

Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: January 5, 2011
 Location: Longlac Sportsplex
 Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>In Attendance:</u>	<u>Present:</u>	<u>Regrets:</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator	*	
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Doug Haldane, MNR Area Supervisor		*
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester (Kenogami)	*	
Tom Gross, MNR Conservation Officer	*	
Kim Groenendyk, MNR District Manager (Nipigon)		*
Ken Stevens (Guest)	*	
Perry Barkhouse (Guest)	*	
Morgan Anderson/Scott Moffatt (Guest Speakers)	*	
 <u>Members:</u>		
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Deanna Hoffman	*	
Edgar Lavoie		*
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger		*
George Horobec		*
Mary Moylan	*	
Jamie Armstrong	*	
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moretton		*
Steve Crawford	*	
Toni Moroz	*	
Yvette Metansinine		*
 <u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Arnott		*
Bill Davidson		*
Ron Melhuish	*	
Cory Nephin		*
Greg Riou		*
John Espinola		*
Linda Beaulieu		*
Kyle Polesky		*
Scott Koski		*
Tom Hunt		*
Erin Symington-Armstrong	*	

- I. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 6:05pm after dinner. Introductions were made. Ken Stevens is a guest sitting in as a possible alternate for Edgar Lavoie. Perry Barkhouse was also in attendance as a guest and possible addition to our group representing remote tourism. OF NOTE: A number of people responded positively for being in attendance at our meeting (with food being ordered for them), and did not show up, nor did they make any phone calls or emails to notify us they wouldn't be there. We made quorum by only one member. Please, for future meetings, if you can't make the meeting, make a phone call or send an email, especially if you've acknowledged previously that you would be there.

- II. Review of Agenda – no additions or changes were made.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes – no changes were made or noted. Toni Moroz moved to approve the minutes of November 24th, motion seconded by Ed Hoffman, minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – no business from previous meeting.
- V. Financial Report – no report was made this month.
- VI. Correspondence – Hector read aloud the letter received from the Municipality of Greenstone, noting the appointment of Mary Moylan as their representative on GANRAC with Ron Melhuish being the alternate. We all welcomed Mary and Ron to the group.
- VII. New Business:

- A. Wolf Project – Morgan and Scott gave us a very interesting presentation on their studies of the Auden Wolves just north – around Geraldton and areas north and west. They explained their research and how it relates to the caribou in this area and the affect wolves will have on predation of caribou. It appears from their studies that there has been a bit of “cross generations” between the Red Algonquin Wolf and the Gray/Timber wolves we have here as they are seeing more “red” colours mixed in with the gray/black wolves as well as smaller than expected summer weights.

They also reviewed with us how they tagged and collared each animal with satellite transmitters, as well as VHS collars. They are tracking individual wolves, packs, the size and location of packs as well as what they eat, where they sleep, etc. It was very interesting and we all would like to see how the wolves’ status changes through time. The entire presentation is very large and cannot be embedded. It will be available electronically or in print for anyone requesting it. It can also be viewed at our website: www.ganrac.greenstone.ca.

- B. Contingency Plan – Deanna gave everyone an update on the Contingency Plan. One year allocations are set up, tables are done, and compliance/fire plans are done. The plan will be submitted for approval on Friday of this week. Open houses will be held next week (Monday the 10th in Geraldton at the French Club, Tuesday the 11th in Terrace Bay and Weds, January 12th in Nakina). All open houses are scheduled from 4pm to 7:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend and is encouraged to encourage others to attend as well.
- C. FMP Open Houses – the aftermath – it was noted that the last open houses were the highest attended open houses in many, many years. A lot of that has to do with the flyer distributed by Louis and the announcements in the papers as well as on the radio. There seemed to be the most concern around the caribou conservation and road decommissioning. Ron M. asked whether or not any comments received by citizens at the open houses were even taken into consideration with regard to the plan. The response is yes, if the comment merits further investigation and/or attention. Obviously comments such as “I don’t want any more roads” or “I don’t want the forest cut”, cannot be acted upon, however many good ideas and suggestions come up as well, i.e., an outfitter explained to Steve Crawford about a reduction in a reserve width that Steve wasn’t aware of and changes were made because of the outfitter’s involvement. Many comments are received verbally and even those are submitted and reviewed by the Planning Team for consideration and response (if necessary). Toni explained they did just that today in the FMP planning team meeting – 3 pages of verbal and written comments were reviewed. Louis noted he still felt that the numbers were very low considering how many people

actually use the forest and resources. He feels it may still be the fact that Longlac people do not like to go to "Geraldton" meetings, and Geraldton people don't like to attend "Longlac" meetings. Maybe an open house in each town might be considered for the next rounds of open houses.

- D. Contingency Plan Open Houses – the FMP team identified the dates for the open houses (as stated above) and noted the same outline and maps will be available as were available at the previous open houses, with the exception of the fact that they are maps highlighting just one year of operation. Maps of the later years operations and proposed roads will be available for discussion as well. The general feeling is that the number of attendees will likely be lower than at the FMP open houses, but then again, we could be surprised and have a lot of people in attendance given the recent "talk" about the plan and the roads. A full report will be made at the February meeting.
- E. Ogoki Update – no activity on the Ogoki. The Anaconda Road is open to the Ogoki corner but Steve is not sure how far it is open beyond that. The Ogoki Road is not open.
- F. Kenogami Update - Harvesting is ongoing at Cable, Drowning, Lower Twin, Sexsmith, Carol South, Cyril North (Robertson Rd), Kawakanika and Icicle. Processing and/or hauling pulp from Eaton (Bankfield), Dumbell (Fleming Rd), LWI Scalpel (Greta Rd). Grinding/hauling hardwood for biofibre is going on at Cable and Eaton, grinding/hauling slash at Flail. The conifer on Summer Road at Jemar (cut in 2008) has been hauled, we will be going back to finish the winter haul able wood shortly.

The pulp mill had been shut down for Christmas day, both the mill and co-gen plant has some maintenance issues late December, though are now up to full production and quality, sine the New Year.

Over one hundred thousand cubic meters of wood (Neenah's and LLFP's), is still under lean and cannot legally be hauled at this time. If the lean situation does not get sorted out through the courts shortly, much of this wood will not be able to be hauled until next winter.

- G. Minor Items:
 - 1). Parks Policy Email – Evan explained the email he sent out to everyone concerning the new Parks Policy email and phase-out and linked us to the EBR for more information.
 - 2). Capacity Calculations – several people have asked Evan about how they calculate the number of people/beds, etc. for outfitters and cottagers on lakes in this area and was wondering if this was something we would like a presentation or discussion on in the future. Everyone agreed it was something to put on the agenda for a future topic.
 - 3). Times Star Ad – Evan explained that in talking with people it has become clear that very few people know we (GANRAC) even exist, much less what we do. He asked Toni to put together a draft of an article that could be submitted to the Times Star about us and what we do – highlighting our new website. Toni sent her first draft to Evan and everyone agreed to take a look (Evan will forward a draft to everyone via email) and make comments. Hopefully we can get an article in the paper as soon as possible.
 - 4). Moose Tag Transfer Policy Change – as a result of the meetings held last year all over the province about the moose tag allocation program, it was determined many hunters were upset about the fact that people were transferring tags to other people in their group and felt that was unfair to the guys that actually do hunt for the tags they apply for. Therefore, the MNR will

no longer permit a second tag transfers by any hunter who has previously transferred a tag. The criteria for being able to transfer a tag are:

- You must be a member of a group
- You did not transfer the tag the last time you got one; and
- Nothing prior to 2011 counts – everyone starts with a clean slate

5). Retirement Gifts – the following people have retired from GANRAC with the respective years of service:

- Paul Maclinnis – 7.75 years (\$75)
- Harry Kelly 5 years (\$50)
- Bill Hoff – 11 years (\$75 and plaque)

Ron Melhuish will find out from a friend of Harry's what would be an acceptable gift certificate for him and suggestions for gift certificates for Paul and Bill would also be appreciated. Please forward ideas/suggestions to Evan.

6). Starting Times – Evan mentioned that several of our group cannot get to the meeting when we start at 5:30pm. There was some discussion and then a vote was taken. Overwhelmingly the group decided 5:30 was still a good time to start our meetings. Also, the meeting room tonight over the hockey rink was a little “loud” and the table set-up wasn't great. We discussed it and Mary Moylan will check with the elementary schools as another location possibility and will report at our next meeting. We are willing to try this location again, but we'll get a better set-up for the tables.

7). New members - Evan noted that Perry was here representing Remote Tourism, a category that can't always make our meetings due to the fact that the folks representing remote tourism have a hard time getting to meetings, so he asked the group about their thoughts on having 3 people representing remote tourism (Perry being the 3rd). The group was in agreement, however Evan will contact Kyle Polesky to make sure he doesn't have any issues with it. Ken Stevens agreed at the end of the evening to join our group as Edgar's alternate in the Environmental/General Public sector.

VIII. Next Meeting – our next meeting will be on February 2nd at the Fire Base in Geraldton – start time - 5:30pm.

IX. Ed Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Crawford. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.