

LOCAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE MEETING
Sault Ste. Marie District
Monday, September 15, 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 5:35 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Denise Berg was introduced as the new alternate member for the Sault and District Prospectors Association to the LCC members.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Andy Pedersen, seconded by Donna Ryckman-Rooney. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2008 MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Brian Anstess, seconded by Deane Greenwood. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2008 MEETING

None

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed Management Strategy package was sent to the members prior to to-night's meeting.
2. Jeff Hinich sent an e-mail to the members indicating that while he was in Timmins on FMP Training he had an opportunity to meet with other LCC Planning Team representatives. During the discussions he received a Climate Change proposal from the Spanish LCC which was submitted to their Planning Team for inclusion in their FMP. Since this topic had come up in previous discussions at the Objectives Task Team meetings Jeff felt that the LCC should consider their proposal for inclusion in the Algoma FMP as well.
3. Mike received a letter from Sault College advising that they received the \$500.00 from the SSM LCC for the Bursary in honour of James Miller. The SSM LCC requested to Sault College that a LCC member sit on the selection committee for this bursary.
4. "Ontario Leads in Species at Risk and Habitat Protection" announcement was handed out to LCC members.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. FMP Update -Mike Thompson and Tom Croswell

Mike advised that Henson & Tregonning is operating in Block 6304 (Christina Mine West) and Block 7400 (Hargraft) and should be completed by September 30th. Operations are also on-going in Block 6117 (Drew).

Pierre Dumas is currently operating in Block 6305 (Christina South). Meakin Forest Enterprises is currently operating in Block 7301 (Ojidaki). Road construction has also commenced in Block 7310 (Private Lake) and the processor is scheduled to start harvesting on September 22nd.

Gravelling has been completed on Rebecca's Road and is now passable by 2 wheel drive vehicles. Construction has commenced on the extension of the road to access Block 6116 (Griffin).

Tom advised that St. Marys Paper is currently harvesting in Block 7204 (Headwater South) off the Ranger Lake /North West Road and finishing up harvest operations in Block 7201 (Powerline Road). Biofibre trials are ongoing in Block 7400A (Hargraft) and chipping operations are about to start in Block 6303A (Christina North).

Midway Lumber is currently harvesting and conducting road construction operations in Block 7510 (Roddy Lake).

Aerial spray operations commenced on September 10th and are expected to be completed by the middle of this week. A total of 1,480 hectares are scheduled for treatment.

The tree plant was completed on August 18th by Brinkman Reforestation. A total of 556,000 trees (367,000 black spruce, 168,000 jack pine, 12,500 white pine and 8,500 red pine) were planted in Block 7400A (Hargraft), Block 6303A (Christina Mine North). Tree improvement work scheduled to start in early October will include topping and cone collection operations in the Curtis Township Black Spruce Seed Orchard.

Gary Raines handed out the up to date copies of the FMP Amendment list and the AWS Revision list and highlighted some of the new changes.

2. FMP Planning Update - Nathan Mudge

Gary sent out the Proposed Management Strategy package (Objectives & PMS Analysis) to the members prior to the meeting. Nathan led the members through the PMS presentation and indicated that the PMS ended up as SFMM model run #24. The SFMM model had been rerun since the previous LCC meeting to accommodate Moose for the whole Algoma Forest and not just the Boreal sub-unit.

Nathan reviewed the rationale for the differences in the desired levels versus the target levels and explained that the target levels were set by the Planning Team at 80% of the ecological targets. The LCC members appreciated the reasoning for setting the target levels.

He also explained the graphs and used Pileated Woodpecker (PWO) as an example to show that the habitat could not fall below the target level. For the Natural Benchmark run only fire and natural succession occur, there is no human activity. For Forest Unit stability most of the Forest units are above the natural benchmark.

Nathan explained for his various charts, above target level was not coloured, yellow was above the Benchmark level and red was constrained to target level of 80%. From the analysis work the major restriction was determined to be 'Old Growth'.

Brian asked Nathan if climate change was considered in the model. Tom answered by indicating that climate change cannot be built into the current model but the FMP is a 10 year plan and things are adjusted accordingly with every FMP. Nathan advised that the Planning Team added an objective to monitor 'Forest Health' to the suite of objectives and the objectives are to be monitored in the 3, 7 & 10 year annual reports.

Donna asked if the forest was tracked from previous plans. Nathan indicated that disturbances to the forest and renewal efforts are tracked. From the Free-to Grow (FTG) surveys there is more poplar on the forest now. Also White Pine renewal efforts in the 1960's have not been very successful and now only suitable areas are planted to white pine. The yellow birch renewal efforts are not in the Forest Inventory but will be in the future.

Mike indicated that the MNR over committed the poplar and cedar levels on the Algoma Forest. For the OSB mill in Wawa, MNR over estimated the poplar volume in the Wawa area. Tom mentioned that MNR has used Regional studies to determine volume estimates of unutilized fibre instead of current FMP volumes.

Al asked if we plant hardwood trees now similar to the yellow birch plantings in the 1960's. Nathan advised that they do not plant hardwoods but the Thessalon Tree Nursery did grow and supply some red oak.

Nathan explained that the 'Maps for Proposed Allocations' show the preferred areas for harvest for the 10 years (2010-2020).

- Allocations in current FMP - Black
- Allocations for 1st 5 years - Red
- Allocations for 2nd 5 years - Pink
- Other Eligible areas - Ivory
- Areas deferred from harvesting (ie. Marten cores, not eligible areas) - White

Donna asked if maps will be available for viewing at open house. The proposed harvest areas will be shown as indicated above and renewal & tending areas are mainly previously harvested areas from the current plan. Harvest summary maps are available for viewing but better maps will be available at the Draft Plan stage. Denise asked if maps were available on line. Nathan advised that this is not a requirement under the current Forest Information Manual (FIM) but will be on-line in the future.

Nathan advised that the PMS will be sent to Region early next week for their review and he hopes to receive their comments by the end of the month. The review of the Long Term Management Direction (LTMD) notice is scheduled for the newspapers in early to mid October. There will be a 30 day period for members of the public to

come to the MNR or Clergue office to review the LTMD. Hal had some further questions and he will e-mail them to Nathan.

Mike mentioned that the proposed allocations are 'draft' now and will be refined over the next few months. There is a good chance that the areas shown in red will be harvested in the first five years of the 2010 FMP. There is an Open House scheduled for January 2009 and at that time there will be more details on the maps for the specific harvest areas.

3. LCC FMP Update - Jeff Hinich

Jeff advised the members that while he was in Timmins on FMP Training he had an opportunity to meet with other LCC Planning Team representatives. During the discussions he received a Climate Change proposal from the Spanish LCC which was submitted to their Planning Team for inclusion in their FMP. He felt that the LCC should review and comment on their proposal and consider it for inclusion in the Algoma FMP as well. After some discussion, Jeff made a motion, seconded by Donna to include it in the Algoma FMP. Motion carried.

ACTION: The first 3 bulletin points are to be included in the executive summary of the FMP and the 4th bullet point to be included as an objective in FMP-13.

Jeff also advised the LCC members to get involved with sectors and become an active participant in the FMP process. Jeff mentioned about a possibility of a field trip in October.

Under the 2004 FMPM there is a requirement for the Legislative Ad and now 'User Friendly Ad' for the various public consultation stages. The Algoma LCC has been using the User Friendly Ad.

Jeff mentioned that the LCC should be aware of Forest Biomass and what is happening locally. He suggested that SMPC be contacted for a possible presentation in October.

ACTION: Mike to contact Dan Bowes from SMPC re Biomass Trials presentation for the next LCC meeting.

4. All Sector Reports - All

Les indicated that since the Forest Industry is having problems these days, roads are not being plowed in the winter and the trappers need to work with the Forest Industry. He also mentioned that he has seen lots of Pine Sawyer beetles and Turkey Vultures and different species of songbirds this year. He was not sure if this was due to possible climate change.

Donna mentioned that she missed the August meeting and appreciated that Dr Euler came to the meeting and his presentation was well received. David Wells from Naturally Superior Adventures will be the guest speaker at the next Sault Naturalists meeting on October 14th. Also, the Sault Naturalists have a new bird observation platform at Bellvue Park. Donna also handed out posters for National Forest Week September 21-27/08.

Denise advised that the Mining Act is being rewritten and asked about First Nation consultation in the FMP process. Nathan advised that we have an Aboriginal Task Team and we have two First Nations representatives on the Planning Team and three other First Nations do not want to be involved in the FMP process.

Nathan mentioned that he is concerned with the decline of mid-tolerant species such as yellow birch & red oak and the application of standard tree marking and selection management. There is a new Hardwood Specialist at the Ontario Forest Research Institute (OFRI) and we should consider inviting him for presentation at a future meeting.

5. LCC Budget - Gary Raines

Gary advised the members that this year's LCC budget is \$5,000.00. The total expenditures to date are less than \$1,000.00 which includes the \$500.00 to Sault College for the bursary.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Jeff Hinich asked if the members received the pictures from the July 14th LCC field trip and advised the members to get involved early in the FMP process with their sectors.
- b. Jason McLellan advised the group that he has completed the Social Economic Description and is working on the Social Economic Assessment for the Algoma FMP and would be willing to give a presentation to the LCC.
ACTION: Jason to make a Socio-Economic presentation at the LCC Meeting.
- c. Jeff Hinich mentioned that we need and still do not have a Tourism Representative on the LCC. Jeff and Brian submitted some local names to Ron back in the summer.
ACTION: Gary to talk to the District Manager re the status of the Tourism Representative Recruitment process and report back at the next meeting.
- d. Tom Crowsell mentioned the James Miller Scholarship is now set up on the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA) website and donations can be made through the OFA. Tom will bring some donation forms to the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brad Jourdin, seconded by Deane Greenwood. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on **Monday October 20th at 5:30 pm at the SSM Region Conservation Authority Office at 1100 Fifth Line East.**

Gary Raines
A/Recording Secretary
Local Citizens' Committee
Attachments