

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

5:30 P.M September 17th, 2014 Supper Provided Location: Rec Centre Nakina

Recording Secretary: Deanna Hoffman

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- 1.1. Meeting called to order and started at 6 pm. No introductions as no new people or guests. Thanked Remi for organizing the food and John for the good food

2. Review of Agenda

- 2.1. No changes to the agenda were proposed

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- 3.1. Minutes of June 18th were approved – no changes. Motioned by Scott Koski, Seconded by Ed Hoffman, Passed

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- 4.1. Bank signatories – Gary Selinger and Dave Barker still to sign at RBC **Charlotte to remind Dave and Gary**
- 4.2. Adopt and access sign – **Hector to send another email to Mike Moroz**
- 4.3. Linda gave Toni her slippers as decided at last meeting. **Charlotte to work with Evan to find out Toni's years of service for her certificate**
- 4.4. **Fish stocking list still to be forwarded to Sarah for uploading to the GANRAC website**
- 4.5. Discussion around canoe route AOC from previous meeting. **Topic to be brought up when Bernie is present for meeting. Minutes of that previous meeting (January 2012) to be send out**

5. Financial Report / Budget Submission/Bank Account Signatories – (Char/Evan)

- 5.1. One outstanding cheque currently
- 5.2. Bank balance \$7748.XX There will be some District funding but not sure at this time what it will be. The budget submission goes in normally at the end of the fiscal year when there is a better chance of getting funding for the Committee

6. Correspondence

- 6.1. None

7. New Business

a) Kenogami Update

- a. The eSFL is in a pause state. There was a First Nations meeting in Fort Hope and it is expected that the results of this meeting will be available in November.
- b. The Long Lake Lumber Inc Sawmill was given a facility license by MNR. First loads have arrived. The owner of the mill is the Buchanan Corporation. This license is for the facility only; there are no harvest rights associated with it. There is a business to business arrangement that was made to supply the sawmill with wood in exchange for the residual chips provided to AVTB. AVTB controls the wood supply as the Kenogami conifer is allocated to the pulp mill.
- c. AVTB is paying the contractors that are delivering to the sawmill, the sawmill is not an agent for the Crown yet and therefore not collecting Crown dues. This could be in the future.
- d. There is the intent to run the Nakina sawmill but no timelines have been set.

b) Kenogami Phase II Planning

- a. The GANRAC members sitting on the Phase 2 Kenogami planning team are Steve Crawford and Evan Armstrong. They attended training in Thunder Bay and cutting to shoreline is being promoted. There was comment from the committee about protecting viewsapes however, the scientists are promoting lake cut to shore, reserves will still be on rivers. This is to emulate natural burns where they burn to lakeshores and it increases the habitat for wildlife and fur bearers. This is not around the entire lake; there are criteria for the eligibility of the lake as well as the amount of area that can be harvested. The

Stand and Site guide has the requirements –

- Harvest is permitted within the AOC subject to the following conditions:
 - $\geq 50\%$ of the area of the AOC (based on delineation of the AOC around the entire water feature, both inside and outside the harvest area) associated with *small lakes, HPS ponds, and MPS ponds*, $\geq 75\%$ of the area of the AOC associated with *medium lakes*, and $\geq 90\%$ of the area of the AOC associated with *large lakes* will be retained as forest that meets the definition of residual (see Section 3.2.2).
 - When retaining residual shoreline forest, the inner 15 m will be mature forest with a relatively uniform canopy closure $\geq 60\%$ (canopy openings not to exceed individual tree crowns) unless the adjacent harvest area outside the AOC meets the definition of residual forest.
 - Harvest that retains forest that does not meet the definition of residual (e.g., conventional clearcutting) is permitted within the AOC only where slope is $\leq 30\%$.
 - For each ha of shoreline forest harvested that does not meet the definition of residual (e.g., conventionally clearcut) 1 ha of residual shoreline forest will be retained that has not been harvested within 20 years.
 - Within the AOC, direction for the retention of downed woody material (see Section 3.2.3) will be followed.

The planning team meeting is scheduled for October 8. Topics will be the Terms of Reference and the Project Plan with the official kick-off shortly after. The official invitations have not been sent out yet to those organizations that may wish to sit on the planning team.

c) Nedaak

- a. Tree plants were completed by July 23. 9.5 million trees on the Kenogami plus 600,000 on the Ogoki were planted during this time.
- b. Site preparation is continuing and should wrap up by the end of October.
- c. Free-to-grow surveys are ongoing as well with summer staff that have stayed on. Measurements of the Jack pine in the seed orchards will be starting to enable roguing of the sites to only include the 'superior' trees for seed production in the future.
- d. Aerial tending was completed September 3. Several areas were dropped due to public concerns.
- e. Supplemental aerial photography was taken in June for depletion of harvest areas from 2013-14.
- f. The Annual report for 2013-14 is under way and this is a Year 3 AR therefore there are more requirements that have to be addressed.
- g. Amendments and revisions have been ongoing. Since the summer hiatus, there have been 7 water crossing revisions, of which 4 were approved and 3 are waiting for more information before submission; 1 water crossing removal revision at Lower Twin Op-1; 4 area additions (site preparation revision, harvest area amendment). Presented to the Committee were 3 amendments for classification:
 - i. Gravel pit boundary change (AEA) – administrative amendment. Request was that the PSP people be contacted to ensure that the boundary change will not affect the PSP
 - ii. Harvest area removal – administrative amendment. Questions were brought up concerning the timing of the removal and why concerns were not brought up during the planning and approval process. Any concerns can be addressed to the MNR.
 - iii. Sexsmith bridging addition – administrative amendment. Questions were asked why there was additional area taken out of the current harvest area as it was already planned for the area to be harvested during the planning process. Explanation as to the AHA for the plan and this area coming in as regular harvest now and not being bridged was given.

d) AVTB (AV Terrace Bay)

- a. The biologist and AVTB went to look at the Flynne Ck crossing/washout and determine what was needed there. Permission was granted to work outside the cold water window. Two backhoes will work for approximately 1 week. They will pull out the old culverts, re-establish the stream bed, remove sediment that has gone into the stream and install 2x2500 mm culverts. The work will do more for the creek, even with the backhoes in the creek and outside the water window than if it was left.
- b. They are harvesting at Balkam, Snowberry, Cotoneaster and Fulford. Next week are planning on being in the Jungfrau area until frost then go to other winter areas. There are 4 contractors working currently.

- c. Road maintenance is continuing. The crushing project is working on Km 106-70. This project will see the entire Catlonite resurfaced over 2 years. There was calcium chlorite put down on the Catlonite entirely as well as some corners on the north side of Highway 11
 - d. They are currently working on the Lake Nipigon Primary road link.
 - e. Annual bridge inspections are ongoing. 70% of the Kenogami ones are completed.
 - f. Hauling from all the cutover locks. There will be an increase in traffic from hunters and notices were sent out to the contractors to be aware
 - g. The mill has 15 days of fibre in the yard, 1 week shutdown to occur soon
 - h. Hopeful that other Licensees will be working soon to provide wood to the mill as things are tight.
 - i. Mill yard work is still ongoing. No word on DGP, they bought 35 cars to transport chips from Chapleu weekly. The chip inventory is ok, but the roundwood levels are low. The bosses overseas are nervous about this.
 - j. The Chinese anti-dumping tariff might be having an issue with the DGP conversion and timelines
 - k. Concern brought forward about pickups parking on the side of the highway at the Nakina Hwy and/or Cotoneaster block. Hard to see. **Scott to follow up with contractors**
- e) Ogoki AWS Update**
- a. Nedaak was contracted to do the AWS. It may not be implemented until 2015 as there was no work on the Ogoki occurring and the MNR will risk manage this.
 - b. There is not expected to be any harvest for the sawmill until next year. If needed there are other mechanisms to cover harvest with a 25 hectares license.
 - c. AVTB does own wood that is past the Witchwood bridge however it was cut in 2006 and will probably be difficult to get on a truck. The Witchwood crossing needs prep work, road construction and a harvest contractor of which none are available to do the work even though the MNR did receive funding 2 weeks ago for the relocation
- f) Ogoki FMP Update**
- a. The last Environment Assessment request date is Thursday. MNR should know by the end of next week if there was an individual EA request.
- g) MNR Transformation Overview**
- a. The new District Manager is Bert Hennessey and he is getting more involved in District issues.
 - b. There are no Lands people therefore things are not going on and/or not getting done.
 - c. The GIS regional position has moved to Nipigon
 - d. There are 3 CO's – one is moving, one is ready to retire at the end of March and that will leave one. It is still in the plan to have 2 CO's in Geraldton.
 - e. For trapping, beaver concerns see Tom Savioa in Nipigon
 - f. See organization chart attached
- h) Minor Items –Misc**
- a. A presentation of Phase 2 planning and LCC membership was given to ensure that all categories were covered.
 - b. As could not find a mandate for the Lakes of the Legends group, George was put in the Environment category.
 - c. Changes to Committee – Evan Armstrong – Chair, Steve Crawford – Secretary, Travis Vernier replacing Tom Hunt for trapping alternate position. **Will need a facilitator come January**
 - d. Website
 - i. **Access restriction map needs updating**
 - ii. **Water level table needs update**
 - iii. **Approved Minutes are missing for 2014 – send pdf to Evan**
 - iv. **Logos and website – provide to Evan for insertion and link on the GANRAC site**
 - v. Sarah will update at the end of every month
 - vi. News section needs to be updated
 - 1. **Potentially a Phase 2 write up, or update this – Evan to write up something**
 - 2. **Calendar update – Evan**
 - vii. GANRAC facebook page to be deleted after Eileen looks at it – she may take on keeping this updated.

8. Next Meeting

a. October 8 or November 5

9. Adjournment

Motioned by Evan Armstrong, Seconded by Martin Boucher – Carried

Sept 17 th , 2014	Sept 17 th Mtg. Attended	Sept 17 th Mtg Regrets			
Bernie Baillargeon		*			
Bill Davidson		*			
Bill Hoff	*				
Deanna Hoffman	*				
Ed Hoffman	*				
Edgar Lavoie	*				
Eileen Johnson	*				
Erin Symington-Armstrong		*			
Evan Armstrong	*				
Gary Selinger	*				
George Horobec	*				
Gerald Bolduc		*			
Jane Jantunen		*			
Joe Gagnon		*			
John Espinola		*			
Ken Stevens	*				
Len McEathron	*				
Linda Beaulieu	*				
Louis Garon	*				
Martin Boucher	*				
Perry Barkhouse	*				
Remi Moretton	*				
Ron Melhuish		*			
Scott Koski	*				
Steve Crawford	*				
Tom Hunt		*			
Charlotte Bourdignon	*				
Hector Vincent	*				
Jim Fry		*			
Dave Barker		*			
Guests:					
Neil Peterson					
Jamie Mucha					
Ben Bartlett					
Steve Yeung					

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