

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee
 Date of Meeting: September 4, 2013
 Location: Geraldton Fire Centre
 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		*
<u>Guests:</u>		
<u>Members:</u>		
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		*
<u>Alternates:</u>		
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 6:04pm after our BBQ dinner. As there were no new faces, introductions were not necessary.

- II. Review of Agenda – The LUP for Fort Hope was added to the agenda by George. He also quickly mentioned the Trans Canada Pipeline Open House coming up Sept. 26th – location to be announced, for anyone who may be interested.

- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– Given the minutes were not available prior to this meeting for everyone to review, approval of the June minutes was moved to our next meeting to give everyone a chance to review them.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – The Gerry White field trip is on tonight's agenda. Also the website creation is on tonight's agenda. Toni read aloud the letter written by Steve Crawford, signed by Ed and sent to the Minister of Natural Resources (copying Jim Fry) concerning Tom Gross' replacement.
- V. Financial Report – Evan reviewed the financial report with the group, noting a different balance than the chequing account due to cheques being written but not yet cashed. Toni Moroz moved to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Ed Hoffman – Financial Report approved.
- VI. Correspondence – The only correspondence received was a letter from NEDAC in early July concerning the road relocations and poplar harvest, both which were previously approved as amendments.
- VII. New Business

A. Kenogami Update – AVTB Update – in Scott's absence Charlotte reviewed the following:

Harvesting:

AVTB Licenses –

Operating area: Dome, Cyril, Nephew Lake, Grehan, Twomey, Seagram, Norse Highway 643 (new First Nations contractor) pending

Harvesting Aspen for Columbia in various areas to ship to Hearst

4 Contractor –8 buncher crews running at reduced capacity due to lack of high ground.

AVTB on schedule to complete harvesting all areas allocated in the 2013-2014 AWS.

Roads:

- Continual maintenance to support the hauls.
- Awaiting Transport Canada approval for Lake Nipigon Road Link Bridge prior to installation.
- Potential brushing program to start on the Catlonite.
- Pit compliance inspections under way
- Annual bridge inspections under way before winter on all main haul roads

Haul:

- Healthy bush inventory to ensure a consistent wood delivery into the fall months
- Currently hauling: Dome, Murky, Camp Loon, Gamsby, Grehan, Rayner
- Moving old hog fuel out of Jackfish block.

Mill Inventory:

- 130,000m³ of roundwood/Chips in the mill yard
- Mill running at full capacity and consistent.
- Hog fuel inventory is building before winter months.

Other:

- Signed a contract with a new First Nations contractor that will be starting operations in the coming days.
- Preliminary preparations for the 2014-2015 AWS.

Charlotte also noted they are getting an operations community & opportunities committee together. The first meeting was last week for all first nations with harvest licenses. The next one will be at the end of September. They're taking a look at what's left once we've come to the end of the five year term.

Linda Beaulieu asked if the roads that were noted as being decommissioned have been turned back to the crown. Charlotte noted that until we have a long term SFL license and someone in control, nothing can be done. The SFL is with the crown. No roads have come back to the crown. They are just as they always were. The roads, however, are on crown land. Gary asked Charlotte if she's heard any rumors about sawmills coming back. She said no business plan has been submitted or approved. It's not close.

- B. Ogoki FMP Update – Ben told us he is still going to be taking his new job as Far North Planner, but he needs to finish the Ogoki FMP. Hector is now working with him. July 10th there is a meeting scheduled for the FMP team to review the open house comments and agree on how to proceed.
- C. Draft Plan of Operations, LCC Statement and Report Presentation – The Draft Planned Operations is embedded herein. In addition, Ben noted they changed some harvest allocations to allow for caribou movement and with so much wood available, why not. The use of herbicides has been minimized as much as possible. Gary asked why. Ben stated that the first 5 to 7 years after being planted for is ideal spraying – especially for weeding out the competition. It's a tough line – spraying is the right thing for the forest but not necessarily the best for the general population. Ben said it was refreshing to hear Gary supported spraying where needed.

The 2008-2018 Ogoki FMP Phase II Stage 3 (2013-2018) LCC Statement was put on the overhead and read aloud to the group. Toni Moroz moved to approve the LCC statement as presented; this was seconded by Ed Hoffman. The motion was carried and the statement was approved unanimously.



LCC Report



LCC Statement

- D. AVTB Update – see Kenogami Update (A) above.
- E. Minor Items:
- 1). Mining Tour - Dates that are preferable are Sept. 9th, 11th or 16th or even the 18th. After some discussion the 16th was best and Evan, Hector, Eileen, George, Ed, Gerald, Edgar and Len have stated their interest in attending. **Evan will coordinate.**
 - 2). MNR Transformation – many changes are being made throughout the province in the MNR. Many offices had surplus employees that have been either transitioned or have retired. In Geraldton, there is no surplus due to some retirements. It looks like there could actually be more people in the office. Some folks in Geraldton will report to Nipigon and vice versa. Eileen asked why this was happening. Money - \$40 million dollars has been made available, but they are still short about 50 million. Jane asked how this will affect people in our area. Evan said he can't really say. There are some new positions, but they're also losing some (3 supervisor positions). We may have to deal with people in Nipigon vs. Geraldton for certain things – especially involving land. They are shooting for an April 1st effective date.
 - 3). Broad Scale Monitoring Follow/Up – Evan reviewed the BSM reports for Burrows Lake, Chipman, Kenogamisis, Long Lake, McKay Lake, Onaman Lake, Pagwachuan Lake, Shacabac, Wig, Klotz, Wild Goose and Wintering Lakes. The number of nets in each lake was based on science – they were also set at various depths. The group agreed this was great information and we would like to continue receiving updates.
- F. Modernization of Approvals – Evan reviewed the new electronic approval via the web. The Notice of Possession to keep any dead wild animal. Links are provided for all these approvals. CITIES are not online yet. Rosemary Hartley in Nipigon can help you with completing or

understanding the forms. Once you have reported it online, it's done. Remember to keep a copy for your records.

- G. Membership Review – Evan put up on the screen the annual attendance record as it's very important to make sure each category is represented and not absent more than 3 times per year. There are two categories that have issues – GCF and Trapping. Aaron Dorland is no longer on our committee. Deanna will likely be the replacement, but we are waiting on confirmation of that. Of course, First Nations haven't had a representative at the table in quite some time. There was some discussion on ideas on how to convince them to join our group. Jane suggested we send a letter to Matawa and Ed suggested one to Nedaak also. **Edgar will draft a letter to both and will submit it for review/consideration.** What happens to the LCC when Evan retires in April? Evan isn't sure – I guess we'll have to wait and see.
 - H. Ask a Conversation Officer – Given Tom's retirement, we have no Conservation Officer available for tonight's meeting.
 - I. TransCanada Pipelines – George noted they are having an open house on Sept. 26th. Location to be advised. This concerns the LUP for Fort Hope. With Ben's new job as land use planner for the far north, he can keep us updated on the future agenda topics, etc.
- VIII. Next meeting – Our next meeting will be November 6th at the Woodlands Inn in Longlac with dinner at 5:30pm. Everyone confirmed that the 5:30 start times seems to work well.
- X. Adjournment – Linda Beaulieu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Espinola –meeting adjourned.