

LOCAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE MEETING
Sault Ste. Marie District
Monday, October 17, 2005 - 5:30 p.m.
Sartini Restaurant

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mike Thompson, Interim Chairman, called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 5:32 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were not required.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Paul Foisy, seconded by Brad Jourdin. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 MEETING

1. Jim Miller will provide an update of the Sand River Road and Frater Road under New Business.
2. Allen Prodan sent a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources expressing the committee's concern over the reduced LCC budget. Ron handed out a copy of that letter to all members present.
3. Brian Anstess has agreed to move from the Environment position to the Non-Motorized Users position. This now leaves the Environment position vacant. There was some discussion around developing a press release in order to draw attention in other media to our Environment position opening. In case of other openings/potential openings the members were advised and agreed to bring any thoughts/needs forward. Art advised that he would look for a potential to provide an alternate to his General Public sector. A comment was made about the LCC's ongoing sensitivity to attracting members of younger age and also strives to get the LCC more gender balanced. Members present commented that they are currently able to fulfill the membership requirements for their sector and an alternate was not a pressing need at this time.

ACTION: Ron to draft a press release and discuss with Allen Prodan.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Ron received and handed out a notice from Northwatch on the Oct 28-29 workshop in Sudbury. There was some discussion on this topic at the September LCC meeting in conjunction with the LCC funding issue. Ron has talked to Allen Prodan and suggested that Allen should go ahead and plan to attend. Allen would like to know that if anyone else is interested they should give Allen a call. Ron advised members present that, since the Regional Workshop has been cancelled that LCC members are encouraged to attend the Northwatch workshop. The deadline for registration is October 21st. Please contact Ron if you are interested. Ron will deal with the funding issue.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Guest Speaker - Geoff Meakin - Minister's Forest Council Member

Geoff was a member of the Minister's Council on Forest Sector Competitiveness which was established last November. He stated that this was a very exciting opportunity that placed him at the table with the presidents and CEOs of major forest companies such as Domtar, Tembec and Bowater. The Ontario forest industry needs to be more competitive in the world market. Currently, in Ontario, it costs \$55 - 57/cubic metre to move wood from the bush to the mill as compared to world costs of \$35 - 37/cubic metre.

Geoff referenced an article by CIBC that stated that there are 9 pulp and paper mills in Ontario that are on the verge of closing. This is not including sawmills. There is a sense that investors do not want to invest money in the Ontario forest industry. Although energy costs are a major concern, guidelines and regulations are also an issue. Geoff stated that the group had major discussions on sustainability. He explained that sustainability is based on three columns - social, economic and environmental. It appears that in the last 10 to 15 years the environmental column is collapsing the other two. Forest Management Planning has gone from a 30 page document to 300 pages with numerous guidelines that are very onerous. The approval process for items such as bridge construction takes up to eight months.

A few of the original members quit the committee as they felt that the Minister should have spent more time with them at the table, although they did thank him for the creation for the working groups.

Geoff was the chair of a working group on red tape and one on aggregates. The Minister announced a financial assistance package last month, and the CIBC response to this was that they will not be changing their stock recommendations. At best, the announced assistance may reduce wood costs by \$2.00/cubic metre. Geoff wants the LCC to be aware that the Ontario forest industry is in a crisis situation.

Geoff answered several questions from the members present and most of the answers suggested that Government policy was out of step with science, the day-to-day process was far too restrictive and time-consuming and certification may not be achieving what it intended to achieve.

The members thanked Geoff for sharing his insight into this topic.

2. FMP Update - Tim Reece

Tim started his presentation by asking members if they were satisfied with the current protocol of MNR/Clergue categorizing amendments (Administrative, Minor, Major) and advising the LCC at their meetings. Ron and Gary explained the difference between the three types and the implications of each type. According to the new Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) the District Manager consults with the LCC on categorization. If the LCC is not readily available then the District Manager may consult with the chair of the LCC or his/her alternate. Members present stated that they are comfortable with the current protocol. Jeff Hinich asked if Clergue could bring forward administrative amendments that would be of interest to the LCC. When an amendment request is submitted to MNR and it is not an obvious administrative amendment then the proponent will present it to the LCC for their advice. If it is not convenient to present this at a meeting then the District Manager will contact the chair to seek advice.

Tim handed out the revised list of amendments and revisions to date. There was a comment at the last meeting that the list appeared to be quite lengthy. Ron explained that the LCC should consider several things when they look at the list. This is the first year of the new plan and sometimes things get missed, usually technology is the reason. The first year list is normally lengthy to clean up all these types of items. Another consideration is that this new plan includes the old Wawa Forest and Algoma Forest. Therefore the LCC is now reviewing what would have been two plans in the past. Also, the LCC had not met since May so the list would appear larger than if monthly meetings had been held. Ron explained that there are also amendments and revisions that, according to the new FMPM, are not considered amendments or revisions. Both Clergue and MNR decided to process these in order to keep good records on these adjustments.

Tim then presented the latest amendment request (#19 - copy attached). The members present reviewed the request and voted by show of hands to recommend this be categorized as administrative. Two members abstained - Kerry Sinibaldi (conflict of interest) and Jeff Hinich (not enough information).

The compliance report was not available for tonight's meeting. This will be discussed at the November meeting. Tim mentioned that there are two non-compliance reports and they will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting.

3. Communications Plan - All

There was nothing new to report.

4. LCC Budget - Ron Reffle

Ron handed out a copy of the LCC budget report. Ron stated that even though the LCC budget has been reduced he feels that operations can continue.

8. New Business

1. Jim Miller handed out a note concerning the Sand River Road and Frater Road but due to the time required he will brief the members at the next meeting. He will also brief members on the conditions of the FSC certification.
2. Jim then reviewed the LCC Self Evaluation form in order for him to complete the Report of Past Operations (RPFO). This survey had been mailed to the members on October 6th. Each member completed the survey and gave it to Jim.
3. Ron reminded members that the MNR now has a TIPS line to report Natural Resource violations 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667). This will replace MOOSE WATCH. Ron handed out key chains with the TIPS phone number on it.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Andy Pedersen, seconded by Kerry Sinibaldi. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 14th**.at the **Sartini Restaurant** at **5:30 pm**.

Ron Reffle
Recording Secretary
Local Citizens' Committee
Attachments