

Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: October 6, 2010
 Location: Longlac Sports Complex
 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)		*
Paul Charrette, Tree Improvement Specialist, SWTIA	*	
 <u>Members:</u>		
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Bill Hoff		*
Deanna Hoffman	*	
Edgar Lavoie	*	
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger	*	
George Horobec	*	
Harold Donohue		*
Jamie Armstrong	*	
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moretton	*	
Steve Crawford	*	
Toni Moroz	*	
Yvette Metansinine		*
 <u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Arnott		*
Bill Davidson		*
Cory Nephin	*	
Greg Riou	*	
Jeffrey Cameron		*
John Espinola		*
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Kyle Polesky		*
Scott Koski		*
Tom Hunt	*	

- I. Call to order – Evan called the meeting to order at 6:27pm. Introductions were made.
- II. Review of Agenda – Edgar added Nuisance Bears to the agenda. No other changes were made.
- III. Approval of Previous minutes – one spelling mistake was noted – no other changes. Toni Moroz moved to have the minutes approved; the motion was seconded by Ed Hoffman – minutes approved.

- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Roads Maintenance discussion was moved forward to tonight’s meeting and is on the agenda. No other business arising.
- V. Financial Report – none only every other month a report is made. Evan did post the update on the budget funding showing the monies we have received.
- VI. Correspondence - none.
- VII. New Business –
 - a. Tree Improvement – Paul Charrette gave us a very interesting presentation on SWTIA (Superior Woods Tree Improvement Association), seed zones, seed transfers and tree improvements. Paul explained that species-specific seeds zones have been developed based on climate similarities. Local seeds are always best for planting. Seed sources are wild seeds and first generation seed orchards. The more information you know about where the seeds come from, the better were quite a few questions – one specifically from Charlotte about how long you can keep seed. Paul said they can be kept for a long time – up to a year or more, but not as many will germinate – and it really depends on the environment where they are stored. A relatively new program for tree improvement for black spruce is in the blow-down area around Nakina and we also saw photos of the old KC nursery. Paul’s full presentation is embedded herein:



Presentation to
Kenogami LCC Oct 20

- b. Road Maintenance – Toni explained to the group that during the August FMP meeting the subject of roads and decommissioning of roads came up. It was then suggested we have a Roads Committee to look at the roads and advise the FMP on suggestions, comments, etc. The Roads Committee consists of Toni, Deanna, Steve, Linda Beaulieu and Louis Garon. During our first review of the map, set the following criteria was developed:

- 1). Important Road – maintain/monitor/fix
 - 2). Important Road – maintain/monitor/stabilize or fjord
 - 3). OK Road – maintain/monitor/leave after stabilizing
 - 4). Not Important Road – not much being done, this includes all winter roads

Four different colored highlighters to mark each categorized road. However, today at the FMP meeting, it was announced that all roads, once determined no longer usable by SFL, will be decommissioned in the caribou conservation area. This means the road will be replanted with trees and brought back to sustainable habitat for caribou. Roads allow wolves access, no matter what condition they are in, so in order to prevent these predators access, each road must be replanted. Toni is asking for more input from GANRAC members as this will definitely be a subject of much debate and discussion. We tossed around a few ideas on how to handle this, including running ads in the paper announcing the plans, but after much discussion it was agreed we would ask **Deanna and Steve to provide a map, highlighting all roads that will still be utilized after the next 10 years.** Any roads not highlighted will be decommissioned in one way or another. Then, each member of GANRAC will review the map, make comments, etc. This process will work in parallel with the LTMD and information centers.

- c. Ogoki Update – The pulp mill started production at the end of September.

No activity on the Ogoki last month.

- d. Kenogami Update – Harvesting on the Kenogami has started in the following blocks: Howard Creek, Sexsmith, Eaton Lake, Lower Twin and Kawakanika. We are chipping previously felled poplar and birch at Cable for biofibre as well as hauling slash piles from Rockshore, Cat 78, and McLeod South also for biofibre.

Stockpile of sixteen foot logs have been slashed for pulp at the Long Lake sawmill and the pulp haul has started from the sawmill.

The Bankfield bridge has been re-installed. Louis asked how it was going getting the mill up and running. Steve said it's been rough – replacing equipment from winter damage, etc., but they are working diligently to get it done. When asked about whether harvesting has been running smoothly, Steve commented it has been slow; they're having trouble getting people/operators. Training is ongoing. **Steve will report on the mill progress at our next meeting.**

- e. Minor Items – Evan presented the final list of Adopt An Access list and noted signs are being made and will be delivered soon. Each person receiving a sign must place the sign at the landing and is expected to maintain the grounds and clean up a minimum of twice a year. Evan also asked that since we are eating at our meetings now, if we wanted to start our meetings earlier. The group agreed and by show of hands it was determined we would start our meetings now at 5:30pm with supper being provided.
- f. Business Cards – Edgar passed around a page with several different photographs on them, and told the group he could have our business cards printed like this for \$1.00 per eight cards. He had very good luck passing these out at a function he attended and thought it would be an excellent way of promoting our website on the portal. Each member could provide an image for their card. There should be different image for each sector in GANRAC (i.e., forest industry, trappers, etc.) and then the website address. Evan thought it may be best to just print the sector name rather than the individual, that way they can be passed along when/if someone leaves the group. By a show of hands, it was determined the group did want to go ahead with the cards. Members should forward images to Edgar in JPEG format and should in a “landscape” layout so it will fit nicely on the card.

Through the new website we are establishing within the portal, we will be able to see a report on whether the cards are directing anyone to the site. Evan will also have a full demonstration of our website/portal at our next meeting at the Fire Center. We can go over the site in detail and make some suggestions/changes for improvement.

- g. Nuisance Bears – Edgar also passed around a photograph of what a bear had done to his shed containing his garbage, despite his best efforts at bolting it shut. He was wondering if anyone else had been experiencing like bear problems or escalated bear encounters. What is the MNR doing to manage bear? Doug and Evan both commented the spring bear hunt was off the table and that there is a new Bear Management Framework that will be offered up to the public (on the EBR) soon for public input. This could change the number of bear tags available, etc.

Edgar was also advised to contact the Bear Wise program. He said he had done that in years past and nothing ever happened. Several members of the group assured Edgar they had better luck with Bear Wise since Gary Selinger had taken over the program in our area and encouraged Edgar to give it another try.

- VIII. Next meeting – will be held at the Fire Base November 10, 2010 at 5:30 pm. **Evan will make arrangements for supper.**
- IX. Adjournment – Linda Beaulieu made a motion to adjourn the meeting – motion seconded by Greg Riou. Meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.