

Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee  
 Date of Meeting: February 2, 2011  
 Location: Greenstone Fire Centre  
 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) \*  
 Sarah Armstrong, MNR Renewable Energy Planner – Guest \*

**Present:**

**Regrets:**

**Members:**

Bernie Baillargeon \*  
 Deanna Hoffman \*  
 Edgar Lavoie \*  
 Ed Hoffman (Chair) \*  
 Gary Selinger \*  
 George Horobec \*  
 Mary Moylan \*  
 Jamie Armstrong \*  
 Louis Garon \*  
 Remi Moretton \*  
 Steve Crawford \*  
 Toni Moroz \*  
 Yvette Metansinine \*

**Alternates:**

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

- I. Call to order – Evan acted as facilitator in Hector’s absence and called the meeting to order at 5.56pm after dinner.
- II. Review of Agenda – no additions or changes were made.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes – no changes were made or noted. Louis Garon moved to approve the minutes of January 5th, motion seconded by Bill Davidson, minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – all business arising is scheduled for the agenda this evening.

V. Financial Report – Evan passed around the Financial Report to everyone, noting a few outstanding cheques. Please be sure to cash your cheques promptly to keep accounting a bit easier. Steve Crawford moved to approve the Financial Report, Linda Beaulieu seconded the motion – Financial Report approved.

VI. Correspondence – no correspondence

VII. New Business:

- A. Website Tour – After a little technical difficulty, Sarah Armstrong went through GANRAC's website, highlighting the areas and items available on the site. AWS maps, WMU maps, access restrictions, pictures, member information, contact information, stocking lists, minutes of meetings, etc. are all available on the internet. It's a great site and now hopefully we are all familiar with its content.
- B. Contingency Plan Open Houses (the aftermath) – Charlotte reviewed the turn-out at the open houses – for the Contingency Plan. Numbers at the open houses, in all locations (Geraldton, Nakina and Terrace Bay) were higher than any other open house in her recollection. She highlighted the number of written statements/questions were received, noting each would be addressed and responded to. Many comments received were of a general nature and did not require a response. Charlotte & Deanna's presentations are embedded herein:



Kenogami Forest  
Info Centre Results.p



Decommissioning  
Presentation.pdf

Deanna gave us a presentation on the three roads that are scheduled for decommissioning in the 2011 Contingency Plan. They are Jemar, Picarson and Bawk. There was some discussion on each individual plan, but overall they have worked with the trapper affected and worked around a snowmobile trail too. Bernie asked about groups of people being able to form a "committee" and assume responsibility for the roads, taking care of the culverts, etc. The answer was yes, but the committee would also assume liability, along with the crown, for any and all damages/lawsuits. Kim Groenendyk said that a risk assessment would need to be completed. Ron Melhuish asked whether or not provincial dollars were spent for building the roads. The answer was also yes, but for primary and secondary/branch roads only.

Steve Crawford noted that some of the temporary bridges and decommissionings are actually not permanent throughout the next 10 years; only areas where they are seeding will be permanent.

- C. How to access the EBR – Evan gave us an overview of how to access the Environmental Bill Registry (EBR) going from any search engine using "EBR" and from there how to access individual registries (Evan used #011-2303 – habitat protection for woodland caribou). Any submissions or comments are received and reviewed. Kim explained the "workbooks" and what happens with comments grouped together/categorized, are reviewed and responded to.
- D. Ogoki Update – no activity on the Ogoki.
- E. Kenogami Update - Harvesting is ongoing at the same blocks mentioned at the last meeting. Cable, Drowning, Lower Twin, Sexsmith, Carol South, Cyril North (Robertson Rd), Kawakanika and Icicle. We are hauling from the same areas.

The Catlonite and the wintering system are both being used. There is wood coming off the Lake Nipigon Forest, which is being hauled on the Wintering.

Grinding/hauling hardwood for biofibre is going on at Cable, Icicle and Eaton. Also grinding slash and hardwood at the Lower Twin for the biofibre plant in Terrace Bay

The conifer on winter road at Jemar, Watini North and the Singing Rail (cut in 2008) has been opened and will be hauled shortly.

Most leans on conifer are now removed as of last week. We are now opening up areas where the major concentrations of this wood are located (Maun mi 42, Burlap, Mallet, Bawk, Upper Twin North. Some blocks that can be summer hauled will be left till this coming summer. Bill Davidson noted that the parking lot at the Kenogami Dam by-pass road has not been cleared. **Steve will try to look into this.** Bill also noted he'd seen many trucks filled to the top and heaping, with no tarps, **Steve wasn't sure of the regulations on bush roads, but will look into this also.**

- F. Ask a conservation officer – There weren't too many questions for Tom this evening, however, Toni did ask about the regulations concerning **riding a quad along the highway/berm in order to get to a bush road.** Is this permitted (as long as they have a helmet, insurance and registration papers)? There was some discussion, but **Tom said he would check into it and get back with us.**
- G. Minor Items:
- 1). Times Star Ad – with lots of revisions, a final version was shared with the group and all agreed it was good to go. **Mary will check to see if it can be submitted as a news article** (she felt that it probably would).
  - 2). Retirement Gifts – Evan received information for Harry, Paul and Bill's retirement gifts so purchases are now underway. **Remi to approach Travis Shalloch to see if he is truly interested in joining (he says he is coming but doesn't show up), or possibly his wife or someone else from the Fish & Game Club otherwise we will approach the Geraldton Club.**
  - 3). Wetlands Handout – Evan passed around some MNR fact sheet on Wetlands being important. This is a great hand-out – Evan has several other fact sheets on this subject as well. Just let him know if you would like one. This is very good information and is also great to pass around at school. Tom Gross mentioned he uses them when addressing schools, children's groups.
  - 4). Is there caribou here? - Evan put up a presentation on the collared caribou in our area, noting their patterns/movement on a map. They are collecting information on caribou and inventorying what's out there. He talked a little about population indicators. What would a healthy herd consist of – the average number of calves/cow?, etc. The goal is to maintain where they exist now and re-establish them in the area north by the "line". Herds of greater than 300 would be a stable herd, groups less than 300 would be a concern. Much is still unknown about them. Roads allow wolves and predators to move into caribou area that would normally be low density. Caribou use secluded areas for calving (islands & wetlands) and are now being targeted by wolves, much like bears targeting calf moose along river banks. More animals are being collared this winter – there are 5 collared in the Nipigon area.

5). Mary gave us an application to fill out if we want to use the Library at Our Lady of Fatima school as a meeting room. The room is available to us free of charge, but the form does require a signature. No problem with eating, but we should be out before 9pm (cleaning crew). The group agreed to give it a try and **Mary will ask Ed Hoffman (Chair) to sign the form.**

H. Business Cards – Edgar passed around the sample cards but only had 6 photos to use and wondered if we still wanted to proceed. There was some discussion on whether or not the member's name and area of representation would appear on the card. Bill Arnott moved to direct Edgar to use 8 pictures for the business cards, with no personalization. Bernard Baillargeon seconded the motion, all voted to approve. GANRAC with our website address will be printed on the cards. **Toni will forward some additional pictures to Edgar and everyone else was encouraged to do the same before our next meeting. Edgar will come with the proof sheet to our next meeting.**

VIII. Next Meeting – our next meeting will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Fatima Library– start time - 5:30pm.

IX. Linda Beaulieu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Davidson. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.