

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: January 15, 2014

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	*	
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester, Kenogami		*
Jim Fry, MNR District Manager		*
<b><u>Guests:</u></b>		
Darcy Waboose		
<b><u>Members:</u></b>		
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		*
<b><u>Alternates:</u></b>		
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 –Hector called the meeting to order at 6:15pm after our dinner. As there some new faces, introductions were made especially welcoming Darcy to the group.
- II. Review of Agenda – No changes or additions were made to the agenda.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– Minutes from December were reviewed. Remi Moretton moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ed Hoffman – minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Scott providing road links has been carried forward to next meeting. Evan’s budget submission is on the agenda for this evening.

- V. Financial Report – Evan showed us the budget submission he is suggesting be submitted. The total budget was for about \$11,000 including travel (at \$.41/km), meals with tip, facilitator, secretary, fishing brochures, adopt an access program, conferences and field trips. **Evan to submit this budget for 2014.**

The topic of business cards came up again as well as possibly advertising our website in the Times Star or other areas. **Toni will check into some prices and will get back with the group at our next meeting.** Toni moved to have prices and options brought back to the group to discuss, motion seconded by Bernie Baillargeon, motion approved.

- VI. Correspondence – None received.

- VII. New Business

- A. Kenogami Update –

Evan provided the update Charlotte had forwarded – now real change from last month.

- The Kenogami eSFL (tenure reform) committee has started reviewing a draft membership agreement.
- To date, the decision has been to create a not-for-profit company that would hold the SFL - thus a membership agreement. If it was a "for profit" company, it would be a shareholders agreement.
- looking at a few different committees dealing with the forest:
  - eSFL tenure reform committee
  - operations committee
  - opportunities committee
- LUP for many (not all) roads on Kenogami has been issued to AVTB.
  - AV is hoping the eSFL company will hold the LUP in the long term
  - AV has purchased signage to erect at main intersections to help inform the public of the risks involved in traveling the roads now. – **Sign has been erected and pictures were shown. It says "Private Forest Road". Access is not restricted but the public is warned to travel at their own risk. All public must be in compliance with all Highway & Safety Act regulations while traveling on these roads.**
    - Company trucks not subject to Hwy traffic act as it pertains to coloured fuel and load size.
- AV will have limited road maintenance going on over the two weeks of Christmas (Dec 2 Jan 5) subject to a large dump of snow that will need to get cleared to be able to stay on top of everything
- District is sorting out assets and liabilities/obligations that will be transferred to the new eSFL company:
  - what silviculture is still outstanding and will be done by new company
  - what bridges are on the unit
  - what LUPs need to go to the new company (load aligners)
  - what aggregate permits and who should hold them
    - all TBPI/LLFP permits were transferred to AVTB as a holding place
- MNR is processing a roads funding agreement with AVTB to disperse \$1.8 million in provincial roads funding

**Charlotte is working on the Annual Work Schedule. Letters to trapline holders are being prepared advising the trapper of activities, enclosing a map describing the area, identifying area for spraying/chemicals, etc. The legend will be changing to be clearer. This should be a signal to trapper to begin discussions with the MNR forester – it should be a trigger to make contact with the MNR. This will also apply to all Bear Management Areas as well. The group agreed this is the best way to trigger discussions between all parties involved. We were also shown what a typical ad in the paper looks like and also what is sent to the BMA operators, plus a map of their individual BMA. These letters will be going out mid March and will be done only once per year.**

B. Ogoki FMP Update – Bill gave us our outline of the planning team minutes. They reviewed the minutes and action items from the previous (Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>) meeting. They reviewed public, aboriginal consultation and correspondence – Artic Water Shed and canoeist Phil Cotton (Wabakimi Project). Marcel Gagnon (from Aroland) is the new member of the planning team. The draft plan for 2014 to-2018 will be done the end of January. Regional review by the end of February. ER posting should be done by the end of March. March 10 is the start of the review period, which ends April 9<sup>th</sup>. Final plan to be submitted by May 13. The 30-day inspection will take till the end of May with implementation planned in July. Neil Peterson is taking over the Draft Plan submission. The MNR is committing to final review of AWS if committee requests. Lots of discussion around prescriptions for unidentified nests. Ben will submit a large nest, small nest approach, but expressed reservations. Evan noted they came to an agreement based on the size of the next to make it easy for operators to decide what to do. They are doing fly-overs for AWS looking for stick nests so it should all be laid out and identified for bush operators.

C. Update - NEEDAK –

- Annual work schedule submitted Dec. 20; MNR to review and provide comments by Jan. 31. with public approval expected.
- Annual report has been published to the eFMP website
- Bid packages have been sent out – 3 seedling packages, 3 treeplant packages, 1 site prep package, 1 tending package, surveys will be done in-house this year.
- Working on FFT application to be ready for next round – manual tending of the jackpine area within the 1995 burn area east of Longlac. No guarantees, but will have application ready to submit.
- Summer staff position descriptions being developed – hired staff to do surveys
- Compliance report done on bridge installation
- Silviculture budget being developed.

Perry commented that Hwy. 584/south of Aroland turn off has lots of dead wood that needs to be cut. This is an MTO-issue because of the proximity to the highway – Not the MNR.

D. AVTB Update –

Harvesting:

AVTB Licenses –

Operating area: Lillian, Mabel Truax, Grehan, Twomey, Highway 643, Dome, Ogahalla

2 Contractors: 5 buncher crews harvesting at full capacity.

Roads:

- Continual maintenance to support the hauls.
- Full winter road maintenance program ( sanders and graders)
- Full winter haul in progress – lots of trucks on the road – be careful – lots of traffic.

Haul:

- Growing bush inventory on multiple licenses.
- Currently hauling: Lillian, Mabel, Calvert, Toad, Goldfield, Kass, Seagram
- Hog moving from Grehan/Twomey.
- Expected to have 40+ days in the mill yard by break up.

Mill Inventory:

- 156,000 m3 of round wood/Chips in the mill yard (31 days)
- Hog fuel inventory is building before winter months.

Other:

- Negotiating with several contractors to start in the coming weeks a slash alignment program as per license conditions for AVTB, Amik and GDC license areas.
- Liability (LUP) signs posting is ongoing – close to completion (Evan showed us a picture)

E. Adopt an Access – 15 years ago we got groups to agree to take care of the launch areas and access areas and advertise GANRAC. Some signs need repair removal, new signs and new adoptees are needed. (especially where Wintering Lake used care for the areas). **Toni will contact Linda Beaulieu to see if her signs on all good and that they want to continue to take care of the area.** John Espinola commented that he'd like to have the Twin Lakes Access sign. **Evan will send out a cleaned up version of this list and current status of each location.** John Espinola moved to continue to

support the Adopt-an-Access Point through GANRAC. This was seconded by Deanna Hoffman – motion approved – GANRAC will continue to support this program going forward.

F. Minor Items -

1). We reviewed John's letter to OFAH, Ontario Out-of-Doors and the MNR concerning the spring bear hunt. John is losing a lot of his fall resident hunters to a spring hunt in other areas. Most of his hunters are from Ontario. Bill Mauro is trying to pass a more comprehensive bill and it's up for a second reading soon. Jane received a call from some "environmental" group who said the MNR told them there's no more bears now than there used to be. The overall kill ratio is the same as it's been, but now there are no more funds for studies. There's not a lot we can do. Louis Garon moved to have GANRAC support John's endeavor to have the spring hunt reinstated province wide. Motion seconded by Gerald Bolduc – all agreed. Toni will work with John to see what we can do. We're asking everyone to email any ideas or opinions for next meeting.

2). Marten Falls First Nation – is having their first open house on Terms of Reference and Background Information on February 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-7pm at the Legion in Geraldton. The EBR posting on the registry is #012-0783.

3). Snow stations- below average based on a 10 year average. We currently have 56 cms, avg. is 60.

4). Clear cutting article – Evan told us about this unbiased perspective about clear cutting in northern Ontario. – FYI article.

5). Evan passed out some extra pocket calendars. **NOTE: George & Ken would like one...**

6). Moose Survey being done in 17 and 18B after the first of the year. Hopefully they will start on 19 next week and a few other areas are being done also. Evan will bring all information gathered back to the group for discussion.

VIII. Next meeting – Our next meeting will be February 12th at the Woodlands in Longlac. Toni will arrange for supper. Hector will be absent for a couple of months – **so a facilitator will need to be arranged.**

X. Adjournment – George Horobec moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Remi Moretton –meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

**ACTION ITEMS/CARRIED FORWARD:**

- 1). **Scott will provide us with provide us with a map identifying all road links.**
- 2). **We agreed to put the First Nation's letter on hold until our September, 2014 meeting as Deanna reports Joe Gagnon or a representative is willing to sit on our committee – they were just not able to attend tonight's meeting. This might negate the need for a letter to go to First Nations/Matawa.**
- 3). **Evan to submit this budget for 2014 to Ed Hoffman for signature and submission.**
- 4). **Evan will send out a cleaned up version of the Adopt an Access list and current status of each location.**
- 5). **Toni will contact Linda Beaulieu to see if her signs on all good and that they want to continue to take care of the area.**
- 6). **Toni will check into some prices for card and website advertising and will get back with the group at our next meeting.**
- 7). **George and Ken would like a pocket calendar if available.**