

LOCAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE MEETING
Sault Ste. Marie District
Monday, September 10, 2007 - 5:30 p.m.
SSM REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mike Thompson, Interim Chairman, called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 5:35 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Andy Pedersen, seconded by Lise Vorlicek. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2007 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 JUNE 11, 2007 MEETING

1. Ron sent the LCC recommendation to the Planning Team concerning the Socio Economic issue.
2. Ron sent the members the Socio Economic section from the 2005 FMP.
3. Ron drafted the advertisement for the replacement of the General Public rep but it will take two months to get it in the paper. The members agreed to place the ad in the paper from the LCC rather than from MNR.
ACTION: Ron to send members a draft of an ad for their review.
4. The members recommended that the LCC Regional Workshop be scheduled for May of 2008.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Ron sent members a copy of the Northwatch April 2007 Forest File including the report on Wood Supply, Wood Flow and Licensing.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. *Current FMP Update - Clergue/Forest Industry Staff*

Tom Croswell distributed copies of the FMP Amendment list and AWS Revision list to members present.

Tom stated that St. Marys is currently operating in blocks north of the Montreal River (MRN).

Mike Thompson stated that Henson is operating in Block 7400 (Lewis Lake Rd). Operations including haul are scheduled to be completed by September 30th. A small patch of winter ground equal to about 2 weeks harvest will be left until freeze-up. Henson's operations in the Christina West area (Block 6304) are in progress and will continue throughout the winter until breakup. The Christina Mine Road will be plowed all winter. OFSC can use the Whitman Dam Road as their primary winter route. Avery Timber is working in Whitman Dam area (Block 7307). Operations including haul are scheduled for completion by September 14th. Avery's operations in the Christina North area (Block 6303 - Second Ave./Whitman Dam Road) will commence this week and are scheduled for completion by October 31st. The Vixen area (Block 7401) is planned as a fall/winter harvest. The Vixen Lake Road will be plowed all winter. The work on the Rebecca's Road (Mile 67 Road to Mile 92 Road link) is progressing. The road base has been constructed, crossings installed and gravelling continues. An engineer will be on site tomorrow at the Saddle Lake/Goulais River bridge location in order to start preparing site plan design. The Tilley Lakes Road extension up to Griffin Creek is scheduled for this fall.

Paul Foisy asked for clarification on the winter operations on the Whitman Dam Road. Mike Thompson stated that Boniferro and St. Marys have no plans to use it this winter. Phil Mergaert stated that Meakin also has no plans to plow the road this winter. Ron suggested that if anyone changes their plans for the use of the Whitman Dam Road that they contact MNR to ensure that all parties are notified as to the change. As it stands now, the Whitman Dam Road will not be plowed and can be used by OFSC as their primary winter snowmobile route.

Tom Croswell stated that Midway Lumber is currently thinning red pine plantations in Rose Township.

Tom asked the members present if they had any questions concerning the proposed Amendment #59. A copy of this amendment was sent to the LCC in August for their review. The amendment changes the status of two red pine plantations (155 ha) in Gaudette Township from a non-commercial thinning to a commercial thinning. Originally the plan was to thin the plantation and leave the material on site. Recently a market has been found for this material. Ron stated that MNR is supportive of this amendment and classifies it as Administrative. There was a general discussion by the members present resulting in their recommendation that Amendment #59 be approved as Administrative.

Tom Crowell provided the members with an update on the 2007 Silvicultural Summary. A copy is attached to these minutes. Tom noted that the Aerial Tending project (675 ha) scheduled for this month may be postponed until next year due to the lack of available aircraft.

Tom also stated that a copy of the Compliance Report will be attached to these minutes and will be discussed at the October LCC meeting.

2. FMP Planning Update - Clergue Staff

Tom Crowell stated that the 2010 FMP Terms of Reference (ToR) has been signed. The inventory work is evolving and a meeting on the Forest Units is coming up. Both Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie MNR staff have recently flown 50% of the area in order to identify Moose Aquatic Feeding Areas (MAFA). There is a Roads Task Team meeting scheduled for this Friday in Wawa. The next FMP Planning Team meeting is scheduled for September 25th at the Sault Ste. Marie District Office from 9:00am to 12:00. The team will be discussing getting more of the Task Teams up and running. If LCC members wish to attend the Sept 25th meeting they should contact Tom or Gary.

There was a discussion on the distribution of the FMP Planning Team minutes. It was decided that Ron will distribute copies of the approved minutes to the LCC members.

3. LCC FMP Update - Jeff Hinich

Jeff provided members present with a copy of his report to the LCC on the Algoma Forest Planning Team meeting of June 26th. There was little activity over the summer.

4. Communications - All

There was nothing to report.

5. All Sector Reports - All

There was nothing to report.

6. LCC Budget

A copy of the LCC expenditure report will be included with the mailout of tonight's meeting minutes. This year the LCC allocation is \$5,200.00.

8. New Business

1. Members are reminded that the election of the LCC will take place at the next meeting.

2. Lester Hopkins provided Ron with a list of material (culverts and an old snow plow truck) which are still in the bush on the Mile 38 Road. Ron stated that he would look into it.
3. Jeff Hinich asked about protection of values on private property. He specifically referred to the Towab Trail on former ACR property. Gary stated that if it is a cultural heritage value there may be some protection for this type of value on private land. He suggested that Jeff first contact the landowner.
4. Lester Hopkins advised members to be aware of the new Endangered Species Act which will become law in June next year. Lester mentioned that it will be very restrictive if an endangered species is found in a stand.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Andy Pedersen, seconded by all members. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 15th at 5:30 pm at the SSM Region Conservation Authority Office at 1100 Fifth Line East.

Ron Reffle
Recording Secretary
Local Citizens' Committee
Attachments