

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee  
Date of Meeting: May 4, 2011  
Location: Our Lady of Fatima School Library  
Approved Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

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)

Present:

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Regrets:

\*

Members:

Bernie Baillargeon  
Deanna Hoffman  
Edgar Lavoie  
Ed Hoffman (Chair)  
Gary Selinger  
George Horobec  
Ron Melhuish  
Jamie Armstrong  
Louis Garon  
Remi Moreton  
Steve Crawford  
Toni Moroz  
Yvette Metansinine

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Alternates:

Bill Arnott  
Bill Davidson  
Cory Nephin  
Ken Stevens  
Greg Riou  
John Espinola  
Linda Beaulieu  
Kyle Polesky  
Perry Barkhouse  
Scott Koski  
Tom Hunt  
Erin Symington-Armstrong

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Guests:

Leigh-Anne Checchetto  
Brian Naylor

- I. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 6 pm after dinner. Introductions were made as we had a guest speaker

- II. Guest speaker, Brian Naylor presented information on the Stand and Site guide and spoke about one portion of it – the Aquatic Direction.

Working around water is the biggest change. The MNR website is available to download all the guides, including this one – Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales. (SSG)

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/Publication/272847.html>

There is also the background direction that can be found there as well if you want to know why/how the decisions were made.

The SSG amalgamated 36 former guides into 1. The amalgamation direction was to integrate them together, make them consistent to one another, fill in the gaps (i.e. some species were not covered previously) and update the science.

The water guides came from 2 previous documents that were created 20 years ago. The SSG deals with more habitat now (previous guides also had technical advice). Not only is fish habitat considered but now those things that may contribute to fish habitat are considered.

The water bodies are classified into high potential, medium potential and low potential (HPS, MPS, LPS) lakes and streams and this classification is based on the potential of the waterbody to have an affect on the fish habitat.

There is more potential for operations to occur next to the shoreline – why you ask – is because shorelines burn. There are benefits to this:

>70% of species live in the shoreline

50% like mature forest next to water

Birds like it shrubby,

35% of beaver like young forest

Beaver are a concern. They have been declining in numbers over the last 40 years and there are a host of species that rely on the habitat that beaver ponds create. Examples are:

Great blue herons, black ducks, olive sided flycatcher

It is not a wood grab – this direction was based on environmental considerations and the need to introduce disturbances next to water. This came from Biologists, Duck's Unlimited biologists and trappers.

There was consideration to figuring out if we can do it without adverse effects. If it is to be done thoughtful planning and careful implementation is required. Varying amounts of Residual forest ( $\geq 35$  yrs old or  $\geq 10$ m in height) is required to be left depending on the type/size of water body:

Type of Water	% Residual to leave
LPS	0 %
MPS	50%
Medium Lake	75%
Large Lake	90%

This is very specific to slopes, fish habitat, social values and wildlife habitat.

Within a range of distances from the water, there are restrictions

3m	No machine travel No trees felled into the water or within the 3 m zone Must protect shrubs and saplings
0-15m	No ruts No significant mineral soil exposure (>5%) No roads, landings or aggregate pits
30-90m	No ruts that channel water within 15m No rods landings or pits

If the water is flowing it is different – there cover is important. 15m of dense mature forest must be kept.

Questions were then asked:

- How do you determine if the habitat being created is successful? The measure of success of habitat would be the species is doing well and the population size (this was in relation to the amount of caribou habitat being created)
- Did the reserve widths have an effect on the amount of blowdown after harvest – no, the reserve width was not a factor, the widths of reserve were determined to prevent the transport of sediment into the waterbody, not for the blowdown potential however, the amount of blowdown was not related to the reserve width.



Stand & Site Guide  
Presentation

- II. Review of Agenda – addition of EA mining posting (George H), and Business Card (E Lavoie) were added, Capacity calculation (Evan) deleted
- III. Approval of previous minutes – no changes were made or noted. Ed H moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 2011 and motion seconded by Scott K.
- IV. Business arising from previous minutes –
  - a) The question concerning the parking lot at the by-pass for the Kenogami Dam – **Steve C. communicated the requirement, but it didn't happen. Scott will do again next winter.**
  - b) The website announcement was in the paper.
  - c) Someone still required to represent the Nakina Fish and Game Club. **No response from Travis Schallock. Will shelve this until September**, Steve C would like to come back to GANRAC after his retirement, Linda may go to the Chamber, then Steve to Cottaging –
  - d) Ask a Conservation Officer answer to riding quads on the side of the road – **legally no ATV can go on highway 11 or the right-of-way. Only people allowed**

are OPP, MTO.... Trappers can if they have a slow moving sign on it. There are 15 conditions to meet. The OPP are the ones that can charge you.

e) Road decommissioning – no chance to really talk about it. BWI has classified which term they want to transfer the road responsibility. The next set of open houses (in July?) will have maps. Charlotte clarified that the steps are as there is some confusion around the decommissioning versus the transfer of responsibility 1) SFL declares the intent to transfer responsibility to the MNR, step 2) MNR tells the SFL holder what to do to the roads for them to take back the ownership, of which decommissioning may be a requirement.

f) Problems with drivers in town – Scott reported that packages of bylaws from the town were distributed to the haul contractors and drivers.

V. Financial report – Evan showed us the report, there is one correction, a double entry for the MNR payment to GANRAC. Louis moved to approve the financial report as corrected, Ed seconded the motion.

VI. Correspondence – Evan received 2 emails:

- Bill Hoff emailed in a thank you for the appreciation gift he received from the group, M Moylan emailed in a letter of resignation due to a potential conflict of interest due to employment.
- Evan received an email from the GANRAC website. He had sent it around for response but no one responded to it. It was decided that in the future that any correspondence received from the website will receive an email/response from Evan informing them that their comment will be addressed after the next GANRAC meeting.

VII. New Business

a) Ogoki 10-yr report – Leigh-Anne gave us a presentation that is included here. The report covered the harvest, renewal and road construction from 2003-2007.



Ogoki 10 Year  
Annual Report

b) Caribou Habitat Regulations – Evan received 4 slide presentation. 4500 responses and 100 workbooks were received. The report is not out yet. There was a wide range of stakeholders/public participating, however no ENGO's. The net step is to consolidate the results and there will be an EBR porting with the final regulatory approach.



Caribou Habitat Reg  
Update

c) Ogoki Update – no operations. They are starting to look at culverts, there is a SFI recertification at the end of May with QMI.

d) Kenogami Update – Harvesting has started. The priority is pulp to keep the mill going, biofibre will be later. Treeplant starts May 16. The water is high everywhere, culverts are at maximum flow. The river drive on the Aguasabon has started (just picking up a spilt load and moving it to shore where it is able to be picked up). Steve is retiring effective Thursday (May 12)

- e) Minor Items – LCC training CD handed out about FMP planning, Hunting reg books handed out, Caribou collaring maps shown, 47 animals were collared this winter including the herd outside of Longlac. This group had 2 male and 2 females collared. Broadscale monitoring (fish) is going to be done on a number of lakes this year. (Chipman; Wig; Shacabac; Burrows and possibly McKay in FMZ 7. Ara and Winisk in FMZ 2))
  - f) Ask a Conservation Officer – Question was asked if, when doing layout, a gun had to have the plug in, as we are not hunting, it is for protection. Tom will get back to the group, initial thought is no, as you are technically not hunting.
  - h) EA mining notice is posted for the Terms of Reference. Evan emailed out the notice for people to go to the EBR themselves.
  - i) Business cards – Edgar had example again, magenta writing and picture identifier to be removed, Edgar to pick one more picture to bring total up to 10, motion was put forth to print 100 pages containing 10 business cards at a cost of \$100. Motioned by Scott, seconded by Louis. Edgar will bring them to Times Star for printing and invoice to be sent to GANRAC.
- VIII. Next Meeting – June 1<sup>st</sup>; Remi to get back to Evan regarding location in Nakina.
- IX. Linda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm and Steve C seconded it.  
Meeting adjourned.