

Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: November 24th, 2010
 Location: Greenstone Fire Centre
 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)		*
Bruce Byford - Auditor	*	
Ryan Murphy, GFMI	*	
 <u>Members:</u>		
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
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	*	
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Kyle Polesky		*
Scott Koski		*
Tom Hunt		*
Erin Symington-Armstrong	*	

- I. Call to order – Evan called the meeting to order at 5:45pm. Introductions were made.
- II. Review of Agenda – No additions or changes were made.
- III. Approval of Previous minutes – no changes noted. Toni Moroz moved to have the minutes approved; the motion was seconded by Ed Hoffman – minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – All items for action are included in tonight's agenda.

- V. Financial Report – Evan passed around and showed on the screen the financial report, noting a few outstanding cheques (mostly those issued just tonight). One big cheque for \$1200 for the Adopt-An-Access signs will be written tomorrow to Ron's Signs in Longlac. Evan is still working on funding for addition to the budget. Louis Garon moved to approve the financial report, motion seconded by Bernard Baillargeon, report approved.
- VI. Correspondence – Hector read a letter received from Bill Hoff announcing his resignation from GANRAC. He wished the group well and said he truly enjoyed his time in the group. **Evan will determine his level of service for his retirement gift.** Bill suggested Travis Shallock as someone who may be interested in joining. Evan noted Travis is interested in joining and will pursue it. Evan also noted Ken Stevens (previously with Confederation College in Geraldton) is interested as Edgar's alternate in General Public/Environmental Interests.
- VII. New Business –
- a. Preliminary Audit Results of the Ogoki and Kenogami Audits – Bruce Byford started by telling us they've already made presentations to the MNR and the SFL Holder and also the Forestry Futures. The presentation to the LCC will be mainly on the LCC section of the audit to obtain our comments/suggestions. He reminded the group these findings are confidential and we are to keep them that way. They have one recommendation relating to our LCC in each audit.

Bruce went on to identify the general recommendations to the SFL Holder, the District MNR and the Corporate MNR by forest. He also explained the recommendation to the LCC. We provided a lot of feedback and they may need to go back to the drawing board on this recommendation. We will await their final report.

- b. Contingency Plan - As the group is aware, we have been producing a 10 year Forest Management Plan (FMP) for some time now. It's time frame is April 1st, 2011 - March 31st, 2021. That 10 year span will be split into two 5 year phases: -April 1st, 2011 - March 31st 2016 = Phase 1 and April 1st, 2016 - March 31st 2021 = Phase 2. Unfortunately, the production of the FMP is behind schedule. As things stand right now - we will not be able to cut wood on the Kenogami Forest until probably November 2011. That means that there would be no operations, such as no wood cut, no trees planted, no activities on the Kenogami Forest between April 1st, 2011 and November 2011.

To bridge the gap between April 1st, 2011 and November, we have made a proposal to produce a 1 year Contingency Plan (CP): April 1st, 2011 - March 31st 2012. A Contingency Plan is in essence a condensed FMP. It will be based on the Long Term Management direction (LTMD) of the 2011 FMP that has just been endorsed by the MNR Regional Director. LTMD is our broad strategic direction - things such as objectives, reserve (AOC) widths and definitions, silviculture prescriptions, roads planning, etc. The production of the CP will not change the term of the FMP. It will still be developed for the same 10 year time frame: April 1st, 2011 - March 31st, 2021 - only its implementation will be delayed. An Annual Work Schedule (AWS) will be produced for the term April 1st, 2011 - March 31st 2012. It will be synonymous with the Contingency Plan (April 1st 2011-March 31st, 2012). It will also be the same as the 1st year of the FMP.

- c. FMP Open Houses – Deanna outlined all of the information that will be available at the open houses for the Kenogami FMP. This includes maps at 1/50,000 of the forest, caribou mosaics, trap lines, primary and branch roads, silviculture and tending maps, values maps, FMP tables (from the manual), supplementary documents on areas of concern, lakes, rivers, dens, nests, archeological sites, roads decommissioning/building, and a spray sign so they will be able to identify it in the bush. Edgar suggested a sit down presentation take place with a question/answer session. Several members noted this had been tried in the past and with such a low turn-out it was nearly impossible to do. Deanna said she did not have enough time to prepare a presentation as Edgar suggested. Louis wanted to make sure we did something that got people to these sessions.

After much discussion it was determined we would update the Greenstone Portal with a “flyer” announcing the open houses and that another flyer would be distributed and posted around town highlighting the fact that there are changes underway and people need to come out and voice their opinions/concerns. Evan said they would print it. Louis will distribute around town and Toni and Louis will work on the flyer and get it to Evan.

- d. Road Maintenance – This will be a very important part of the open house. Maps will be available highlighting the roads that will be decommissioned in the caribou conservation areas, those that will be decommissioned outside the caribou area as well as those roads that are proposed to be constructed. Once again, it comes down to making sure people are aware of these changes. Attendance at the open houses will be key in getting people to understand this ahead of time.
- e. Website Tour – Evan put GANRAC’s new website up on the screen. www.ganrac.greenstone.ca What a great website! Evan encouraged everyone to visit the site and become familiar with its contents. An actual tour will be scheduled at a later date since we are cramped for time.
- f. Ogoki Update – No activity on the Ogoki. Lack of trucks in the system and the Nakina Sawmill being idle may keep the company from harvesting this winter on the Ogoki. No final decision on this subject has been made as yet.
- g. Kenogami Update – Continue to harvest conifer at Sexsmith, Lower Twin, Drowning Rd, Cordingley, Eaton (Bankfield), Scalpel, Howard Creek, Blueberry Rail and Cable blocks. Hog fuel (poplar and birch) presently is being cut/ground and hauled from the Cable Road. Culvert replacements took place at km 50 Blueberry and Mile 7 east Road. New culverts installed at Drowning rd block and Cyril block.

The Terrace Bay Pulp Mill running fine, quality good, many days at or over 1000 tons/day. There has been the occasional down time taken for repair and or maintenance. Heavy south winds on Lake Superior affected the quality of intake water (silty) and production was halted for a day or part of a day last month.

Recent snowfalls have put a strain on the graders and sanders, though the company will be endeavouring to keep roads open periodically where there is harvest activity and pulpwood inventory to haul.

h. Minor Items –

Moose objectives – Evan pointed out that the objectives previously presented to the group was a draft and is still in draft stages. The objectives will be posted on the EBR for comments. Evan will let the LCC know when they have been posted and encouraged everyone to please make comments. MNR must manage for caribou and they are given priority in the forest but the MNR is still proposing to manage for moose as well. The population of moose could become stable throughout this ordeal. A long discussion on moose ensued covering topics like kill rates for 2010, success ratios of residents vs. outfitters, archery components, etc.

Sign maps – Evan showed the group on the GANRAC website how to look at the maps (divided north and south) showing access restrictions. This is great information to have and many hunters will utilize this information.

Lake Trout Project – on Oct. 23rd volunteers from the public and the MNR were on Long Lake with dive teams from Manitouwadge, Marathon and Thunder Bay. They were diving trying to locate lake trout spawning shoals and eggs to determine where these trout are spawning. One to seven feet seems to be the depth where they are spawning. A recruitment problem has been identified on Long Lake and the water draw down by OPG over the winter may be a contributing factor.. OPG helped with the funding for this project. The MNR will be reviewing the water management plan. The short term solution could be to have the Dorion fishery strip eggs and raise them and then re-introduce them into the lake in an effect to keep the same gene pool.

Bats Hibernacula – Evan said that bats congregate in the winter in tunnels, caves, etc. and was wondering if anyone knew of any locations of large numbers of bats in the area. Anyone hearing about them or seeing them please let Evan know. George suggested the head frame at the Geraldton intersection as he has seen swarms of bats.

Adopt-An-Access signs – Evan brought in the new signs for many of the locations. Each sign is free, but needs to be drilled and installed (preferably high enough to prevent people from ripping it down). The area should be cleaned up at least two to three times per year.

- i. Business Cards – Edgar noted only a few people had submitted their photos for the business cards. Please remember if you want a specific picture on a business card, it needs to be submitted to Edgar as soon as possible. Landscape format is preferred.

VIII. Next meeting – will be held in Longlac at the Sportsplex at 5:30pm on December 15th. Meal is to be provided.

IX. Adjournment – Louis Garon made a motion to adjourn the meeting – motion seconded by Steve Crawford. Meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.