

LOCAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE MEETING
Sault Ste. Marie District
Monday, June 9, 2008 - 5:30 p.m.
SSM REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mike Thompson, Chairman, called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 5:31 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made for the benefit of Hal McGonigal, the new General Public representative.

Bob Johnston, Sault Ste. Marie District Manager, introduced himself to the committee and outlined his past jobs which included involvement with the LCC in Chapleau. Bob stated that he recognizes that LCC members are volunteers and that their input is critical in dealing with issues. He thanked all the members for their commitment and dedication and looks forward to working with the LCC.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Thompson, seconded by Paul Foisy. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2008 MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lester Hopkins, seconded by Bill Vanderburg. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2008 MEETING

1. Gary was to seek clarification from MNR Lands staff concerning trails. This will be put over to the next meeting.
2. Tim Reece stated that Clergue has revamped the Compliance Report to show only the MRS (Montreal River South) portion of the forest and to also put the report in layman's terms per the LCC request. This report will be reviewed at tonight's meeting.
3. Jeff and Brian provided Ron with a proposed list of candidates for the selection of the Tourism rep.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mike Thompson, Donna Ryckman-Rooney and Allen Prodan received a copy of a letter from Bob Johnston to Dr. David Euler.
2. LCC members received an email from Ron regarding the appointment of Hal McGonigal to the LCC.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. *Current FMP Update -Clergue*

Midway Lumber has started operations in the Bass Lake Block this week with some road work and cleaning up some areas from last winter's harvest operations.

Mike Thompson stated that Boniferro operations include Dumas staking up in Block 6305 (Christina South) and Henson doing cleanup in Block 7400 (Hargraft). He is also doing some minor road repair in the Christina Mine area. Henson is also actively hauling wood harvested last winter from Block 6304 (Christina West).

St. Marys has Henson starting up in Block 7201 (East Brock Lake) and starting some bio-fiber operations on the Hult Road in late June/early July.

Tim Reece handed out a copy of the final 07/08 Compliance Report using the new format to the members present. It contained the details and status of 5 issues identified during the last year. Everyone was in support of the new format

2. *FMP Planning Update - Nathan Mudge*

Nathan advised that there was a planning team meeting last week and that the team is currently running two months behind schedule. They had built in a three month buffer.

Jason McLellan (MNR Forest Intern) handed out copies of the comment summaries from the Desired Forest and Benefits meeting held in early May. Nathan explained how the summaries were compiled and how there were linked to the management objectives. In some cases the objectives were revised in order to address the comments.

Members should send any concerns on the summaries to Gary Raines. The planning team still needs to review this package with the Wawa LCC on June 17, 2008.

The public that provided comments will receive a response over the summer.

Mike Thompson addressed the matter of Dr. David Euler's missed invitation to the Desired Forest and Benefits meeting.

Bob Johnston stated that it was unfortunate that this happened and he did talk to Dr. Euler over the phone and offered other mechanisms for his comments. Dr. Euler was not satisfied with the offer.

Allen Prodan commented that Dr. Euler's first letter went to the planning team and the LCC assumed that he would be contacted. Tim Reece identified that the MNR Regional Office was to respond to Dr. Euler's letter as all of the 2010 planning teams had received an identical letter. Mike Thompson talked to him stating that the LCC is not responsible to respond back to letters addressed to the planning team.

Members brought forward other comments on the Desired Forest Benefits meeting which included: the process seemed rushed and there was very little time to record their comments, the room was noisy and crowded, it should be held in more than one room, the session should be longer and the LCC should have been more involved with the planning of the session. Other members felt that the region should be providing more advice to the planning team.

3. LCC FMP Update - Jeff Hinich

Jeff was unable to attend the last FMP meeting. Jeff made a motion to invite Dr. Euler to the August LCC meeting in order present his concerns for songbirds in the FMP. The motion seconded by Bill Vanderburg and carried by all members present.

ACTION: Mike Thompson to contact Dr. Euler and invite him to the August meeting.

4. All Sector Reports - All

Lester Hopkins reported that the Ontario Fur Managers (OFM) has signed another 5 year agreement with MNR to continue with their business relationship with respect to fur management in Ontario.

Hal McGonigal, General Public rep, introduced himself to the committee and provided some of his background and outlined his current activities.

Jeff Hinich stated that the Chamber of Commerce is proceeding with the survey of Crown land users.

5. LCC Budget - Ron Reffle

Ron stated that he does not have an allocation of funds for this year's committee but expects that it will be the same as last year.

8. New Business

- a. Mike Thompson suggested that the award funds for this year's Jim Miller LCC awards at Sault College be revised from 3 awards at \$100.00 each to one award for \$500.00. This past year there were over 200 students that received awards and the ceremony took about 5 hours. The average award is over \$500.00. Members present support Mike's proposal.
ACTION: Mike to contact Sault College to confirm our intent to continue with the program and to change the amount and selection criteria.
- b. Mike advised the members of his involvement in the Moose Program Review including the tag allocation system. Mike was asked to attend a meeting on June 3rd in order to bring the information back to the LCC and have LCC members disperse the information to their respective sectors. Mike has sent two notes to all members with the information on this review. The deadline for public input is June 30th.
- c. Jeff Hinich received a letter from MNR Main Office concerning the project to streamline the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM). Jeff noted that there was no mention of requesting LCC assistance in the project.

ACTION: Bob Johnston will check with Main Office on LCC assistance requirements.

- d. Ron reported that the LCC Regional Workshop was a success although the attendance was low. Donna Ryckman-Rooney and Mike Thompson were recognized for their excellent work in organizing and facilitating the workshop. Donna reported that she has completed the summary of the evaluation comments and we need to finalize the binder to send to all participants. The evaluation gave high marks to all the speakers. The lack of attendance seemed to be due to financial issues at the District offices. Eric Doidge, Regional Director, made a commitment to review the financial concerns.
- e. Tim Reece noted to LCC members that Michel Blais, an individual who has received recent Sault Star newspaper coverage, is offering field tours in the Searchmont area to view "the devastation on Crown forests". The tours, June 21st and 22nd, 2008, begin at 9:00 a.m. from the Searchmont Community Centre. Clergue Forest Management staff plan to participate both days as observers.
- f. Nathan Mudge was recognized by the committee for his participation in the Boston Marathon. Nathan completed the race in less than three hours. An outstanding achievement.
- g. The July meeting will be replaced with a field trip on the 14th. The group will leave the District Office at 4:00pm and spend about 2 hours in the Searchmont area. Box dinners will be provided. MNR will deal with the logistics. Donna informed the committee that she will be out of town that week.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Andy Pedersen, seconded by all members. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The field trip will be held on **Monday, July 14, 2008**. MNR will make the arrangements.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Monday August 11th at 5:30 pm at the SSM Region Conservation Authority Office at 1100 Fifth Line East.**

Ron Reffle
Recording Secretary
Local Citizens' Committee
Attachments