

Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee  
 Date of Meeting: September 15, 2010  
 Location: Fire Center - Airbase  
 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)	*	
Heather Farrer, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)	*	
Tom Gross, MNR Conservation Officer		*
Kim Groenendyk, MNR District Manager (Nipigon)		*
Al Stewart – Auditors/Ogoki & Kenogami		
Bill Morrison – Sustainability Assurance Coordinator (Audits)		

<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 – Hector called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. Introductions were made.
- II. Review of Agenda – Bernie Baillargeon added a camping question and the Road Maintenance discussion will be forwarded to our next meeting.
- III. Approval of Previous minutes – Steve Crawford forwarded some additions to Toni; however they were not included in the most recent copy. They will be included and aside

from that, no other changes were made. Ed Hoffman moved to approve the minutes (with noted changes), Scott Koski seconded the motion – minutes approved.

IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – no business to discuss.

V. Financial Report – Evan passed out the budget for everyone to review.

- a. There were two large incoming cheques – one from GEDC and the other from OPG to cover the costs associated with the construction of the Kenogami Dam By-Pass Road.
- b. There were two large expenditures – one to Buchanan for work done on the Dam Road and one to Ron's Signs for signage for the Dam road.
- c. Evan proposed that the July 15<sup>th</sup> closing bank balance be put on the balance sheet instead of the current balance. This has been the wrong balance since before Evan took over the books. Bernie Baillargeon moved to approve this, the motion was seconded by Edgar Lavoie – motion carried.
- d. Edgar asked a question about the \$2500 on hand – Evan said the \$565.00 in question was coming from the OPG money and we do, indeed, have \$2500 on hand.
- e. Budget Proposal – Evan presented a funding proposal to keep the LCC in operation for the next year. Money will not be coming through like in the past – there is not enough money in the district and the priority is with the FMPs. If acceptable by the committee, Evan will submit the proposed budget to the District. Hector asked for a motion to accept the proposed budget. Bill Davidson so moved and Bill Arnott seconded the motion. Motion to submit the proposed budget carried.

VI. Correspondence

- a. Hector read a letter, provided by George, concerning a silviculture reunion being held in Hearst/Hornepayne. It's from 1957 to present. Evan has a copy for those who want more information.
- b. Hector circulated a newsletter, also from George, from Forest History Society of Ontario – most members already received this by email from Evan.

VII. New Business –

- a. Kenogami & Ogoki Audit Team – Al Stewart thanked us for the meal. He then proceeded to explain the audit process and the fact that it is directed by the MNR IFAPP (Independent Forest Audit Process & Protocol). The protocol requires them to sample 10% of all different activities – they look at different companies and different seasons. Sites are randomly selected by the auditor and once picked the company must produce maps, compliance records, etc. From this, a binder is comprised of information and company data related to the random spots. They are guided by the information provided these binders. Annual Work schedules will also be looked at. They don't just look at the companies. They also look at the MNR and the LCC. As for our LCC, they looked at five years of meeting minutes. They are excellent and they have recorded that what we're doing is what we're supposed to be doing. The input is validated and we run what looks like a very good committee.

Summary of Kenogami and Ogoki Forests: Papers received, 9 hours of helicopter for field audits, trends analysis (lots to do) at first quite nervous as previous audits had a lot of recommendations. They found that most recommendations have been done from past audits. Nothing major was found in this audit. There has been a huge effort to clean up by all parties involved and it looks pretty good. There are a few items, like the tree planters need better supervision as trees were planted in some areas in the bottom of furrows, not the sides. In both forests, slash remains an issue.

The easy solutions to these do not always work the best. For example, with a prescribed burn only parts of the slash piles actually get burned and for the most part, people don't want it because of blueberry picking, fishing, etc. An alternate solution could be smaller piles. Long Lake Forest Products did well – the company is trying hard to fix these problems. One other problem is wood left in the bush due to economic times – the strike and mill closures.

The recommendation from the auditors will be to look at alternatives because the wood cannot be hauled out anymore. One last issue was approximately 60,000 hectares that need to be assessed to see if it is now Free to Grow in order to be put back in the "pie" (inventory). Then it was explained that once a company logs a patch of bush this percentage is taken out of the "pie". Once it is cleaned up and silviculture applied and ten years have gone by, it may be reassessed as Free to Grow and that portion of the pie goes back in. As a quick note – no major items were found in the audit, only minor ones. The MNR has made a concentrated effort on filing and sorting things out. The improvement is good for the audit. In two months from the date of the final report being published, we will see an action plan and how to deal with the action plan. From there within two years we will need a progress report that states how that party reacted to the action plan.

As an underlying issue in this audit was the LCC members' original intent – people knowing about local issues and reporting it to the LCC for discussion. It seems there is a movement to understand and make us into foresters and planners, etc. Too much in the technical nature of what we are being asked to endorse. The audit team feels this is causing some unease for some members. Therefore, talking to us about a recommendation targeting our ideas on it is necessary. Bill Davidson feels the problem is with the Forest Management Planning manual not the members. Edgar Lavoie suggested re-writing the manual. In our November meeting we will see what recommendations are made as Bruce will be at our meeting to present them. Steve Crawford said sometimes he is directed to provide technical detail. It's too technical in the manual. Edgar said that a lot of people are very ignorant of what is going on in the forest industry. Someone needs to educate them and it should be the LCC members. Bill made a statement that the forest industry is in bad shape. If people are concerned they should talk to the auditors about it – they are independent and not on "either side" of the equation. Al said with regard to the reports, compliance inspections are now being filled out properly and things are in compliance. This is a significant improvement.

Evan was able to connect to the internet so he displayed the GANRAC website giving a brief overview of its contents. He asked members if they have been through it. He recommended everyone go through it as there is a lot of interesting and important information contained there.

- b. Membership Review – Evan passed around the membership list highlighting the attendance by each member. Hector asked if there was any action to be taken and Evan said none at this time. This is just a heads up for members and it is required annually in our Terms of Reference. A few categories are poorly represented and the LCC may want to consider solutions. One solution presented was adding a third member to one category. Another was appointing an alternate where one presently does not exist.

- c. Kenogami Update – Slash is being hauled from Cat 78 now and will be hauled from Rockyshore, Picarson, McLeod South and Flail in the near future. As of Wednesday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Terrace Bay Pulp Inc has climbed out of creditor protection (CCAA). Pulp Mill startup expected by the end of September. We will be approaching MNR to have haul/harvest approvals issued ASAP.
- d. Ogoki Update – Not much to report, just further construction on the Painter Rd and some road maintenance. It is unlikely we will harvest right away on the Ogoki, but could be later on this fall or winter
- e. Roads Maintenance discussion – forwarded to November meeting.

Camping Question from Bernie: He asked if locals could buy (like non-residents) camping permits after the allowable 21-day stay at one location. Doug Haldane answered that the reason for the rule is to give fairness to places where there is a large concentration of people. Another opportunity for Chipman Lake has been submitted and is being entertained already. They are looking at a land use permit. Individuals cannot get LUPs, only associations or businesses. These will be looked at if they are on places with less fishing pressures. Lake Trout lakes are an automatic “no”. Bill Davidson asked about McKay Lake – saying that people think the 21 day rule is because of fair opportunity, not because it is a Lake Trout lake. Evan spoke with Bernie and Bill regarding associations and areas around different lakes as it related to fishing pressure and harvest.

- f. Minor Items –
  - 1). Adopt an Access – Evan mentioned the money used for these signs is coming from OPG money. There will be no cost to the individual. You are expected to clean the site a couple of times per year in return for your name on the sign. The following are getting new signs: Lukinto Lake Lodge, Klotz Lake Camp, Kenogamisis Fish & Game, Greenstone District Trappers Council, Wild Goose Lake Resort, Nakina Fish & Game Club and Greenstone Wilderness Tours. John Espinola wants one for the Lower Twin where he is already cleaning up the area.
  - 2). Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) – An article has been placed in the Times Star. There is more information on the website. West of here in the Fort Frances area, Emo, Nestor Falls area, they are taking head samples of deer at these places.
  - 3). Wolves – Nipigon area is the pilot for this program of collaring wolves and caribou in this area in order to monitor their populations. This will also allow the MNR to monitor wolf activity associated with the caribou population and monitor wolf predation. So far they have collared 12 different packs. Evan is trying to get a presentation to us this winter on the program.
  - 4). There is construction on the Highway – resurfacing Hwy 11 starting 40kms east of Longlac at Hoiles Creek east to the Compressor station, just west of North Pagwa River.
  - 5). Waboose Dam will be changing levels between Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the end of the Ogoki Reservoir. Concern because of early moose season and many people use the Otter trail and the Ogoki to get through there. Remi asked why now and Evan said he tried to get them to change to a later date and they wouldn't. It might not be that bad since it will be pulsating, not continuous changes. They will pass 40 – 80 cms north for 1 hr periods as they do the repairs on the dam. A sign will be put up at the

access point on the Ogoki and Otter Rivers. Hector asked if there is a public safety issue here. MNR does not know so have asked that it be monitored by OPG. Evan is unsure how to make the hunters from out of town know that there is even a dam here and the potential risks downstream.

6). A local tourist outfitter requested a mini land use permit for an one month duration for the moose hunt. The area in question is the Catlonite on Spinner Lake. Some of the concerns from members were: there is a trapper's cabin very close to the site; are others using this area? Bill Arnott asked if this is for non-residents or not. Other concerns were whether this will conflict with the general public. Bill Davidson thought tourist outfitters could have an economic opportunity. Do we want to give one where there is a high traffic area? It was also noted that the meaning of "accommodations" needs to be defined – originally bringing in tourism meant filling up lodges and hotels. Steve is concerned with possible conflicts with the general public, and the company wouldn't like it either. Linda Beaulieu thinks this will open a big can of worms. John Espinola says that if they just put up a tent, then everyone could do that. Evan asked who opposes this location for concerns of safety or conflict by a show of hands. The majority of the group opposed the LUP request.

7). Kenogami Dam – the fire crew cleared the trees. Buchanan Group opened up and graveled 400 meters. The sign is up at the entrance of the road, off Blueberry. The snowmobile signs are already up. One of the no trespassing signs has come down, and will be moved to the other side of the river. This information will be on the website also.

- VIII. Next meeting – will be held in Longlac at the arena on October 6, 2010 at 6:30pm. Hector will make arrangements for pizza.
- IX. Adjournment – Hector made a motion to adjourn the meeting – motion seconded by Cory. Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.