

Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: December 11, 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 Moretton		*
Toni Moroz	*	
Bill Hoff	*	
Donna Pelletier		*
Scott Koski	*	

**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 6:00pm after our dinner. As there were no new faces, introductions were not necessary.
- II. Review of Agenda – No changes or additions were made to the agenda.
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes– There was a spelling correction and a name correction on attendees for the mining tour. No other changes were made. Edgar noted an action item was missing – for a map to be produced identifying the roads and links from our forests to others. Toni Moroz moved to approve the minutes with noted changes, seconded by George Horobec – minutes approved.
- IV. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – Evan showed the pictures of the Gamsby Bridge as requested. He noted there could be an issue since now there is no ramp to launch a boat where the public had previously used the area to launch. We agreed to put the First Nation's letter on hold until our September, 2014 meeting as

Deanna reports Joe Gagnon or a representative is willing to sit on our committee – they were just not able to attend tonight’s meeting. This might negate the need for a letter to go to First Nations/Matawa. Bill Davidson is giving a presentation on Forest Operations Compliance Monitoring tonight.

V. Financial Report – Evan put up the overhead of the financial report. It is only reflective of the November 15<sup>th</sup> statement. Funds are getting low. No questions were raised. Evan suggested it is time to submit a GANRAC funding request to MNR. Louis Garon moved to have Evan submit the budget amount for 2014, seconded by Ken Stevens – approved – **Evan will submit**. Toni Moroz moved to accept the Financial Statement as presented, seconded by Scott Koski – Financial Report approved.

VI. Correspondence – None received.

VII. New Business

A. Kenogami Update –

Evan provided the update Charlotte had forwarded.

- The Kenogami eSFL (tenure reform) committee has started reviewing a draft membership agreement.
- To date, the decision has been to create a not-for-profit company that would hold the SFL - thus a membership agreement. If it was a "for profit" company, it would be a shareholders agreement.
- looking at a few different committees dealing with the forest:
  - eSFL tenure reform committee
  - operations committee
  - opportunities committee
- LUP for many (not all) roads on Kenogami has been issued to AVTB.
  - AV is hoping the eSFL company will hold the LUP in the long term
  - AV has purchased signage to erect at main intersections to help inform the public of the risks involved in traveling the roads now.
    - not subject to Hwy traffic act
- AV will have limited road maintenance going on over the two weeks of Christmas (Dec 2 Jan 5) subject to a large dump of snow that will need to get cleared to be able to stay on top of everything
- District is sorting out assets and liabilities/obligations that will be transferred to the new eSFL company:
  - what silviculture is still outstanding and will be done by new company
  - what bridges are on the unit
  - what LUPs need to go to the new company (load aligners)
  - what aggregate permits and who should hold them
    - all TBPI/LLFP permits were transferred to AVTB as a holding place
- MNR is processing a roads funding agreement with AVTB to disperse \$1.8 million in provincial roads funding

Scott noted that they are enforcing that every truck show proof of insurance and that they meet all safety requirements. Someone asked what size or how large are the oversized loads. Scott noted they are just heaped up and heavier and that they are NOT wider. George asked if anyone has heard anything about the sawmill. No, no business plan has been submitted to Scott’s knowledge. The wood has already been allocated and not to the mill – it’s all directed to AVTB. It would be great if the sawmills were operational, but Buchanan still has everything on hold right now. AVTB definitely wants these sawmills operational as it’s much better for them. Charlotte provided us with a map and Scott showed us the road links. (Phillips Lake Road, Pinscher Lake Road, Gamsby, Esker, Anaconda/Painter Lake, Owl Lake and Bambino just below Caramat). There is also an unofficial road (Scalpel) runs to Wild Good Beach Road, but only local traffic uses it, no hauling is being done on that road. **Scott will provide us with a map identifying all road links.**

- B. Ogoki FMP Update – The FMP has been delayed. Draft Planned Operations submission targets for internal review mid January with a 30 day public review period beginning mid February. Assuming there are no issues (issue resolution or requests for independent environmental assessment), this puts plan implementation sometime mid-summer.
- C. Update - NEEDAK – Annual work schedule is well underway – submission target date is December 20<sup>th</sup>.  
16,000 hectares new harvest area  
19,000 hectares brought forward from last year  
8.3 million trees being planted (only 2.3 planted this year)  
8.5 million trees being ordered for 2015  
Back to a regular program  
Amendments – 2 outstanding currently – Veneer recovery, Mabel ORB alteration  
Revisions – 2 – water crossing revisions (Mabel ORB and Blackfly water crossing) both have been submitted to the portal.

Deanna made note of their new office in Longlac: Here's the specifics:

Unit B, Highway 11, Long lake #58 General Store  
P.O. Box 224, Longlac, ON P0T 2A0  
(807)-876-9696

- D. AVTB Update –

Harvesting:

AVTB Licenses –

Operating area: Lillian, Mabel Truax, Grehan, Twomey, Highway 643, Dome, Ogahalla

2 Contractors: 4 buncher crews harvesting and able now to get into harvesting in the swamps.

Roads:

- Continual maintenance to support the hauls.
- Full winter road maintenance program ( sanders and graders)
- Lake Nipigon Road Link Bridge installed.
- First Nations brushing contract on Catlonite, Gamsby and Cable.
- Annual bridge inspections complete on the bridges for this year haul

Haul:

- Growing bush inventory on multiple licenses. Slow haul in November as expected
- Currently hauling: Mabel, Truax, Goldfield, Kass
- Hog moving from Grehan/Twomey.
- Haul will likely be down starting on the December 23 and resuming on January 6<sup>th</sup>
- Road maintenance will be done according to haul and weather during that time.

Mill Inventory:

- 140,000 m3 of round wood/Chips in the mill yard (28 days)
- Hog fuel inventory is building before winter months.

Other:

- Working on a plan with GDC and Amik logging to start a slash alignment program as per license conditions.
- AWS blocks agreed upon by all licensees and submitted to Needak.
- Ski Trail signs on the Crib road were put up summer 2013

Scott passed around pictures and a map showing a road that accesses allocation – Mabel Road. It was brushed and a culvert from way, way long ago (made from some sort of wood) was identified. AV is proposing a plastic culvert to be packed with snow as a quick fix this winter to get in there and cut that wood. Note – the road only assesses the wood – it doesn't go anywhere and it a dead end. It's in a caribou block and so Evan suggested he bring it to our attention and let us decide how to handle the situation. After much discussion about fording, planting, channeling, looking at the map, asking questions, etc. Ed Hoffman moved that once the cut is done, the channel in the creek must be re-established, bermed up for safety, then place ramps down for silviculture to get in there to do their

work, and when that is complete, take the ramps out and re-berm it up again for safety. This was seconded by Louis Garon, with a unanimous vote of approval. AVTB committed to providing Needak with ramps to facilitate Silviculture treatment.

E Minor Items:

- 1). Evan put up a picture of a cougar taking away a dead deer from a bait stand of some sort. Notes attached said it was in Ontario. After review it has been determined the picture was actually taken in Texas. Evan cautioned everyone about the hazards of passing pictures and incorrect information along on the internet.
- 2). Premier Gold – Many rumors have circulating about Premier shutting down. Evan talked with them and found out that all the holes that needed drilled have been drilled. They said they've drilled the equivalent of from Geraldton to Dryden. It looks positive for their financial feasibility study. The corporation will make a decision by the first quarter of 2014, with a project design by the end of March. EA (Environmental Assessments) specialist has been hired and they'll be doing a series of class EAs.

F. FOIP Presentation (Forest Operations Information Program) -

Bill Davidson gave us a presentation on Forest Monitoring and Compliance given he has just taken the classes to become certified as an inspector. He broke down the process of becoming certified as follows. First, there are seven online modules to complete in order. You must pass a short test at the end of each module before being allowed to proceed to the next. Then, there is written/timed, online exam where you must achieve 75% or more to pass. Next, you are encouraged to spend time in the field conducting compliance inspections with an experienced inspector acting as mentor. Finally, candidates attend a three day certification course. The first two days are spent learning the expectations of the course examiners and becoming familiarized with local topography and FMP rules. On day three, there are two examinations which consist of conducting in the field inspections and writing complete FOIP reports. You must achieve 75% on each exam to pass. Fail one or the other and you can re-write at a future date and location. Fail both and you must start the entire process again. There is also ongoing testing/re-certification at regular intervals.

We reviewed the four types of operations – Harvest, Access, Renewal and Maintenance and the "Activities" and "Checklist" questions to be addressed for each of the 4 types of reports. Then, we reviewed the "Issue Management Process" (IMP) to be used when an "Operational Issue" (OI) has been recorded. When no OI is recorded, the report is reviewed for accuracy and consistency, approved and submitted to FOIP as "In Compliance". If there are OI's identified, the report goes through the IMP to determine if the issue can be corrected and the operation kept "In Compliance". If the issue cannot or is not corrected, it is recorded as "Not in Compliance" and a remedy is imposed. The remedy is entered into the FOIP report and the issue closed.

We then reviewed a summary of the inspections/reports conducted on the Kenogami Forest in 2013. There were 39 inspections/reports. Of these, 31 were listed as "In Compliance", 2 were "Not in Compliance" and 6 were "Pending". The 2 reports identified as "Not in Compliance" were reviewed by the group. Our group agreed that a summary will be included in our monthly updates and a more detailed presentation supplied as necessary.

VIII. Next meeting – Our next meeting will be January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Woodlands in Longlac. Toni will arrange for supper.

X. Adjournment – Ed Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Louis Garon –meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1). **Scott will provide us with provide us with a map identifying all road links.**
- 2). **Evan will submit the budget.**