

Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: May 5, 2010
 Location: Longlac Sportsplex – Meeting Room
 Approved Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Hector Vincent, Facilitator
 Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison
 Doug Haldane, MNR Area Supervisor
 Tom Gross, Conservation Officer
 Kim Groenenyk, MNR District Manager

Present:

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Regrets:

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Members Present:

Bill Hoff
 Deanna Hoffman
 Edgar Lavoie
 Ed Hoffman (Chair)
 Gary Selinger
 George Horobec
 Harold Donohue
 Jamie Armstrong
 Remi Moretton
 Louis Garon
 Steve Crawford
 Toni Moroz
 Yvette Metansinine

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Alternates:

Bill Arnott
 Bill Davidson
 Cory Nephin
 Greg Riou
 John Espinola
 Linda Beaulieu
 Harry Kelly
 Kyle Polesky
 Scott Koski
 Tom Hunt
 Jeffrey Cameron, GFMI Planning Forester-Ogoki

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1. Call to order – Hector called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. – introductions were made since there were several new faces around the table.
2. Review of agenda – nothing added or deleted.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – no changes noted – Toni Moroz moved to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Kyle Polesky, meeting minutes approved.
4. Business arising from previous minutes – No business arising from last meeting minutes.
5. Financial report – Evan passed around the financial report and asked everyone to be sure to cash their cheques as quickly as possible to ease in the accounting. He also noted that the new members

be sure and submit for their mileage – forms are available. Toni Moroz moved to approved the financial report, motion seconded by Harry Kelly, financial report approved.

6. Correspondence – We received thank you and well wishes from the following retired members after receiving their retirement gift: Fran Koning, Pero Desporvic, Jason Frechette, Derek Farrer and Jay Lucas. We also received a note from Kimberly in Nipigon about the thank you note we sent for the birdfeeders.
7. New Business –
 - A. Ogoki Update – nothing going on in the Ogoki – see below under Kenogami Update
 - B. Kenogami Update – Steve updated both Ogoki and Kenogami by stating they have one backhoe operator back to work (culvert work). Steve and Deanna remain in the Longlac office and are working on the amendments discussed at our last meeting and finalizing the plan for this year. Steve Duffus (formerly with GCF) has been contracted by GFMI to work for 8 months locally – he will be working primarily on GIS.
 - C. Strategic Direction/Caribou Strategy/LTMD (Planning Team) – Evan gave us a presentation on the Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan and how it affects our forest management planning and the population as a whole. The caribou “line” has moved south and east of the existing line in our area. The mosaics we have been using as the model for cutting in caribou country resemble a natural burn – spreading out over large areas with similar large areas left uncut and growing – ideal conditions for caribou. This method lessens the ideal conditions for moose, deer and the predators that follow them. By clearing out and adjusting the previously cut areas we will likely see increased opportunity for moose and deer (although new seasons for deer have been opened up) in the short term, with the long term affects more positive for caribou. It will also be important for many roads to be decommissioned to re-establish large tracts of undisturbed forest. The full presentation is available from Evan. Harry asked how the numbers of caribou are doing and whether they're monitored. Right now they are in process of collaring and monitoring them for habitat and movement. We need to spread the word that caribou are out there and anyone



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seeing them should contact the MNR.

Given the affect the caribou plan has had on forest management planning, the Kenogami FMP team had to make some adjustments to the plan to make larger cut areas, going back to clean up previously cut areas and rebuild some of the forest that was previously listed as harvested (standing the trees back up) in the computer. Now the inventory is much more accurate. They will now proceed with LTMD development for presentation in July. Evan suggested people with concerns go to Steve or Deanna and express them. Remi felt there hadn't been adequate notice provided to some outfitters and people affected. It's very important for people to get to the open houses, talk with the planning team and make sure any concerns they have are addressed. Kim Groenendyk also noted the importance of the open houses – the entire planning team and support staff are there to assist you.

Deanna's presentation is embedded herein:



LCC presentation
management strategy

- D. Joint Meeting Update: In Edgar's absence Evan noted the meeting date of May 11th in Jellicoe at the Rec Hall. The topic is Mining and Land Reclamation. The proposed agenda is embedded herein which includes a presentation as well as a field trip to see different mining sites. Anyone interested in attending should let Evan know by Friday (May 7th). Right now Greg, Steve, Scott, Edgar, Evan, Toni, George and Deanna will attend.
- E. Minor Items:
- 1). Membership – Evan passed out the new membership list. We have a few new members present this evening – Linda Beaulieu, the alternate for Cottaging, Remi Moretton representing remote tourism and John Espinola, the alternate for Bear Management & Baitfish. Welcome new members. We still have a few vacancies in Tourism, the General Public, GCF and GEDC so if you know anyone interested, please contact Evan. Also, be sure to check out the newly improved GANRAC website at : www.greenstone.ca/ResidentialLife/CommunityOrganizations/GANRACbrMNRAdvisoryCommittee.aspx Sarah Armstrong has been updating and improving the site. It looks great.
 - 2). Evan reminded everyone that hadn't already done so, to turn in the SoFR Questionnaires they received. He has extra ones – please take the time to fill it out and return it to him.
 - 3). Moose Quotas – Guaranteed Group Size – Evan had planned to present these but they are now listed in the newly published Hunting Regulations for 2010 – copies are available.
 - 4). Evan also brought along and distributed the new Geraldton Area fishing regulations pamphlet. Please destroy any older pamphlets as the information about sturgeon is not correct in the older copies. He also noted the previously distributed Bird/Hawk information as well as the pamphlet on how to prevent birds from crashing into your windows.
 - 5). Bat boxes are now available and are being distributed. Two are still left so please take one if you can use it.
 - 6). Adopt An Access – Evan put up a list of the access points that will be coming up for "adoption" as well as sample signs. Anyone interesting in adopting one of the sites please let Evan know. Tom Gross has also had some luck with putting up the "Molly Maid" signs in certain areas too. New signs will be \$45.00 and Ron Miron said he would remove old names from signs and add new ones for nothing.
 - 7). White Nose Syndrome in Bats – Evan passed around a fact sheet about this disease that's been seen in bats. It's not in our area yet, but could be as close at Kapuskasing. It is causing high mortality rates. Let the MNR know if you see any bats with this white "moldy" looking stuff around their nose and on the wings/legs.
 - 8). Evan mentioned there will be some announcements about the restrictions on using baits for deer and moose due to chronic wasting disease issues. More information to come.

- F. Garbage – Kyle said we had previously covered his issues around garbage in our Access Point discussion.
- G. Independent Forest Audit – Hector gave us a presentation on the LCC Participation in the Forest Management Independent Audits. This is done every five years and both the Kenogami and Ogoki are being audited. The lead auditor will likely come and visit the LCC to explain the process and determine how we should ultimately participate in the audit. Anyone interested in should talk to Hector. Likely Edgar will be interested in participating.
- H. Kenogami Dam Access Point – The new trail has now been flagged off the Blueberry road, going around the existing road to the access point. Fire crew and stewardship rangers will be cutting the trail to provide access to the fishing point. We applied for \$5,000 from the GEDC to help cover these costs. There will also be a sign acknowledging the Trappers, GEDC, GANRAC, and OPG for providing the new trail. Councilor Donohue expressed concern that the First Nations be notified of the new trail.

Action: Toni will draft up a letter to OPG asking for them to match our funds and will send it to Evan for review/finalization.

- 8. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2nd – since the Fire Centre will not be available, the group agreed we will meet in Longlac at the Sportsplex again – on the curling club side this time.
- 10. Adjournment – Kyle Polesky moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm.