

**Nipissing Forest Local Citizens Committee Meeting**  
**Location: M.N.R. Boardroom**  
**Date: April 20, 2010**

INTEREST	Primary Member	P/A	Alternate Member	P/A	Others Present
Access groups, Anglers/Hunters	Lloyd Anderson	P	Peter Foy	A	<p><b>MNR Staff:</b> Randy McLaren Robin Hill Guylaine Thauvette Dave Nesbitt</p> <p><b>SFL: Support Resources</b> Ric Hansel – support resources NFRM</p> <p><b>Guests:</b></p> <p><b>Observer:</b></p> <p><b>Recorder:</b> Gerry Van Leeuwen</p> <p><b>c.c.</b> Peter Street, NFRM Inc. Dave Payne, MNR</p>
Cottagers	Dave Minden	P	VACANT	N/A	
District Aboriginal Working Group	Dave Joannis	A	Clayton Dokis	A	
Education	Jan Vandermeer	A	VACANT	N/A	
Environmental Groups	Jan Vandermeer	N/A	Brennain Lloyd	A	
Independent Loggers	Elwyn Behnke	A	Blayne Behnke	A	
Local Cultural Heritage Groups	Roy Summers	A	VACANT	N/A	
Municipalities, Chmbrs of Comm, Econ. Development	Chris Mayne	A	Sarah Campbell	A	
Naturalists	Lorie Reed	P	Roy Summers	A	
Prospectors, Mining/Aggregates	Frank Tagliamonte	P	Mike Roxborough	A	
Public at Large	Tracey Cain	P	Tim Toepfner	A	
Silvicultural Contractors	Andy Straughan	P	VACANT	N/A	
Sustainable Forest Licensee – Nipissing Forest R. Mgmt. Inc.	John McNutt	P	Peter Street	A	
Tourist Industry	Johnny Matthews	A	VACANT	N/A	
Trails	Jennifer McCourt	P	Tracey Cain	P	
Trappers & Baitfish	Heinz Erb	A	Johnny Matthews	A	
Wood Workers/Trade Unions	VACANT	N/A	VACANT	N/A	

## **AGENDA**

- 1.** Call to order 5:30 p.m. - Chair: Tracey Cain.
- 2.** Approval of the agenda. (5 min.)
- 3.** Review and approval of the minutes of Jan. 19, 2010. (10 Min.)
- 4.** FRI Imagery. Presented by Dave Nesbitt or Murray Woods (30 min.)
- 5.** Update on Forest Compliance - Robin Hill (30 min.)
- 6.** Ontario Crown Timber Charges (Stumpage). Guylaine (30 min.)
- 7.** State of Forest Report- Questionnaire for LCC members (15 min.)
- 8.** Environmental Bill of Rights. Brennain (10 min)
- 9.** Discussion - concerning field trip possibilities for May. (15 min.)
- 10.** LCC – What is on your Mind? (10 min.)
- 11.** Next meeting – June 15, 2010.
- 12.** ADJOURNMENT.

### **1. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Tracey Cain called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. introducing guest speaker Dave Nesbitt from MNR's Southern Science and Information Unit. Acting MNR area supervisor Randy McLaren was also introduced upon his arrival.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

### **3. Review and Approval of the Jan. 19, 2010 Minutes**

No amendments were requested to the DRAFT version of the Jan.19<sup>th</sup> Minutes so those previously circulated minutes will now become our Final version.

### **4. FRI Imagery - Dave Nesbitt**

Dave Nesbitt from MNR's Southern Sciences and Information Unit brought LCC up to date on the current Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) project being conducted to update our data base of Ontario forests situated within the Canadian Shield. We adjourned to the lower boardroom for a "hands on" demonstration of the new aerial photographic coverage being produced in this effort. The new way of taking the aerial photos allows them to be digitized images and loaded into computers where, by the use of special glasses, users can view these photos in 3D format right on the screen. This should help photo interpreters update the FRI data base to give the most current information on forest stand composition (species) and the area of each stand (hectares). The new inventory will allow for more accurate mapping of these stands as well as allow interpreters to obtain average tree height calculations which can assist in aging the stands when ground-truthed with survey techniques such as using increment borers to determine representative tree ages. The updated FRI will make it easier for MNR and the forest industry to plan future forest management operations.

**5. Update on Forest Compliance - Robin Hill (MNR)**  
(Attachment #1 – Compliance Update April 20, 2010)

Robin gave an update on Forest Compliance Issues within Nipissing Forest for the past operating year.

The main underlying message was that the current global recession and the high value Canadian dollar was at the heart of a reduction in forest operations overall. We saw mill closures, reduced work shifts, and less demand for wood products in the market place. This reduced the amount of forest harvest operations conducted in the Nipissing Forest and has seen a complimentary reduction in the number of forest compliance audits being conducted by both MNR and industry. The past year saw a reduction of 52% in the number of inspections completed.

Inspection reports are entered into an electronic data base called Forest Operations Information Program (F.O.I.P.). There were 78 such reports entered into the system for the 2009 operating year with only 9 of those reports reflecting issues of non-compliance. (11.5% of reports). The main non-compliance issues involved infractions within Areas of Concern (AOCs), problems with Bills of Lading used to truck wood to the mills, and road construction infractions related to road building and maintenance issues. More examples of infractions are listed in the attached handout to these minutes. MNR and Nipissing Forest Resources Mgmt. Inc. (the Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) holder) have been using a joint protocol to more quickly address such issues of non-compliance resulting in quicker resolution and better communication between the parties. Improvements have also been made to make it easier for overlapping licencees to obtain approvals for harvesting and authorizations to haul in the hope of streamlining the paperwork and reducing non-compliance issues related to these activities.

The 2009 and 2008 non-compliance rates were virtually the same.

In February 2010, MNR conducted training to introduce recent changes to the Forest Compliance Handbook that will be used for the 2010-2011 operating season. Compliance inspections planned for this year will continue to ensure that AOC prescriptions are followed and Bills of Lading are used correctly. MNR and the SFL holder will also be conducting more tree marking audits to enhance consistency while providing an opportunity for additional on-site training. Inspections will also focus on ensuring that Fire Plans in the annual work schedule are being adhered to and ensuring that the prescribed fire fighting equipment is on hand and in serviceable condition at operation sites during the Fire Season. (April 1- Oct.31)

Forest compliance activities will therefore continue to look at all aspects of forest operations to ensure compliance with the Forest Management Plan and the Annual Work Schedules as well as the conditions of the Forest Resource Licences.

Things seem to be improving for the current operating year (2010-2011) as the economy slowly shows signs of recovery.

**6. Ontario Crown Timber Charges (Stumpage) - Guylaine Thauvette**  
(Attachment #2 – Stumpage Presentation)

Guylaine gave a presentation on the origin of "stumpage" and how and why the Crown continues to collect a fee for wood (=Crown timber charges) harvested on Crown lands under licence. Stumpage rates for wood vary by species and by the type of product. (Ex. pulp vs. saw log vs. veneer quality wood all have different stumpage fees associated with them). The fees are charged based on the number of cubic metres of wood harvested and the fees change monthly based on market conditions.

Scaling (measuring) is the technique used to determine the amount of merchantable wood volume actually harvested and may be accomplished by "stick scaling" requiring a government certified scaler to actually measure the wood at the harvesting site (log landing) or at the mill site if approval is granted to move the wood first.

Under approval, scaling can also be accomplished at the mill site by passing the haul truck over a weigh scale and converting the wood fibre weight into cubic metres of wood volume, to allow billing based on the Crown Timber Charges matrix.

Scaling also involves the process of sampling the harvested wood to determine how much is not merchantable (cull due to rot or other factors), and this percentage is removed from the total volume estimate before billing takes place.

Container agreements allow certain wood types like fuel wood, to be assigned a cubic metre volume based on the container type (ex. double axle dump truck= x cubic metres) without the actual need to scale it by a stick scale or by weight. Such agreements streamline the billing process for low value wood fibre.

The stumpage matrix charts were demonstrated at the following website;  
<http://www.web2.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/forests/businessweb/stumpage/home.htm>

Monies generated from the collection of Crown timber charges are directed into three different accounts;

1. – Consolidated Revenue Fund - which is the general provincial revenue account and receives a portion of the "stumpage" money collected to help offset provincial government operating costs and initiatives not necessarily related to forestry. (ex. Health, education, social services....).
2. – Forest Renewal Fund – specifically ear-marked funds for forestry which are accessible to MNR and the forest industry to manage and conduct specific forest renewal operations on **harvested** crown lands.
3. – Forestry Futures Fund – also specifically ear-marked for forestry and accessible to MNR and industry for funding **other than** normal forest harvest renewal operations. This fund is used to fund forest renewal of areas affected by natural disturbances such

as fire, insect and disease losses and blow down. It can also provide funding for intensive forest management activities (ex. Red pine thinning or yellow birch stand improvement) and for funding the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) update process. (ex. item #4 above –FRI Imagery)

**7. State of Forest Report- Questionnaire** for LCC members

LCC members present were asked to fill out this questionnaire so that responses could be reflected in the annual provincial State of the Forest Report. Members could also choose to complete the questionnaire at home and FAX it to Guylaine's attention at 475-5500.

Guylaine will forward copies of the questionnaire to absent LCC members by mail and have Lynn Leavens do follow up calls to gain as many responses before the April 30 deadline for completion.

**8. Environmental Bill of Rights – Brennain**

No update presented as Brennain was unavailable for today's meeting.

**9. Discussion** - concerning field trip possibilities for May

A number of options were suggested including Mitchell Lake operations, Sturgeon Falls tree planting site, logging at McConnell Road etc. It was decided that we would observe activities at the west end of Nipissing Forest this time and that a mill tour might be possible at the Goulard Lumber mill site. Andy, Ric and John will discuss the itinerary. Field trip date and time discussed and moved to Monday May 10, 2010 from 10:00 am till 5 pm, to accommodate most members' needs. Recorder to send a quick heads up to LCC members about this date change for the field trip as it is less than three weeks away.

**10. LCC – What is on your Mind**

Amendment Proposal update re: Sinton Creek Branch Road – Ric Hansel

MNR originally had concerns because the new branch road would be partially within a canoe route AOC. A map produced from the Google Earth website was used to help show that the rough and wet terrain were limiting factors on where the proposed branch road could be built. The proposal was sent to MNR and accepted for the amendment process. MNR will now advertise to provide public notification of the proposed amendment and the local District Manager will determine what category the amendment should fall into. Ric believes this will likely fall into the Minor amendment category per the LCC recommendation based on a vote conducted on this item at our January 19, 2010 meeting. The public notice will allow for a 15 day review and comment period. The District Manager can then decide to approve the amendment, place it in the Annual Work Schedule and amend the licence to allow the road to be built.

The public notice should appear in the newspapers in a few weeks to begin the public input process.

Modern Mining – member Frank Tagliamonte read some excerpts from a June 2008 issue of the Ottawa Sun newspaper defining the DeBeers Victor Diamond Mine near Attawapiskat Ontario as a “Jewel in the Wilderness,” in which the local First Nations and the environment will be principle benefactors. Mining is another resource based activity that continues to help support the Ontario economy.

Discovery Routes Trails – Jennifer McCourt presented members present with the new version of the Discovery Routes Trails map. She also announced a special meeting/workshop taking place at the District of North Bay Museum on the evening of May 8, 2010 with guest speaker Gil Panalosa, an active advocate for the development of walking and cycling trails.

ATV Trails – Lloyd Anderson asked if MNR was doing anything about the trail damage being done by ATV riders across the province. He specifically spoke of a badly damaged trail north of Tomiko Lake. Acting MNR supervisor Randy McLaren stated that not much could be done about the issue under the current legislation available short of closing trails to all users. He acknowledged that ATVs are a problem especially where they encounter wet areas on trails.

Fish and Wildlife Division – Dave Minden asked what had happened to the MNR’s fish and wildlife division. Guylaine presented an MNR organizational realignment table dated April 1, 2010 to help explain some of the recent changes.

**11. Next meeting** – June 15, 2010

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be at the MNR office on Tuesday June 15, 2010. Our LCC co-chair elections will take place at that meeting.

**12. Adjournment**

Co-chair Tracey Cain adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.