

Nipissing Forest LCC Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2008
5.00 pm, MNR North Bay District Office

Present: Andy Straughan, Silvicultural Contractor
Guylaine Thauvette, Nipissing Area Forester, MNR
Tracey Cain, Public at large
Mary Lou McKeen, Planning & Information Supervisor, MNR
Randy Morrison, Nipissing Area Supervisor, MNR
Brennain Lloyd, Environmental Groups
Tim Toepfner, Public at large
Elwyn Behnke, Independent Logger
Lloyd Anderson, Access Groups, Anglers and Hunters
Ric Hansel, NFRM Operations Forester
Jennifer McCourt, Trails
Doug Billingsley, Cottage Owners
Frank Tagliamonte, Prospectors, Mining & Aggregates
Mel Alkins, MNR
Gail Laird (Recorder)

Regrets: Lorie Reed, Dave Minden, Chris Mayne, John McNutt, Jan Vandermeer, Roy Summers, and Dave Joanisse

Agenda:

1. 5:30 Call to Order/ Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review and Approval of Minutes of LCC meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2008.
4. Forest Management Planning Items
 - 4.1 2009 AOC's – Guylaine Thauvette, Mel Alkins
 - 4.2 FMP Update – Lorie Reed
 - 4.3 FMP Open Houses Review – Ric Hansel
 - 4.4 FMP Open Houses – LCC Comments?
 - 4.5 LCC Self-Evaluation, Importance of next meetings, Info Centres, newspaper ads
5. Wood Waste and Ethanol Production – Roy Summers – 30 minutes
6. Audit Report (distributed April 15, 2008)
7. LCC Affairs (*if time permits*)
 - 7.1 What's On Your Mind? – 10 minutes
8. Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) postings of interest
Brennain Lloyd – 5 minutes
9. Correspondence
10. Other Business
 - 10.1 Report on Regional LCC Meeting in SSM - Elwyn Behnke
 - 10.2 Comments on Phelps Township prescribed burn
11. Upcoming Workshops/ Events /Training
12. Next Meeting
13. Adjournment

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5.35 pm by this evening's chair, Andy Straughan.

2. Approval of Agenda

Additional items were removed/added as follows: none

3. Review and approval of Minutes of April 15, 2008 meeting

The minutes were approved as read.

4. Forest Management Planning Items

2009 AOC's

A handout was distributed by Guylaine generally explaining how/what/when/where and why AOC prescriptions are needed for the FMP's. Please refer to the FMP as they are described on Pages A-54, Section 1.3, 5.1, B-24 Section 4.2, B-76 and B-77 in the FMP Manual and Page 62 of the LCC Handbook.

The phrasing used for CL-1 was questioned with respect to Cottage Lake Association as the criteria for requiring an AOC. This wording will be looked into.

Some new AOC's proposed for the new plan are:

Cultural heritage – landscape values/mining sites/old hunt camps/colonization road/aboriginal grounds as identified by communities

Native value 8 – birch bark collection

Public springs

Cottage Stewardship Lakes

Self-Sustaining Lake Trout

Beaver and mink forage/habitat

Black bear and wolf dens

Deer and moose cover (partly new)

Species at risk

Cemeteries

Snowmobile trails as an AOC was removed.

Mel Alkins spoke briefly about the proposed Wildlife AOC's in the FMP. They are available on the NRFM website, listed under 'Area of Concern Documentation'. The AOC's mentioned were:

LEBI Least bittern/yellow rail

SSLT Self sustaining lake trout

BH Beaver and mink forage/habitat – change of 'donut' around lakes affecting beaver

DW/DWHI(1) Deer wintering area with respect to leaving the conifer core/bedding sites/travel corridors

MTC Moose thermal cover patches

DEN Dens for black bear/wolves

AGI Ginseng

BT Blanding's turtles

EMR Eastern massassauga rattlesnake

WT Wood turtle and spotted turtle

WWV West Virginia white butterfly

FMP Update – Lorie Reed

Lorie was not at this meeting - item was not discussed.

FMP Open Houses Review

Ric Hansel commented on the difficulties arising with the road access to the Restoule area. The best-case scenario is through private land where the current owner has no intention of allowing access at all. (Roy Summers will check history of land.) The main all weather road, Hawthorn Drive, has about 30 homes on it, and the residents are concerned from the safety aspect of having large haul trucks going up and down on a regular basis during the winter. The MTO has advised that work will be done on the single lane bridge in Restoule in late summer, but currently feels the bridge is strong enough to withstand the rigours of the trucks.

The other available access points shown on the maps indicate more problems than solutions. John McNutt will check out the alternate road sites.

No further information is available on Dokis First Nation road works.

FMP Open Houses – LCC Comments

Mary Lou McKeen offered thanks for the excellent participation to all those who attended the Open Houses back in April. The comment period is ongoing and letters are coming in.

4.5 LCC Self Evaluation, Importance of next meeting, Info Centres, Newspaper ads

The plan author and planning team will be presenting the draft FMP at the July 15th LCC meeting.

After this presentation, one of the requirements of the FMPM and the FMP is for a self-evaluation of the Local Citizens Committee's effectiveness in the plan development. It is one of the indicators that contribute to assessment of the sustainability of the FMP (see Management Objective 40 from the LTMD). A handout was distributed with a sample survey summary, a copy of Objective 40, and material from an FMP training session about this indicator. Brennain Lloyd volunteered to set up a questionnaire on 'Survey Monkey', so that members could access and complete the survey online. Action: LCC members to provide any text changes to the survey questions at the next LCC meeting.

Another requirement is for a brief statement from the LCC on its general agreement or disagreement with the draft plan. This statement appears on one of the 'contributors' pages at the beginning of the plan. This will need to be considered after the draft plan has been presented and the LCC has had an opportunity to review the plan.

As well, the FMPM requires the planning team to consult with the LCC on public consultation. The next round of info centres to review the draft FMP will be held in September:

- North Bay, September 13th
- Sturgeon Falls, September 16th
- Restoule, September 17th
- Mattawa September 18th

Samples of Temagami's invitation to the information centres, media advisory, and flyer were distributed. The ads are to appear 30 days before the information centres; the advisory and flyer are for supplementary notice about 14 days before the centres. Temagami LCC members plan to post the flyer on their individual websites and throughout the communities. Comments on the pictures in the flyer were made. These can be posted on Nipissing Forest Resource

Management Inc' s website.

Ric Hansel also noted that a commitment was made to return to Restoule sometime in July or August to inform the seasonal and permanent residents about our evaluations of other access alternatives.

Action: firm up LCC's recommendations for public consultation at the next meeting.

Randy Morrison advised there would be no break for the LCC during the summer months.

5. Wood Waste and Ethanol Production – Roy Summers

Roy Summers did not attend this meeting.

6. Audit Report (distributed April 15, 2008)

Please advise Guylaine if there is any additional information to be reported. An action plan for recommendations will be supplied by Guylaine and Ric.

7. LCC Affairs

7.1 What's On Your Mind?

Not addressed this evening.

8. Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) postings of interest

Brennain Lloyd handed out the posting for April 15 to May 15, making note that the State of the Forest Report is listed and done every 5 years.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10. Other Business

10.1 Elwyn Behnke attended the Regional LCC Meeting in SSM and advised it was very informative. Topics addressed were:

Climate Change – is it happening or just another cycle?

Old Growth Forest – harvesting is better than letting it rot

Licenses are being issued to collect biomass

10.2 Phelp's Township burn was not attended by any of the LCC members.

11. Upcoming Workshops/Events/Training

12. Next Meeting: June 17, 2008

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8.35 pm.