future signatories will be: Dave Barker and Charlotte Bourdignon from the MNR, and Edgar Lavoie, Gary Selinger, Ed Hoffman and Evan Armstrong for GANRAC. Each person must visit the bank with 2 pieces of identification and sign the signatory card. An appointment is suggested to do this. All members agreed. Louis Garon moved to accept the new LCC Account structure as outlined above, seconded by Deanna Hoffman, approved by the group.
- VI. Correspondence - .We received a thank you note from Sarah Green after receiving her gift card for all the work she did on the GANRAC website.
- VII. New Business
- A. Kenogami Update – No update was available – Deanna noted the Annual Work Schedule has been approved and is ready for 2014-2015 start-up.
- B. Kenogami AWS Follow-Up – Everyone was issued the full AWS to review via email. Deanna asked for any questions, but no one had any questions.
- C. Ogoki FMP Update – There was a meeting on March 5th. They reviewed the previous meeting minutes and action items were addressed. There is a new Regional Planning Forester and Regional Planning Biologist for the Ogoki – Ben Bartlett has moved onto his new position and with the new MNR restructuring, now most planning is done out of the region, not the district. Charlotte will still be the local Forester for both units. The draft plan has been submitted to the MNR for review. Alterations are being addressed. Issues on the list of alterations:
- 1). Side sets – cutting the Right-of-Way of area beside the road to have someplace to put the wood is no longer being done and has been removed from the plan.
 - 2). The reserve on the Wabakimi Park – this is not being done given the Park already is an established reserve and there is no need to duplicate any efforts. There is no need to buffer a buffer.
 - 3). The biggest issue was the prescription for AOC when operators discover a bird's nest. Identifying what kind of a nest is very difficult. In the past there were two AOCs – one for large nests (more than 75cm in diameter) and one for smaller nests (less than 75cm in diameter). With the implementation of the new Stand and Site Guidelines the prescription for some nests changed quite a bit. The list needing prescriptions got longer. When you find a stick next, you MUST determine what kind of bird nest it is. The old prescription (large vs. small) has been removed and has been replaced by a flip chart/flow chart that was developed to help determine, based on certain criteria, what kind of bird nest it is. Then the appropriate AOC must be applied. The MNR is looking for consistency going forward and this new chart will help everyone determine what they're dealing with and apply the appropriate AOC based on the type of nest.
 - 4). Water Quality Reserve – WQ1 – The Ogoki Planning Team came up with a categorization of streams, keeping in mind the MNR has categorized them as High, Medium and Low sensitivity receiving 50-70 or 90 meter boundaries. The Ogoki will have the following:

0% to 15% slope = 30 meters

15% to 30% slope = 50 meters
30% to 45% slope = 70 meters
45% slope + = 90 meters

The draft plan is available for 30 days (public review) and the final plan implementation date is anticipated to be July 8th. There will be one more planning team meeting after the public review. The Plan will be presented to GANRAC at the May 7th meeting. Bernie asked what happens when an operator sees a wolverine while they're working. Wolverines are given the same protection in the plan as Caribou so if it was actually going into a den, an AOC would need to be developed for that den.

D. Needak Update – Deanna reports 9 summer staff have been hired. 3 tree plant contractors (Outland x2 and Haveman Bros.). Two site prep (Nor prep – Get it Done). 1 aerial tending (Expeditionhelicopter). Overlapping licenses being processed. AWS letters went out to stakeholders and they're responding to questions and comments on that. The AWS is approved and can be reviewed in the Needak office. Contracted to prepare Ogoki 2014/2015 AWS, 2011-2012 AR and 2012-2013 AR.

E. AVTB Update – Scott could not attend but provided the following update which was read aloud to the group.

Harvesting:

AVTB Licenses –

Operating area: Ogahalla, Calvert and Jemar

1 Contractor: 3 buncher crews harvesting at full capacity.

Roads:

- Continual maintenance to support the hauls.
- Full winter road maintenance program (sanders and graders)
- Contractors reminded of the increase in traffic with ice fishing season
- Harvesting will continue past April 1st in the swamps and gravel road
- Targeting swamps until the thaw (mid June, by the looks of the forecast)

Haul:

- Hauling the last of the frost access roads
- Building a good inventory of spring wood to gravel road on AVTB license areas
- Expected to have 55+ days in the mill yard by break up.

Mill Inventory:

- 280,000 m3 of round wood/Chips in the mill yard (55 days)
- Hog fuel inventory is maintained

Other:

- Plan is a seamless transition to 2014/2015 AWS and continue harvesting with no interruptions.
- Slash alignment started on AV license and continuing though the spring.

F. Adopt an Access – We reviewed the updated list of lakes and adopters. Signs cost \$45 each. After going through the entire list, **Toni will contact Bob Martin concerning Kassagamini Lake; Len said he will advise Evan what name to put at the Adopter on signs for Wintering Lake (Gamsby & Statesman), Rogers Lake and Wig Lake.** Martin Boucher said he'd be happy to have the Longlac ValuMart adopt McKay Lake (which was not on the list). **Evan is putting the order in for signs on Monday, March 24th, so anyone with information should get it to Evan prior to then.**

G. Minor Items -

1). Evan put up on the overhead both articles he sent out about Clear Cuts by Mac Squires, information about Premier Gold and Ontario's Fish Strategy that he had sent out to everyone via email.

2). Wolf Hunts – Evan wanted to make sure the group knew that anyone can run a wolf hunt in Ontario – no license is necessary and you need not be an outfitter. Each hunter must have their outdoors card, a small game license and wolf seal **before** hunting. This was a concern brought up by Bernie as there is someone locally doing this. Toni voiced her disapproval of this stating that they should have to stay with licensed outfitters. She feels all non-residents should have to stay with a licensed outfitter.

3). Bear Hunting – Residents can hunt anywhere on crown land – regardless of whether it's on someone else's BMA and can bring in clients to hunt there also. No forms 33s are not necessary for residents and

unless submitted, there is no way for the MNR to keep track of bears killed by BMA and the possibility of over-harvesting area BMA is a real possibility. Residents must submit a mandatory report to MNR but it is not BMA specific. Toni also voiced her disapproval of this also. Evan provided the group with black bear hunting and harvesting statistics from 1987 through 2012, showing graphs on black bear hunters overall, black bears harvested overall, black bear non-resident hunters, black bear non-resident harvests and resident hunters and harvests. He also provided this information broken down by WMU 19 and WMU 21A. It appears the numbers are increasing slowly as a result of increased resident hunters but took a definite drop in 1999 when the spring hunt was cancelled.

4). Snow Station Graph shows we are over 90cm of snow, which the norm for this time of year has been 60 to 65cm in the last 10 years. There is the potential for this deep snow to affect the moose depending how long it lasts and if a crust develops wolves will benefit.

- H. Spring Bear Hunt Mtg. With Council – John Espinola attended the Council meeting and made a deputation concerning the spring bear hunt. John did not want to go as an “outfitter”, but as a concerned citizen of our area. TBay News asked him for an interview, but it seemed to John he was after more of the “outfitter” side of things than some of the other points John wanted to get across. The interview aired on Saturday, March 15th. John commented that he was very grateful for Ron Melhuish for being there and really standing up to support outfitters and tourism as a whole and how the cancellation of the hunt has affected so many people in this area – especially financially. We read aloud the follow up letter from the Municipality and the Motion they prepared requesting to be included in the Pilot program that was rolled out earlier this year. It was a unanimous vote. Evan asked if anyone posted comments about the spring hunt on the EBR. Many of us raised our hands. Nothing else to do here but wait to hear what happens next. Thanks to John for representing GANRAC and citizens of Greenstone concerning the spring hunt.
- I. Wintering Lake Access Bridge – Evan put up pictures of the original bridge in a state of total disrepair and then pictures of the new, improved bridge. The problem is that the new bridge has effectively cut off the existing boat launch. The slopes are way too great to launch a boat where they had been previously and there is a safety hazard from truck traffic. AVTB is working with the MNR to determine how best to correct it. They are looking at potential sites. There may have to be some clearing, etc. Of course, it will need an Environmental Review and First Nation review before anything is done.
- J. Nakina Moraine Provincial Park – Evan is helping to develop the Terms of Reference for this park and volunteered to seek input from our group. The park is protecting an outwash fan, drainage channels, eskers, kettles/holes, mari\ deposits, patterned fen community and potential woodland Caribou habitat. The planning stages will be: pre-planning, scoping, information analysis, development of preferred management direction and finalization of the management direction. They are looking for input on any hunting in the park, any known camping areas/shore lunches, fishing spots, recreational activity (some trapping), old forest roads – perimeter accessing the park and method of access (quad, boat, rail line, etc.). Members gave Evan a lot of information which he noted. Evan will send out a map of the park for everyone to review and let him know of any other activities known to them in the park. The following GANRAC members have requested to be on the project mailing list: George, Ken, John, Ed, Bill and Edgar

VIII. Next meeting – Our next meeting will be May 7th (Ogoki Plan review).

X. Adjournment – Bernie Baillargeon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Davidson –meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

ACTION ITEMS/CARRIED FORWARD:

- **George will follow up with Carl Pettigrew and get a date scheduled for this year.**
- **Deanna will provide the contact information for Darcy and Calvin to Evan.**
- **Toni will prepare the letter for Ed’s signature.**
- **Toni will contact Bob Martin concerning Kassagamini Lake.**
- **Len said he will advise Evan what name to put at the Adopter on signs for Wintering Lake (Gamsby & Statesman), Rogers Lake and Wig Lake.**
- **Evan is putting the order in for signs on Monday, March 24th, so anyone with information should get it to Evan prior to then.**