

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: November 13, 2013

Location: Woodlands Motor Inn, Longlac

Approved Meeting Minutes

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Regrets</u>
Hector Vincent, Facilitator	*	
Evan Armstrong, MNR LCC Liaison	*	
Ben Bartlett, MNR Area Forester (Ogoki)		*
Charlotte Bourdignon, MNR Area Forester, Kenogami		*
Jim Fry, MNR District Manager		*

Guests:

Members:

Gerald Bolduc	*	
Steve Crawford		*
Bernie Baillargeon		*
Edgar Lavoie	*	
Ed Hoffman (Chair)		*
Gary Selinger		*
George Horobec	*	
Ron Melhuish		*
Louis Garon	*	
Remi Moreton		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff	*	
Donna Pelletier		*
Scott Koski		*
Andy Yesno		*

Alternates:

Bill Davidson	*	
Martin Boucher	*	
Erin Symington-Armstrong		*
Ken Stevens		*
Eileen Johnson		*
John Espinola	*	
Linda Beaulieu		*
Jane Jantunen	*	
Perry Barkhouse	*	
Tom Hunt		*
Len McEathron	*	

- I. Call to order –Hector called the meeting to order at 6:10pm after our dinner. As there were no new faces, introductions were not necessary.
- II. Review of Agenda – It was noted that an update from NEEDAK will now appear as a regular agenda item beginning tonight.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– There was a couple of spelling corrections made and Gerald Bolduc's attendance was corrected. George Horobec moved to approve the September minutes, seconded by Toni Moroz – minutes approved.

- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – All business arising from Sept. meeting is on tonight's agenda. Hector requested we place the action items at the end of the minutes for easier reference. Toni will do her best to accommodate this request.
- V. Financial Report – None
- VI. Correspondence – We received a letter from ENL Engineering concerning Landfill Environmental Assessment in the Municipality of Greenstone. Terms of Reference were attached to the letter. Jane explained that the municipal dumps are being reviewed as they are planning to replace them when space runs out with one large, new facility located somewhere in Greenstone (locations yet to be determined). There was some discussion on this issue, but we were reminded to comment based on the information that will be posted in the Geraldton paper. We also received a response from the Deputy Minister concerning the letter we sent regarding the replacement of the CO position in Geraldton. Evan noted we do have a CO (contract) coming in for 5 months to work alongside Ken. He will be starting late November. April 1st is when "Transformation" take effect so hope to see some decisions made for that date as to the long term position. **Evan will scan the letter from ENL Engineering and will send it out to everyone.**
- VII. New Business
- A. Kenogami Update –
- Lecours is looking at upgrades to roads in the Pagwa area to facilitate a spring harvest should their sawmill move to two shifts from the current one shift.
 - MNR has issued an LUP again for many (not all) of the roads on the Kenogami Forest to AVTB. The result of this is a benefit for employees of the LUP holder (AVTB) by not having to meet the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) – oversize loads, duty days/hours, not licensed by MTO – thus allowing the use of coloured fuel).
 - By holding this LUP AVTB will have to do due diligence in ensuring public safety on the roads. Contrary to popular belief the general public will be subject to the HTA. AVTB will be working with the various entities prior to March 31st to determine the appropriate holder of the LUP (i.e., eSFL holder or AV).
 - eSFL discussions are back on track – looks like the structure will be a not for profit corporation (membership agreement). They are still preparing the "membership agreement". There will be a board, an independent GM and a Forest Management Planning Services Company.
 - The district managed to secure some funding to do a basic upgrade to both the West Boyce and Clavet Roads at the extreme east end of the Kenogami. Culverts are being replaced and beavers removed. This measure ensures public use of roads and future forestry use. These are primary access roads.
 - An LUP was issued to AVTB for the roads on the Kenogami. This will allow operators to run oversized loads and coloured fuel. The public still must follow all Ministry of Transport Highway traffic laws. This LUP ensures public use of these roads. There is a safety concern with larger loads but the company is liable. The roads will probably go to the license holder in April (eSFL Board), but it will be up to the board of the eSFL – but AVTB could end up with them anyway.

The MNR is looking at ways to keep the Lukinto Lake Road to Balancing Lake open for public use as they use it to stock Balancing Lake and Margo Lake. Lukinto Lake Road, however, has not been given up by the crown yet.

Someone asked if someone was being paid to remove beavers. It used to be the trappers council taking care of this, but there were too many hassles and it went back to the MNR, so they've authorized "agents" in the area – trappers in good standing- to deal with the nuisance beavers. CN, MTO, Trans Canada, AVTB all coordinated this with the MNR and are paying for it. They encourage the use of the pelts and fur – no waste. Each contractor makes arrangements with the "agents".

Louis Garon received a letter from the fur industry concerning the quality of furs. Poor quality doesn't have any business in the market. CN wants some of their guys to take the trappers course and then they could take care of the issues. They want 5 of their people to take this course this year. Some BMA operators who are also licenced trappers have been given authorization to take care of them to ensure roads aren't getting washed out.

- B. Ogoki FMP Update – There has been no planning team meeting since September. They are hoping to get it done soon, about 95% done – finalizing support documents. Maps are being prepared. Submission will probably be mid to late December. The approval process will take longer too – they won't be able to start, but come April 1st, there will be a delay (maybe 2 months) – starting in June. There will be notices starting mid January and this group will see the final documentation before notices are sent.
- C. Update - NEEDAK – Deanna provided us with an “unofficial” Annual Report for the 2012-2013 seasons. She reviewed the Harvest (4,316 hectares) – only operated 7 months (Sept-Mar) which is only about 10% of the FMP amounts – they were expecting about 40%. She also broke down the utilization. Renewal and Tending - she identified the artificial regeneration, trees planted, mechanical site prep, slash piling, aerial tending and tree improvement. 1,015 km of roads monitored and maintained (811 km of primary, 34 km of branch and 169km of operational roads). 703 km of road was monitored only and 119 km of new operational roads built.

Deanna also went through the compliance issues. There were 29 industry reports and 29 MNR reports. 1 Non-compliance (lack of wildlife trees – warning issued), 5 pending (3 industry, 2 MNR). She also shared the Regeneration Success – over 1100 hectares surveyed (1,052 ha silvicultural success (92%). 85 hectares were not successfully regenerated. She said they are trying to meet today's FMP standards with regeneration standards of 2 plans ago (different standards, forest unit definitions and success measures).

The annual work schedule is underway for 2014/2015. 8.3 million trees are coming and there will be lots of site prep and harvest. Martin asked about the slash burning. We don't do it much now. It's hard to get a good balance and with the new regulations it's hard to get it done properly. Slash Alignment is being done now. They are going to be planting to the edge of the roads as they will be decommissioned anyway at one point. The percentage of success seems better. There are areas in Nakina that you can see that seem very successful.

- D. AVTB Update – see Kenogami Update (A) above.

E Minor Items:

- 1). Pictures of Mining Tour – The tour was on Sept. 16th. Evan put up pictures of the trip and showed the various stages of mining. The field tour included Ed, Eileen, Gerald, Charlotte, Dave Barker, Amy Nephin, George and Evan. Evan showed us pictures of the core samples. Speculation from geologists is that the open pits should be south east of the head frame so it shouldn't affect the town site. According to Len, everything is now on hold and they're scaling back. The head geologist is gone now. Although there were no pictures from ACT labs, it was a very interesting part of the tour.
- 2). eSFL Operations Committee – The operations committee for the Kenogami has been formed. It includes Aroland, Pays Plat, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, Long Lake 58, AZA. Red Rock Indian Band is a member of Nedaak. The contractors are AVTB, Amik Logging, Smoke Signals Fire Wood Inc. (Pays Plat) and Ginoogaming. Wood is going to AVTB, Hornepayne and Columbia Forest Products. **Evan will check with Charlotte to see if we can get a spreadsheet showing the committees and also check on the fate of the Gamsby Bridge.**

- F. Road Access Tourism – Linda Beaulieu requested the group consider her being gone for several months and she will miss a lot of meetings. She has stated she would like to continue with the group but leaves it up to the group decide. Without much conversation we decided to

put Linda down as a “leave of absence” as the Road Access Tourism sector is presented by Toni being the primary representative. Linda can pick up with the group when she returns.

- G. Notification of BMA Operators re: spray and logging – John Espinola has concerns about not being notified about spraying, aerial tending and logging in his BMA. When the Annual Work Schedules are complete they are announced to the public. Letters should go to all BMA operators at the beginning of the FMP process also. When the AWS is announced, BMA operators should find out when/where these things are being done. Last spring the MNR sent out letters about the AWS. More letters are going out in the middle of March. John said he did not get notified (to his knowledge). Also, he was wondering about tree stands in areas that are being logged. Tree stands should be identified during the FMP process as an “area of concern”. They will do all they can to avoid disturbing these stands.
- H. First Nation's Letter – Edgar took a stab at the letter to first nations regarding attendance with GANRAC. Evan then sent it to the “Native Relations” person (Lisa Nyman) in the MNR. The group agreed it should be sent to Matawa since the only group representative by them is AZA and they already have Theresa Nelson in our group. Nedaak will be attending (Deanna) – Joe Gagnon is on the board of Nedaak and is considering being an alternate to Deanna. He is taking up the lead with the committee on the eFSL. He's a good candidate. **Deanna will bring this up at their next board meeting. We will put a hold on the letter until January when we find out what's going on with Joe and Nedaak.**
- I. Compliance – George asked about being notified about compliance/non-compliance issues – like Deanna did in her report – on a monthly basis at the LCC with full disclosure on issues and penalties discussed. The MNR is the only one that has all compliance/non compliance issues as they are separate by company. Bill Davidson says we should refer to them as “issues” and not non-compliances. **Evan will try to bring a list of all “issues” and then the group will decide what we need to see on an ongoing basis. We do hear about all major issues regardless. Bill will give a FOIP/Compliance presentation and the group will decide where we go from here on this issue.**
- J. Transformation of MNR – Evan gave us a presentation of the new structure taking place within the MNR. The key is the District deals with Resource Operations and the Geraldton office will deal with more of the Resource Management and more time in the “field” work and with field-based activities. Dave Barker will be the one supervisor in Geraldton with Phil Couture taking a similar role in Nipigon. The Nipigon Operations Supervisor position has not been filled yet. He is not sure how GANRAC will work in all of this and who will support the group. The Forest Management Planning work will mostly be done in the regions. Evan is also not sure how this affects the OMBTIP. The effective date of all these changes will be in the new fiscal year – April 1st. Hopefully we will get more information as things become ironed out.
- VIII. Next meeting – Our next meeting will be December 11th at the Fire Centre. We need to figure out food arrangements.
- X. Adjournment – Bill Hoff moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Espinola –meeting adjourned.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1). **Evan will scan the letter from ENL Engineering and will send it out to everyone.**
- 2). **Evan will check with Charlotte to see if we can get a spreadsheet showing the committees and also check on the fate of the Gamsby Bridge.**
- 3). **Deanna will bring this up at their next board meeting. We will put a hold on the letter until January when we find out what's going on with Joe and Nedaak.**
- 4). **Evan will try to bring a list of all “issues” and then the group will decide what we need to see on an ongoing basis. We do hear about all major issues regardless. Bill will give the presentation and the group will decide where we go from here on this issue.**
- 5). **Edgar requested a map showing all corridor links and road access from our forest to others.**