



## Agenda

1. Call to Order - 5:30 P.M. Welcome and introductions of new and returning members.
2. Adoption of the Agenda. (5 minutes)
3. Review and approval of Minutes of June 2009. (10 minutes)
4. Review the corrections to the Terms of Reference. (10 minutes)
5. Forestry responsibility. Guylaine (10 minutes)
6. Report on the Forestry Audit - Andy Straughan (15 minutes)
7. Correspondence. Re: Spray program – Nipissing Forest Management
8. Aerial Spray Project . Guylaine (10 minutes)
9. LCC Regional Workshop Report. Roy, Lorrie, and Elwyn (15 minutes)
10. Operation Report. (SFL) Report update. Ric (15 minutes)
11. Environmental Registry Postings – Brennain (5 Minutes)
12. LCC members update- open forum.
13. Upcoming Workshops/ Events
14. Next Meeting- date to be discussed. Chair – Andy Straughan
15. Adjournment.

### 1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Tracey Cain called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm welcoming returning members as well as new members Johnny Matthews and Heinz Erb representing the trappers/baitfish interests on our committee. Acting Area Supervisor Phil Hall also introduced himself to the group and he will be with us until December. Welcome everyone.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted above.

### 3. Review and Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2009 LCC Meeting

The Minutes of the June 16/09 meeting were approved as circulated.

### 4. Review the Corrections to the Terms of Reference – Guylaine Thauvette

Guylaine Thauvette announced that the changes requested to the meeting dates portion of the Terms of Reference have now been incorporated into the document in the wording provided by Dave Minden at our previous meetings. It was also decided by the group that Appendix 4, being the production schedule of the LCC for the 2009-2019 Nipissing Forest Management Plan, be left as part of the Terms of Reference document, even though the LCC has now completed all those outlined responsibilities.

### 5. Forestry Responsibility (MNR and MNDMF) - Guylaine Thauvette

Guylaine explained that the recent government announcement concerning forestry responsibilities moving to the renamed Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry (MNDMF) was a government realignment decision. The government felt that MNDMF could do more to promote forest companies and products and provide the needed money and marketing tools to help them in this economic environment. Many of MNR's forestry "industry relations" staff will now report to directly to MNDMF, while physically

remaining within their MNR office locations. Staff assigned to actual forest management duties (foresters and technical staff) in local district offices like North Bay, will continue to remain MNR employees for the foreseeable future. Guylaine provided a handout she had downloaded from the MNDMF website explaining the duties of the two Ministries now sharing forestry responsibilities. You can view an electronic copy of the handout at, [www.mndm.gov.on.ca/forestry/min\\_message\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/forestry/min_message_e.asp)

Brennain Lloyd voiced her concern on how this realignment of forestry responsibilities might impact on the Ontario Forest Tenure paper which currently discusses proposed changes in the forest industry including whether or not Forest Management Unit sizes need to change. Her concern is that MNDMF may become a reviewer of Forest Management Plans in the future while not having the professional field staff available to do so objectively. Open houses are being scheduled by MNDMF in Huntsville, Pembroke, SSMarie and in Timmins wherein they are attempting to explain their role in forestry. Brennain is to send Gerry VL a link to these open houses.

*Note: the link to this topic, "Modernizing Forest Tenure and Pricing" can be found at [www.foresttenure.mndmf.gov.on.ca/English/Default.asp](http://www.foresttenure.mndmf.gov.on.ca/English/Default.asp)*

*Open houses for SSMarie and Timmins have passed while they are still planned for Huntsville on Oct. 13 and Pembroke on Oct. 14.*

#### **6. Report on the Forestry Audit - Andy Straughan**

Andy reported that he'd attended the two days of the forestry audit of Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. (NFRM Inc.) on August 27-28/09. (LCC members had been notified of the audit and invited to participate in it). The audit is necessary for Nipissing Forest to maintain their Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) which benefits both the forest's sustainability while assisting member companies in gaining access to markets that will only deal with certified forest operations. Nipissing Forest has had valid certification for the past six years and a major independent audit like this is conducted about every five years. Last year was a more in-depth audit. FSC Certified forests also receive a yearly "surveillance audit." The two auditors *were* a forestry professor from Cal-Tech, California and a forestry specialist from KBM in Thunder Bay who reviewed on the ground operations as well as office records. Sustainable Forest Licence holder (NFRM staff) and industry staff were also present.

Andy outlined the various locations visited and the comments of the auditors at each site. Items checked for where the use of proper tree marking prescriptions to help protect certain areas, inspections for excessive machine rutting damage, damage done by harvesting operations to residual trees meant to be left standing and growing, use of proper culvert sizing on logging roads to protect watersheds, planting prescription reviews for the sites visited...i.e. have we planted the right tree species to regenerate the site effectively..... A number of minor concerns were discussed in the audit but no major

corrective actions were being recommended. Andy felt that the outcome of this audit should help NFRM Inc. retain their certification.

7. **Correspondence. Re: Spray program** – Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. LCC was notified of this summer's spray program by letter from NFRM Inc. A copy of the notice has been filed with these Minutes with the Recorder.
  
8. **Aerial Herbicide Spray Project** - Guylaine Thauvette  
Guylaine outlined the rationale for tending forests with occasional herbicide spray programs...i.e. knocking back competing vegetation to give preferred tree species a growth advantage. This was the first time in about four years that North Bay District had an aerial spray program and the process involved the placing of public notices in the local newspapers both 30 days and 7 days before actual spraying began. (Copy of the notice has been filed with these Minutes). In addition, all identified landowners or users within a mile of the proposed spray areas were also individually notified by a direct mail out 30 days before the spraying dates. When the spraying got underway, aerial reconnaissance took place over the proposed spray zone to ensure that no people were traveling in the area and then the roads were blocked off to help keep people out of those zones. There was widespread public notification. There were groups of people upset with the spraying proposal. Despite the complaints, the program went well with very little negative public feed back. Guylaine stated that MNR needs to do a better job of explaining why spray programs are used in forestry operations to ensure better communications and understanding from the public.

Discussion – Dave Minden Asked what effect herbicide spraying had on wildlife. Guylaine replied that spraying operations affect vegetation, therefore wildlife habitat, but she does not know how the herbicide itself affects wildlife. A biologist could attend a meeting to better answer this question. Brennain commented that biologists, such as Brian Naylor, speak to the changes in vegetation and not the effects of the herbicide. No one has addressed that specific question. (Guylaine T.)

9. **LCC Regional Workshop Report** - Roy Summers, Lorie Reed, and Elwyn Behnke  
Lorie reported on a field trip concerning the on going greening of the Sudbury mining lands. Areas are treated in a two step process with lime applied to the rocky areas in the first year and a planting of five types of grass seed and two types of clover seed which begin to form soils. Young pine seedlings are planted in the new soils in the second year and other vegetation like alder, birch and poplar begin to seed in naturally afterwards. It's very labour intensive but is having remarkable success.

Elwyn stated he'd attended sessions on Forest Certification and Species at Risk.

Roy reported that the "Evolution of Forest Management" presentation did not have a lot of answers concerning the new role of MNDMF in forestry and that Guylaine's earlier presentation tonight gave far more clarity on what was coming.

Lorie gave a report at the workshop on the Nipissing LCC and found that we are in really good shape compared to most other LCCs, in that we have almost all interest groups represented and attending meetings and that conflicts are worked on calmly without major rifts occurring among members. He stated that some LCCs cover very large areas and that travel is a concern for some to attend meetings regularly. Funding is an issue for some other LCCs as well. (Handout of Northeast LCC Membership comparison was filed with the Recorder).

The workshop overview was that this had been an excellent workshop providing interesting presentations and much appreciated networking opportunities with members from other LCCs. Unfortunately there were a lot of "no shows" to the workshop with organizers having planned for 75 confirmed attendees and only having 40 show up. Of the 40 folks present, only 23 were from LCCs while the rest were MNR staff. The non-attendees still cost MNR a lot of money as meals were ordered and prepaid.

**10. Operations Report. (SFL) Report update - Ric Hansel**

Ric reported that there has been an overall reduction in harvesting of the Nipissing Forest with the current economic downturn. The Nipissing forest covers 1 million hectares of area upon which some ten operators are currently conducting various harvesting activities. Ric posted a map to show the location of each operation, named the operator, what was being harvested and where the wood was going. Currently forestry operators including Fryer, Dokis First Nation, Richard Gray and Nipissing First Nation are not harvesting. Ric then showed a number of slides featuring a hog fuel operation that involved harvesting maple and other species in tree length fashion and chipping it at the log landing. Chips are then hauled to the Tembec mill in Timiskaming and used as fuel for heat and supplementary power in those operations.

**11. Environmental Registry Postings – Brennain Lloyd  
(Attachment 1 – EBR Postings)**

Brennain passed out a handout covering relevant EBR postings from June 15-Sept 15/09 (over the period of our summer recess) and she took the time to outline what each posting was about. She believes that the most significant posting in this batch is the one dealing with the Five Year Environmental Assessment Report.

**12. LCC Members Update- open forum**

No comments/concerns

**13. Upcoming Workshops/ Events**

Algonquin section of the CIF is having their annual "fall leaf peeper tour" in North Bay area on the weekend of Sept. 26th which coincides with the last day of National Forestry Week. Tour stops are forest management related....geared towards general public.

Otter Lake Fall Colours Walk . The North Bay Hunters and Anglers will be holding a guided walk on the trails at Otter Lake on Sat. Sept. 26 starting at 1pm . The walk will start at

the Otter Lake sign at the southern access road off of Widdifield Stn. Rd. For more information check out [www.venturenorth.com/otterlake](http://www.venturenorth.com/otterlake)

Harnessing Biomass: From the Forest to the Marketplace. A Practical Conference on Commercializing Biomass. October 22 - 23, 2009 at Nipissing University. Cost \$100.  
[www.biomassinvention.ca](http://www.biomassinvention.ca)

**14. Next Meeting – Date to be Discussed – Chair – Andy Straughan**

Andy asked if the LCC should continue meeting monthly now that the Nipissing Forest Management Plan is operational. The group felt that a few months could perhaps be skipped but that an October field trip should still be organized while the weather allowed us to do so. The field trip would begin at 1:00 p.m. on Tues. October 20.

A list of other topics was put together by the group to indicate what other resources we might bring into our future meetings. This included the Class Environmental Assessment Review, Forest Stand and Site guide details from Bryon Naylor, Forest Insect and Disease update from the local field specialist, Frank Tagliamonte's mining presentation and a number of other topics, like a tour of the Tembec Mill at Timiskaming.

**15. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.