

Nipissing Forest LCC Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2009
5.00 pm, MNR North Bay District Office

Present: Silvicultural Contractors, Andy Straughan
Public at Large, Tracey Cain
Cottage owners, Dave Minden
Naturalists, Lorie Reed
NFRM Operations Forester, Ric Hansel
Sustainable Forest Resource Licensee, John McNutt
Education, Jan Vandermeer
Trails, Jennifer McCourt
Access Groups, Anglers and Hunters, Lloyd Anderson
Local Cultural Heritage Groups, Roy Summers
MNR District Manager, Dave Payne
MNR Nipissing Area Forester, Guylaine Thauvette
MNR Nipissing Area Supervisor, Randy Morrison
MNR Planning & Information Supervisor, Mary Lou McKeen
MNR Forest Habitat Program Leader, Brian Naylor (part)
MNR District Planner, Rick Calhoun (part)
Recorder, Gail Laird
Replacement Recorder, Gerry Van Leeuwen

Regrets: Municipalities; Independent Loggers; Prospectors, Mining Industry, Aggregates;
Environmental Groups; Tourist Industry; Trappers; Wood Workers and Trade Unions

Agenda:

1. 5:30 Call to Order/ Introductions – Andy Straughan (Co Chair)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review and Approval of Minutes of LCC meeting Tuesday, January 20, 2009
4. Forest Management Guide for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Landscapes (Landscape Guide) and the Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (Stand and Site Guide) - Brian Naylor; Forest Habitat Program Leader (30 min.)
5. NFRM's 2009 Annual Work Schedule (*Draft*) – Ric Hansel (15 min.)
6. Changes to the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) – Guylaine Thauvette (30 min.)
7. Regional Director's decision regarding Restoule Reid (5 min.) (SFL/MNR)
8. Proposed amendments to Crown Land use policy that affects McConnell Lakes area – Andy Straughan (10 min.)
9. Correspondence
10. Upcoming workshops/Events/Training – MNR/ALL
11. Next Meeting: March 17, 2009
12. Adjournment

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5.25 pm by this evening's chair, Andy Straughan. Round table introductions were performed.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda item number 8 to be moved to 4.1.

3. Review and approval of Minutes of January 20, 2009 meeting

The minutes from January were approved as written.

Randy Morrison informed the members of the LCC Committee that Gail Laird would be moving out of the city and passing on her job as recorder for the LCC Committee. Gerry Van Leeuwen has volunteered to take over the job and he was introduced. He will take over the minute recording for the March LCC Meeting and this will also be Gail's last meeting.

4. Forest Management Guide for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Landscapes (Landscape Guide) and the Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (Stand and Site Guide) - Brian Naylor

Guylaine Thauvette introduced the speaker Brian Naylor and prior to the presentation handouts were distributed to the members. The guides are being revised to correct old and out of date information, simplify contradictory and confusing terms, and amalgamate current information in a more concise manner. A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to members. Brian was thanked for his presentation.

4.1 Proposed amendments to Crown Land use policy that affects the McConnell Lakes area – Andy Straughan

Rick Calhoun attended the meeting for a short period and read a letter that he had received from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines regarding the McConnell Lakes issue and offering support for the current tourism owner with agreement that there be no further tourism development.

Andy Straughan called a vote: Does the LCC agree with the proposed amendment to consider additional tourism development? There were two (2) yes votes and six (6) no votes.

Dave Minden had been in contact with the local McConnell Lake organizations and offered the following information:

Concerns have been raised by an individual of the McLaren's Bay Cottagers Association, and the Parkman Township Ratepayers Association regarding proposed development of campsites in Parkman Township near Emerald and Troutbait Lakes.

According to them, this development:

- *Does not meet any perceived need*
- *Would increase ATV traffic and increase conflict with truck traffic*
- *Would increase the number of hunters, particularly bear hunters*
- *Would exacerbate an already difficult situation and conflict with other recreational users of the area by the inappropriate use of Opimika Wilderness Camp and Cottages, of bear baiting stations that are in close proximity to popular public use areas*
- *Would further confirm the existing tourist operator as the sole player in this Crown Land area to the exclusion of others*

I feel that there may be good reasons to extend the opportunities for commercial tourism development in the McConnell Lakes area, such as First Nations groups, but that the opportunity for this should not be given to OWCC exclusively, if at all. The present practices of OWCC need to be examined and modified to reduce conflict with other users of the area.

Dave Minden, LCC – Cottagers

Feb. 17, 2009

General discussion continued around bear baiting, traffic difficulties and conflict with recreational users.

5. NFRM's 2009 Annual Work Schedule (Draft) – Ric Hansel

Ric Hansel presented the draft for the AWS. This draft schedule identifies all forest management activities (harvest, renewal, maintenance, protection) for a one-year term from approximately *May 1, 2009* to March 31, 2010 and represents the first year of the 2009-2019 Forest Management Plan. A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to members.

6. Changes to the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) – Guylaine Thauvette

A condensed summary of the changes to the FMPM was presented by Guylaine Thauvette. She reduced the total presentation from 100 slides to 20, and if you would like to have the full version, please let Guylaine know. A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to members.

7. Regional Director's decision regarding Restoule – Lorie Reed

Lorie Reed advised that two meetings were held in early February:

February 4: Tembec met with the Regional Director and members of the Planning Team at the MNR. Tembec advised that agreement with landowners for routes avoiding Hawthorne Drive were close to being completed.

February 5: The Restoule Local Citizens Committee met with the Regional Director and members of the Planning Team in Restoule. The RD advised the RLCC that Tembec had reached agreement *in principle* with a landowner and Hawthorne Drive would be taken out of the Forestry Plan as one of the haul routes. The RLCC still wants seasonal limitations and mitigative measures for hauling through Restoule on Highway 522.

As of this date (February 17) Tembec has still not received an agreement from the landowner.

Mary Lou McKeen advised that when the decisions have been received from the Regional Director, the SFL has 1 to 2 weeks to finalize the plan based on these decisions. The plan is *currently scheduled* to be submitted by February 22 to the MNR and 15 days are generally required for the approval of the plan. Newspaper ads are scheduled to be posted *March 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 for a 30-day public inspection period*. Should that timeframe be delayed, March 10 would be the last date to pull the ads.

Post meeting note: *MNR approval of the plan is anticipated next week. Ads are scheduled to appear in newspapers from March 22 to 26. The 30-day public inspection period will be from March 26 to April 24, 2009. The plan will be available for viewing on a government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans and on the SFL website.*

8. McConnell Lakes topic moved to 4.1 above.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

10. Upcoming Workshops/Events/Training – MNR/ALL

John McNutt thanked the members of the LCC for sending on a condolence card to remember his father. It was most appreciated.

John also advised that the Mattawa Mill would be closed in March. The mill will be disassembled and the logs will be sold.

The EBR Postings of Interest for January 19 to February 17 were passed out to attendees.

Randy Morrison addressed some additional housekeeping items:

Dave Payne, MNR District Manager, was welcomed back and has settled back into his office.

Randy McLaren has moved on to another position at Algonquin Land Claims and will be *responsible for coordinating our input into that process.*

Joel Girard has taken over Randy McLaren's position and is now the Forestry Technician.

There are three 'amigos' that will be assisting with the usual chores that are required for the background work for the LCC Committee.

A 'retirement send off' will also be in the works for Randy Morrison this coming summer as he will be leaving the MNR August 11th.

11. Next Meeting: March 17, 2009

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8.25 pm.