

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: January 11, 2012
 Location: Greenstone Fire Centre, Geraldton
 Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>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	*	
Ben Bartlett, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)	*	
Tom Gross, Conservation Officer MNR		*
 <u>Members:</u>		
Bernie Baillargeon	*	
Deanna Hoffman	*	
Edgar Lavoie	*	
Ed Hoffman (Chair)		*
Gary Selinger	*	
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish	*	
Jamie Armstrong	*	
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moretton		*
Scott Koski	*	
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff	*	
Andy Yesno		*
 <u>Alternates:</u>		
Bill Davidson	*	
Cory Nephin		*
Ken Stevens	*	
Greg Riou	*	
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu	*	
Jane Jantunen		*
Perry Barkhouse		*
Tom Hunt	*	
Tracey Bradley		*

- I. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm after our dinner. We made sure to introduce Ben Bartlett to the group again, but no other introductions were necessary. We welcomed Bill Hoff back to the fold.

- II. Review of Agenda – no additions or changes were made to the agenda.
- III. Approval of previous minutes – the Nov. minutes were reviewed. Toni moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Scott Koski – minutes approved.
- IV. Business arising from previous minutes – Toni read aloud and put on the projector the draft of the letter to First Nations. A few grammatical changes were made. The letter will be sent to all First Nations in the Geraldton area. Toni will type the letters and will get Ed's signature and mail them. **Ron said there was no GCF board meeting, so his discussions with them concerning their involvement with GANRAC will be carried forward to the next board meeting or the next opportunity he has to talk with Cory.** Evan had a deadline of Dec. 14th to determine who from remote tourism will sit on the planning team and this is covered under Membership in tonight's meeting. The Wawa road access presentation is on hold. Evan talked with Wendy LeClaire and their project has been put on hold until some issues can be worked out – no presentation is available at the present time. Evan looked into ordering fishing brochures – the only changes being the "sponsored by" logos and the date. Evan was holding off because of the potential loss of the Portal web site. Ron assures us that this will remain as is for the immediate future. The Times Star will reproduce 2,500 of them for \$500, but there is new regulations put in place to use government preferred providers for these services. Given this is an existing project, **Evan will look into whether we can print them here locally or if the outside printer must be utilized.** If so, it will likely need to be bi-lingual and at that point will not be cost effective. **Tom Gross is to follow up on the Hunters Safety Certificate and the records maintained by the MNR.**
- V. Financial report – Evan put the Financial Report up on the screen for everyone to review. A motion was made by Linda Beaulieu to approve the report, seconded by Bernard Baillargeon, motion carried – report approved.
- VI. Correspondence – no correspondence received.
- VII. New Business:
 - a) Membership Update – Evan informed the group of his efforts in securing a representative from the LCC representing remote tourism to be on the Ogoki Planning Team. To that end, Bill Davidson has moved to the remote tourism category, replacing Kyle Polesky as an alternate and will be part of the planning team. He knows a good deal about remote tourism and has already prepared a contact list of remote tourism outfitters to communicate with during the FMP process. Bill Hoff has agreed to re-join our group as the main member representing Fish & Game & Snowmobile advisory Groups. We still need an alternate for this category. There are still vacancies for General Public Fishing/Hunting Interest, but Evan is working with Len McEathron to fill this position and the GEDC. A main member is needed for the GCF category, but Ron will be in discussions with Cory (the alternate) regarding this. Andy Yesno from Fort Hope has joined the Ogoki Planning Team and is has joined GANRAC to represent First Nations. He will be able to attend meetings on days our meetings correspond with the planning team meetings (which is a regular occurrence). That category still needs an alternate as well.

- b) Ogoki Planning Team Update – Ben Bartlett told us the 3 year Annual Report for the Ogoki was prepared, signed by the District Manager and endorsed by the Regional Director. There is a meeting scheduled for next week. They will be getting ready to present Open Houses in the spring. The team will be very busy next week and hope to have the Terms of Reference completed. Ben did ask that the group provide their recommendation for categorization of an amendment to the plan. An error was identified in the numbers used to determine road density within the unrestricted access area. The amendment will allow for the correction of the original base number used to calculate density to determine if goals and objectives have been met. Ben explained to the group for the benefit of some new people the 3 different amendment types (major, minor and administrative) and the amendment proposal is basically just to correct a clerical error. Ben then made a motion to categorize the proposed amendment as Administrative. The motion was seconded by Toni Moroz – motion carried. Hector then told the group about how there had been a list provided by the MNR identifying typical administrative amendments that could be blanket approved by GANRAC which was especially helpful given the length of time that can occur between our meetings. **Ben said he would work with Charlotte on putting a new “blanket” list of approved Administrative Amendments together and he would present it at the May, 2012 GANRAC meeting.**
- c) Ogoki Update –Harvesting and haul operation have been shut down since November 2nd, 2011. The Company is hoping to hear if harvesting and haul will resume this winter by the end of the week. Two graders are currently working towards Painter and Axel. AWS was submitted before Christmas.
- d) Kenogami Update –harvesting & operations are the same as Ogoki
- e). Kenogami FMP Update –Toni began by highlighting today’s FMP meeting, stating they reviewed comments received from the public consultation. All comments must be received by January 16th, as the submission date for the Final FMP is Feb. 17th. There were a number of comments reviewed, but the issue of roads being transferred back to the Crown seems to be the biggest area of concern. Charlotte prepared and presented a list of the roads, what type of road, transfer year and MNR intent (embedded below). This list was very helpful in discussing the roads and seemed to make it a little easier to grasp the information being provided. Evan prepared a table that outlined how each type of road (primary, branch & operational) will be handled once transferred back to the Crown concerning water crossings and regeneration. This table is also embedded below. There were a few roads discussed, but more discussions will be held with individual stakeholders in the next few days. Another subject brought to the LCC was the request from a canoeing group to address canoe routes, portage trails and remote campsites. Previous FMPS for the Kenogami did not have specific AOC’s (area of concern) identified for these as other AOC’s (water quality, tourism, etc)

were already in place. For this FMP specific AOC's need to be developed. So far we have a 30 meter buffer around portage trails. There is no information in NRVIS to identify remote campsites, but an AOC prescription should be developed in case any are identified later on so we will be ready to implement it rather than making an amendment to the plan. The planning team offered the group several options on how to proceed with the canoe routes. These options were 1). as lakes and rivers are protected already with water quality reserves ranging from 30 – 90 m, and some with larger tourism reserves nothing else is required; 2). apply a fixed width reserve to the rivers only, not the lakes; 3). increase the existing water quality reserves by 20 m to a maximum of 110 m (i.e. 30 m = 50 m); and 4) and apply reserve to the area within 500 m of the canoe route. (the full presentation is embedded below). The group had numerous discussions concerning what paddlers/canoerists look for as “wilderness”. It was mutually agreed that they do, in fact, look for wilderness and trees and that hectares and hectares of clear-cut is not what they want to be seeing when paddling. However, the group also agreed that a few places alongside a river or lake that was clear-cut wouldn't be enough to deter them from coming back as long as it wasn't a significant amount. We also discussed the potential blow-down on 30 meter stands vs. 120 meter stands and visibility at 30 meters vs. 120. Edgar requested a memo outlining all this information in order that his organization (Greenstone Wilderness Trails) could make a recommendation. The team explained that timing was sensitive due to the late receipt of the group's letter and that all comments are due by Jan. 16th. **Charlotte agreed to send Edgar this information right away.** After a lengthy discussion, the group agreed to use option #4 – applying a reserve area within 500 meters of the canoe route and where it touches land, and an additional 20 meters up to a maximum of 110 meters. Portage trails will be left at 30 meters on both sides and campsites will have an AOC for them (none listed currently) of 100 meter radius from the center of the fire pit. **Deanna will go back and make the additional adjustments to the harvest plan and allocations in order to effect this recommendation and Charlotte will respond to the group outlining the recommendations of the planning team and GANRAC.**



Overriding.pdf



canoe.pdf



Roads Transfer
Intent.pdf



Canoe AOC

f) Minor Items:

1. Evan gave us presentation on the life cycle of the moose tick at a previous meeting and gave a brief update with pictures, how it goes from a larvae state to growth on a plant, coming in contact with a moose, feeding, developing, then dropping off and starting the whole process again. This can cause moose mortality as well as their coats being rubbed off.

2. Cougar Cam – Evan showed us pictures and videos taken over the year at the cameras set up to hopefully record cougar. Videos and pictures were of moose, bear, lynx and wolf, but no cougar yet. They are going to try to keep the cameras in place again this year – They had it in 3 locations this past year (Lahti's Road, Nakina Hwy and Bankfield Road).
3. Wolf Collaring – Evan showed us a map of the wolf packs in the area and their movement as recorded by collared wolves. There is a fairly large pack just east of Longlac which were recently tagged. Then he also showed us the individual wolves that are collared and their movement over the year.
4. Moose Information in 21A – Evan shared a report by the Area Biologist for 21A based on moose aerial inventory. There has been a long controversy as to the fact that there seem to be more moose west vs. east in the unit and the reports showed just that. It showed the need to reduce the number of cows as they outnumber the bulls 3:1. Hence the increase in the number of cow tags issued for 21A although it, unfortunately, has not made a difference to date as not many cows were actually harvested. We will have to see mail survey results for this years hunt. There are a total of approximately 4700 moose in 21A and 1,755 moose in area 19, but that area doesn't have quite the problem with too many cows in relation to number of bulls as 21A does.
5. Confidentiality – Those members in the group who have not signed their confidentiality/freedom of information act form were asked to please do so and turn it into Evan this evening.

- VIII. Next Meeting – is scheduled for February 8th at Our Lady of Fatima school library (6pm). Evan brought up the fact that providing supper is expensive and with the budget we have, he's not certain if we can continue to do this on a regular basis. The group agreed to have the meeting in Longlac start at 6pm and not provide supper. Then, the following meeting in Geraldton will be Chinese Food (extra money coming from secretarial payment, upon her suggestion, being forfeited). After that, we will go on a month-by-month basis to decide on supper.
- IX. Scott Koski moved to adjourn the meeting and George Horobec seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.