

Nipissing Forest LCC Minutes of Meeting April 17, 2007

In Attendance:

Tim Toeppner	Lorie Reed	Albert Cloet
Dave Minden	John Matthews	Heinz Erb
Dave Payne	Ric Hansel	Pete Foy
Randy Morrison (MNR)	John McNutt	Frank Tagliamonte
Guyline Thauvette (MNR)	Roy Summers	Brennain Lloyd
Mary Lou McKeen (MNR)	Kathy Hansel (recorder)	

Regrets: Andy Straughan

1. 5:34 P.M. CALL TO ORDER; INTRODUCTIONS – Dave Minden

New members: Pete Foy is the alternate member for Lloyd Anderson representing access groups and anglers & hunters. Randy Morrison introduced Dave Payne, the District Manager. He will be attending meetings when possible, and has committed to attending at least 2 LCC meetings per year.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Suggestion - move LCC Affairs lower down on future agendas to accommodate guests who may not stay for entire meeting.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF Thursday March 15, 2007

The minutes were accepted with the following amendments:

- additional wording from Randy re: stream classification presentation by Dave Fluri
- additional details provided by Brennain re: upcoming Northwatch workshops in partnership with Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council

Discussion on absent vs regrets: Absent applies to those who do not give notification that they will not be attending. If alternates are present in place of members, the member is not considered absent. Alternates are not considered absent when the member is present.

In the future, presentation materials can be provided to the recorder electronically for incorporation in the minutes.

4. LCC AFFAIRS / UPDATES / ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM LCC MEMBERS

4.1 LCC Handbook Update – Brennain Lloyd

Some feedback has been provided on the draft version. Another revisions meeting is planned for Thursday. Looking to finalize the handbook in mid-May.

4.2 LCC Communications Committee –

A. Fur Harvesters Report – John Matthews, Roy, Brennain

All of those involved felt it was a good experience. Displayed maps and provided MNR literature as well as the new LCC leaflet. Popular item was an MNR CD on Ontario's forests. Many of the visitors were from Southern Ontario.

B. Powassan Maple Syrup Festival April 28 – Brennain Lloyd

Brennain has enquired as to fees, booth locations (indoor/outdoor) and set up times but has not yet received a response. Ric cautioned that we have to watch out how many things we volunteer for. Roy felt that a table with a backdrop and brochures almost does not need to be “manned”, could be self-serve type, with LCC members dropping by if available.

C. LCC Logo Update – Roy Summers

Roy sent out by e-mail a composite of the child’s drawing superimposed over a map of the forest as a first draft of the logo. He received no feedback.

ACTION: Roy will re-distribute the draft version of the logo.

D. Leaflet Update – Brennain Lloyd

Handouts: Nipissing Forest LCC leaflet, THE FOREST COVER newsletter

An excellent job was done putting together these products. The draft newsletter has been passed on to Amanda Brosseau, MNR District Communications Specialist, to “pretty it up”. It will be produced in black & white for financial reasons. Any comments can be provided, can still do some tweaking. Plan is to have an LCC member group spotlighted on the back of future issues.

4.3 LCC Budget Review – Randy Morrison (Annual Agenda Item)

Up until last year, the LCC had a specific amount of funding to work with. Now, there is no funding earmarked for the LCC. Last fiscal year \$5,300.00 was spent on the LCC; likely a similar amount will be spent this year, but must be cautious with spending. Spending includes meals, travel, field trips, courses, etc. No charges for MNR support, salaries, meeting room. It was noted that as volunteers attending the meetings, the meals are much appreciated.

4.4 LCC Member Biographies – Albert Cloet, Tim Toepfner, Jan Vandermeer (by e-mail)

Albert, Tim and Jan provided background information on their employment and interests, as well as why they are involved in the LCC/why the LCC is important:

- Albert: whatever we do in the forest affects someone, somehow
- Tim: to help educate himself and others in the whole picture, greater cause
- Jan: continue to involve ordinary people in issues important to the North.

Biographies will be provided electronically for inclusion in the LCC handbook.

Members still to present: Ric, John McNutt, Roy, Lloyd, Heinz, Brennain, Guylaine, Randy.

ACTION: The first four should prepare to present at the May meeting, and the remainder at the June meeting.

4.5 Plan Field Trip for May – suggestions?

Suggested trip to McConnell Lake area to see a variety of operations: tree plant, AOCs, different types of harvesting, tree marking, possible road gravelling. Tentative plan: an afternoon trip prior to the regular evening meeting, on either May 14th or 15th.

ACTIONS: Ric and Tim will plan out the field trip itinerary. Members can identify specific types of things they would like to see.

4.6 What’s On Your Mind?

John Matthews: **LCC membership**

- No replacement at this time for Jon Cutter to represent small loggers

- John McNutt advised that NFRM is sending a letter to the District Manager to recommend that Elwyn Behnke fill this vacancy
- No aggregate individual – Frank represents prospectors & mining, is not knowledgeable of aggregates
 - Dave Payne responded that there is a limited number of seats on the LCC but looks for input on best bets for membership

Lorie Reed: IFA report

- Concern that the IFA report is not public, members not able to access the information in the report, yet are dealing with results/recommendations, need to be informed for decision making and implications for the FMP
 - The IFA report will not be public information until it is tabled in the legislature along with the Action Plan; this process could take a year and is beyond the District's control. The same situation exists with the Temagami IFA report. LCC members have been provided with the recommendations and suggestions that pertain to the LCC, and the actions planned in response.

ACTION: Dave Payne, Randy and Guylaine will discuss this outside of the meeting and determine if there will be any change regarding the sharing of IFA report information.

Roy Summers: information/training

- Suggested that the 2004 Annual Report on Forest Management with CD that was distributed at the LCC booth at the fur harvester's convention, would be good for training.

ACTION: Guylaine will order more copies of the report or a newer version if available.

Frank Tagliamonte: LCC function/contribution to FMP

- Questioned role/function of the LCC in regards to the FMP
 - The LCC will contribute to the long-term management direction of the FMP by participating in the Desired Forest & Benefits meeting to be discussed later (5.1).

4.7 Boy Scout Tour – Ric Hansel

Ric will be taking local boy scouts up the McConnell Lake Rd for a fun and educational forestry tour. The school bus will be leaving the MNR office on Saturday May 5th at 9:00 am and returning mid-to-late afternoon, approx 3-3:30 pm. There is room if one or two LCC members would like to participate/educate on the tour. **ACTION: Let Ric know if you are interested.**

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING ITEMS

5.1 Nipissing Forest Long Term Management Direction – “Road Show” report

“Road Show” took place April 16th and 17th for a 1½ day session. Regional MNR staff go on the road to answer questions and provide direction to planning teams in preparation for developing the long-term management direction for the forest. LCC, planning team members and plan advisors were invited. A wide range of topics was discussed, from forest units, wildlife habitat, modelling, and old growth issues, to confirm the work that has been done and direction for where we are going.

Next step is the **Desired Forest and Benefits (DFB) meeting**. Originally planned for May 16th but **changed to May 7th** to accommodate the District Manager's schedule. The purpose is to provide participants an opportunity to identify what they would like to see from their forest. Participants will include LCC members and alternates, planning team members and some key plan advisors. Will be an afternoon session from 1:00 to 5:00, then a supper break and an evening session. Planned format is to have a facilitator, break out into 4 groups to cover four broad topics: forest diversity, social & economic, forest cover, and silviculture. Groups would

rotate to brainstorm on each topic. After supper, group leads will present main points. All ideas will be passed on to the planning team for refinement and to determine achievability. **ACTION: In preparation, participants should be familiar with the current FMP objectives/strategies.**

One concern is whether to invite the general public to attend the DFB meeting. Do need a manageable group size for brainstorming/role playing. Direction from LTMD road show is that it is the District Manager's decision on who to invite. Consensus of the group is that the LCC provides a good representation of the public. It was noted that if any members of the public want to attend, they should be allowed. Another option to solicit public input is by way of a questionnaire and regional staff offered to help with developing the questions.

5.2 Planning Team update – Lorie Reed

There was no regular planning team meeting this month due to the road show meetings. One interesting discussion at the road show was global warming and working towards getting the forest in a condition that is more adaptable to a warmer climate. There is no formal approved direction as to how to get there for this FMP. Fred Pinto mentioned that species at the northern limit of their range genetically might be better able to adapt, so it would be good to retain these species on the forest where they exist.

Suggestion: to invite Melanie Alkins, A/Planning Biologist, to present on the wildlife habitat matrix at a future LCC meeting, geared to our level.

ACTION: Mary Lou will invite Melanie to a future LCC meeting.

6. TRAINING / EDUCATION - OPERATIONS REPORT (SFL)

6.1 NDPEG – Natural Disturbance Pattern Emulation Guide – Ric Hansel

Power Point Presentation: An Introduction to the NDPEG & Compliance – Joe Churcher 2004 Highlights:

Purpose: to have forest management activities mimic what would happen in nature at both the landscape level and stand level. Applies to clearcuts, and final removals in shelterwood areas when the regen is <6 m in height.

Landscape level:

- Look at natural fire patterns in Ontario and pre-fire-suppression data to estimate the natural landscape disturbance pattern
- Compare with current disturbance pattern (recent and planned clearcuts)
- Try to approach the natural → many small and few large disturbances
- NDPEG standards
 - Boreal = 80% of planned clearcuts must be < 260 ha
 - GLSL = 90% of planned clearcuts must be <260 ha
- In the 2004 FMP, clearcut size ranges from 1/2 ha to approx 2000 ha with average size of just over 100 ha

Stand Level:

- Prior to NDPEG, clearcuts were often square/rectangular, straight sides, low diversity, did protect AOCs and left required seed trees and wildlife trees.
- Now leave peninsular patches (uncut areas extending from the perimeter into the clearcut) and insular patches (uncut areas within clearcut) as well as individual trees distributed throughout cut – minimum 25 trees/ha
- Residual patch requirements: must be living trees, minimum 6 m height & .3 stocking, .25 ha minimum patch size. 10% to 36% of the original stand is retained, depending on the species/forest type (relates to how readily it burns). Patches often incorporate AOCs (moose wintering or aquatic feeding areas, nests, etc). Up to 50% of the peripheral edge of peninsular patches may be harvested once the regen in the clearcut has reached a minimum 3 m height and .3 stocking, or 25% may be harvested at the time of the original harvest if a return harvest is not feasible.

Harvesting in the exterior edge of the patch creates a feathering/fingering pattern similar to wildfire.

- The additional minimum 25 trees/ha are also used to meet silvicultural and wildlife requirements – 6 wildlife trees/ha (cavity-nesting trees or mast trees) and 10 veteran or super-canopy trees where required – remaining trees must be >10 cm in diameter, >3 m in height, living or dead. This mimics wildfire leaving burnt standing trees. If residuals blow down, still contribute to downed woody debris. Stubbing of residuals is allowed to reduce likelihood of blow down. Also, individuals are sometimes clumped together for wind firmness.

Operational Details:

- Residual patches have not been shown on the maps prior to operations. They are identified during pre-cut inspections. This allows some operational flexibility in selecting the patches.
- Beginning in 2004, individual trees were marked for retention by the tree markers prior to harvesting. It was found over time and with training/experience, operators now are able to choose the residuals when harvesting.
- Maintaining the minimum 25 trees/ha within clearcut areas is generally not hard to achieve.
- Still able to do mechanical harvesting in these areas.
- Still plant/regenerate these areas as required.

7. COMPLIANCE / INSPECTION REPORTS (MNR / SFL)

- not covered at this meeting, possibly for next meeting

ACTION: check minutes to see if documented the frequency of this agenda item (who?)

8. ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS – POSTINGS OF INTEREST

Handout: Summary of EBR Postings of Interest March 15, 2007 to April 16, 2007 (4)

- Forest Management Guide for Cultural Heritage Values is approved
- Ontario's Forest Biofibre Policy proposal – Brennain will look over this one for discussion later. She suggested we might invite Larry Skinkle to come in and discuss. Note the 120-day comment period.

9. CORRESPONDENCE - none to discuss

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- Agenda: suggestion to move FMP Training above LCC Affairs on the agenda.

- Recognition of long-time members retiring from LCC – Bill Steer, James Anderson, Jon Cutter:
 - Randy will prepare a letter for Dave Payne to sign and a small memento to acknowledge their contribution to the LCC at the June meeting

11. UPCOMING WORKSHOPS / EVENTS / TRAINING (MNR/ALL)

May 7th Desired Forest and Benefits Workshop for the 2009 FMP – invitation to all LCC members and alternates.

May 4th Northwatch Workshop for LCC members on Areas of Concern (Sault Ste. Marie) – flyer distributed at last meeting. Brennain advised that a limited travel subsidy is available for those where the district is not paying costs.

12. NEXT MEETING – to be determined: field trip - Monday May 14 or Tuesday May 15

13. ADJOURNMENT – 8:05 pm