

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: June5, 2013
 Location: Recreation Centre, Nakina
 Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator	*	
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Ben Bartlett, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)		*
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester, Kenogami	*	
Jim Fry, MNR District Manager		*
Tom Gross, MNR Conservation Officer	*	
<u>Guests:</u>		
<u>Members:</u>		
Steve Crawford	*	
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Edgar Lavoie		*
Ed Hoffman (Chair)	*	
Gary Selinger	*	
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish	*	
Louis Garon		*
Remi Moretton	*	
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff	*	
Donna Pelletier		*
Scott Koski	*	
Andy Yesno		*
<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 –Hector called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. As there were some new faces, introductions were also made.
- II. Review of Agenda – Broad scale monitoring was added to this agenda.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– There were no issues or comments regarding April's minutes. Toni Moroz moved to approve the April minutes, seconded by Ken Stevens– minutes approved. There were also no issues or changes to May's minutes so Steve Crawford moved to approve those minutes, seconded by Scott Koski – May minutes approved.

- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Everything carried forward has been placed on tonight's agenda.
- V. Financial Report – Evan reviewed the financial report with the group as this is our last meeting of the season. Bernie Baillargeon moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Bill Davidson, Financial Report approved.
- VI. Correspondence – The only correspondence received was a letter stating that Theresa Nelson from AZA will represent AZA in our committee. All correspondence and information should be forwarded to Theresa. She will be assigned an alternate – to be determined.
- VII. New Business
- A. Kenogami Update – Charlotte noted the Enhanced SFL is on hold. The MNR is working in the background to try and sort out issues. Harvesting is being done by AVTB, Ginoogaming, Constance Lake (Amik) and Pays Platt (not active). Silviculture – tree plant – 2 million trees, SIP, FTG not started (very large program > 20,000 ha). There are issues at CN Railroad crossings (4).
- B. Ogoki FMP Update – although Ben could not attend this evening, he prepared the update. He has been given a new job as Far North Planner for the Nipigon district. While the official date changed on May 27th, he will still be working on the Ogoki Forest for a few more months to facilitate a smooth transition. Management is following up on a few ideas to ensure that he is still able to complete the Ogoki FMP within the required time frame. The information centres went smoothly. Interest was shown at each session and a number of comments were received. Minor harvest area allocation, area of concern prescription, and FMP table adjustments will be required to address comments; however no major issues were raised. The June planning meeting was postponed. He still needs to canvas the planning team for an upcoming meeting date, but they're hoping for sometime in early July. They will be reviewing comments made at the Information Centres and deciding on approaches going forward. Important topics to decide on are: Removal of the Reckett Road construction corridor and prioritization of harvest areas (to avoid further fragmentation of caribou mosaic blocks). Hector asked about the aerial spraying – there didn't seem to be much interest in this according to the herbicide specialists. Not a lot of interest was shown at the Martin Falls centre (no accommodations or food was available). Ft. Hope was better given Andy Yesno is on the planning team. Aroland didn't happen.
- C. Ogoki Update – Current activities on the forest are limited to processing the wood in the Axel/Painter blocks. SWI is hoping to have this wood moved by the end of June. Slashing and in-block road building should be starting very soon there if it isn't already. BWI will be driving up to Witchwood shortly to determine maintenance activities required to get heavy equipment to the Witchwood realignment site. At this time it looks like there will be about \$122,000 of road funding allotted to the Ogoki Forest this year (preliminary estimate). Since the cribs were constructed off-site last fiscal year, we should have enough money to complete the project this year.
- D. AVTB Update –
Harvesting:
AVTB Licenses –
Operating area: Fleming/Crib, Johnson/Calvert, Rayner/Tillia, Seagram/Norse, Gamsby West
3 Contractor – 8 buncher crews
Completed fire training and all crews are trained and capable.
Only a few days of restricted shifts of operations due to forest fire hazards, expecting to increase the shut downs as bush dries up.
Roads:
- Continual maintenance to support the hauls.
 - In the midst of washout season, fixing where feasible and necessary

Haul:

- Haul started on May 27 at reduced capacity
- Haul at full capacity on June 3rd
- Good bush inventory to ensure a consistent wood delivery into the summer months
- Greta, Greer, Fleming, Blueberry, Truax, Florrie, Goldfield, East Road, Catlonite, are the main haul roads for the summer months.

Mill Inventory:

- 70,000 m3 of round wood/Chips in the mill yard
- Mill running at full capacity and consistent.

Other:

- Work continues on the Castlebar Blow-down area.
- FSC Certification being pursued

E Minor Items:

- 1). Snow Station - Evan showed the snow graph providing the 10 yr., 50 yr cycle and the 2010/2011 and 2012/2013 snow depths. Several stations are located along Highway 11 – providing readings once per week. The last day readings were taken was May 13.
- 2). Future meeting dates – our meetings are usually the first Weds. of every month and rotate between Geraldton and Longlac.
- 3). Gerry White Field Trip – George has been in conversation with Gerry concerning a field trip for the group. Gerry wanted to know what we wanted to see and when would be a good time. We agreed around June 15th would be good. **George was to get back with Evan to advise him of possible dates/times.**
- 4). Website – We asked Evan to leave the room as it could be a conflict of interest in this regard. We all agreed we'd like to send Sarah a thank you card for all her hard work and effort regarding our new Ganrac.com website. Bill Davidson moved to purchase a \$200 gift card, seconded by Bernie Baillargeon. \$45 was collected from Hector, Gary, Bill and Steve. **This needs to be finalized at our next meeting so we can get Sarah's card and gift out to her.**

- F. Ask a Conservation Officer – Steve Crawford asked why fish limits for crown land camping were two fish, but not when they stay with an outfitter for non-residents. Zone 7 is the mostly Wawa and Nipigon districts. Some changes are underway. Stakeholder Committees are being formed to deal with these issues, but there is no committee in Zone 2 or 7. Zone 11 the walleye limit is 4. Bernie asked if using his own equipment (boat/quad, etc.) and he took a person with a status card fishing, could he, himself, get in trouble for over limit of fish? Tom said no, it would fall under the status rules as long as Bernie didn't possess more than his personal limits. He noted, too, that written permission must be obtained from local bands for non-resident Indians. Matee is determined by area, based on the restrictions of that area. Also, Canadian residents age 65 and over do not need a fishing license but need to maintain their outdoors card.

Tom reported that he is retiring and as of yet, there has been no replacement. He is not sure when, but hopefully there will be a replacement. When asked if it was posted, Tom said the MNR is going through some transitions, but the perfect scenario would be to have someone ride along and learn the area, but that is not going to happen. It is very frustrating and Ken Albu now has responsibility for the entire area. Tom suggested Ken attend these LCC meetings.

We agreed Steve Crawford would write a letter and send it to Toni for typing and getting signatures and then send it to the District Manager stating our concerns on this matter.

- G. ORB Amendment – (Operational Road Boundary). In Gamsby, there are no issues with this but they would like to skirt the top side of the road and want to use an old road. It's a very

standard procedure; however ORBs aren't part of the pre-approved administrative amendments we set in place a while back. Scott Koski recommended this be an administrative amendment, seconded by Toni Moroz, all agree.

- H. Broad-scale Monitoring – there will be 7 crews on Kenogamisis Lake for BSM June 13 -17. It is done by FMZ every 7 years. There is no flexibility on lakes and/or times due to a late spring. This may have an impact on the Walleye Classic being held at the same time. They are trying to link in with the contaminant monitoring program – using the same fish. 200 to 300 walleye will be taken which is very insignificant for this size of lake. Evan showed us a map of the locations and there will be approximately 28 nets used. Fact sheets are prepared as a result of this monitoring and will be available through the Fish-On program, on-line. Evan showed us the reports for past BSM projects on the following lakes: Klotz, McKay, Chipman, Kenogamisis, Long Lake, Onaman, Pagwachuan, Shacabac, Wig Lake, Wild Goose, Wintering, Burrow and Catlonite.

Len asked about E-17 – it hasn't been done in the past few years. There is an oxygen problem at deeper depths –especially in the winter. Fish are just under the ice or in the shallow waters.

As a follow-up, Evan noted a letter went out to the applicant for the Commercial Fishing License on Marshall Lake, denying the request for the license. This was based on our input and also from a science/biology standpoint. It could also jeopardize the existing businesses there. The individual has 15 days to get back to the MNR and they can request a hearing to have it reviewed.

As to the question of how it's decided where to stock fish – they look for access by stockers and anglers, lakes with inlets/outlets (preferring none), winter oxygen levels, summer oxygen levels and temperatures, what species are there – prefer sterile, they don't want perch unless it's a really deep lake and there's too much competition. Boobas Lake was reclaimed. It had perch and minnows in it. They killed all of the perch and it has been stocked ever since. They don't do this anymore as poisoning is frowned upon. They are always looking for lakes, but they must go through environmental assessments and look at other uses. There is no spawning location in McLeod Lake. They are treating it as Put and Take. Dorion gives us the lake trout. Brown trout were put in there a year ago (100 of them).

- VIII. Next meeting – Our next meeting will be in September – an exact date will be determined, but mostly likely Sept. 4th at the Fire Base in Geraldton. Evan will advise.
- X. Adjournment – Linda Beaulieu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Scott Koski – meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.