

LOCAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE MEETING
Sault Ste. Marie District
Monday, September 8, 2003 - 5:30 p.m.
Minelli's Restaurant

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Allen Prodan, Chairman, called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 5:38 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

An issue was brought forward by the Sault Ste. Marie Trappers Council just prior to the meeting concerning the road brushing done by St. Marys Paper on the Whitman Dam Road. A delegation from the Council was in attendance (Lester Hopkins, President, Lynda Baillie, Michel Blais, Mark Roberts and Brent McHale).

Allen Prodan asked the LCC members if they would agree to have the Trappers make their presentation prior to the commencement of the regular meeting. Members present agreed and Allen allowed them 15 minutes.

One of the issues raised was in regards to work done on a snowmobile trail. Allen Prodan suggested that the issue be addressed to Paul Foisys since it was outside of the LCC mandate.

Kitty Lewis, LCC Trappers representative, lead off the discussion by handing out a copy of a letter from the Trappers Council to the LCC dated September 7th. She also circulated photos of the brushing work done on the road.

The questions in the letter included " who has paid for the work ". Kerry Sinibaldi of St. Marys Paper explained that the work was carried out under the Living Legacy Trust Project (LLT) funded jointly by the LLT and the local Forest Industry. Another question was " who is overseeing this project ". The answer is St. Marys Paper/Clergue Forest Management Inc.

Lester Hopkins explained that the major concern was the mess left along the side of the road which does not look good considering that parts of the road go through a park. He also stated that there was a public safety concern and the work has negative impact on wildlife. The pictures showed trees with bark ripped off still standing and large trees laying beside the road with roots still intact.

Kerry Sinibaldi replied that St. Marys Paper, with Clergue, will send a formal response to the letter to address their concerns. Michel Blais advised that he has lived in that area and traveled that road all his life and has never seen this type of destruction before. Kerry stated that the same road was brushed in 1992 using similar equipment with the same result, in addition to 50 kms on another road. In 1999 St. Marys completed 120 kms on Algoma Forest roads using the same type of equipment with similar results. The same practice is used by MTO. The trees left at the side of the road are a result of the shovel and chainsaw and not

the brusher. The road project is still ongoing and their plan was to remove all timber left at the side of the road on the way out since the amount of wood is small. The Whitman Dam Road project is only one of three road projects and it makes more sense to pick up all the wood at one time. Meakin is the contractor on the job and the brusher is new equipment and a period of operator training explains most of the damage to the standing timber. The brush will remain at the side of the road which is the normal practice on this type of operation.

Kerry also mentioned that there are signs on the road that state what the project is and that St. Marys Paper and Clergue Forest Management Inc. are the contacts.

Brent McHale, who stated that he was representing the Metis, has a business in the area and has clients who expressed negative comments on the area. He asked if the company could not hire people to cut off the brush stumps and burn the slash in the fall.

Allen Prodan stated that the LCC would respond to the letter.

Kerry suggested that he would like to look at the specific sites with the Trappers Council. Jeff Hinich suggested that the LCC could be part of that field trip.

ACTION: St. Marys Paper and the Trappers Council will organize a field trip and include the LCC members who wish to attend. (NOTE: field trip took place on Sept. 22nd. Report is attached to these minutes.)

Lester Hopkins thanked the LCC for allowing the Council to address the LCC on this issue.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

In addition to the presentation by the Trapper's Council, staff from Ontario Parks were asked to attend at the request of Paul Foisy.

A motion to approve the revised agenda was made and carried by all members.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE August 11, 2003 MEETING

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

5. ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE August 11, 2003 MEETING

1. Art to contact Shaw Cable - this will be addressed under communications.
2. Art to cost out options for putting the public input form on the web page - this will be addressed under communications.
3. David to review public comments summary from last plan - done.
4. LCC Workshop in North Bay - several members are considering attending. Those attending should contact Art in order to share transportation.
5. MNR revised the LCC/FMP public notice. It will appear in the newspapers on September 10th in the Sault and Wawa.
6. LCC members to schedule attendance at the open house - this will be discussed at tonight's meeting.
7. LCC name tags have been ordered. Gary Raines will hand them out at the open house on the 15th.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The only correspondence was a request by Paul Foisy to have the Ontario Parks staff attend tonight's meeting and the letter from the Trappers Council also for tonight's meeting.

7. ALGOMA HEADWATERS SIGNATURE SITE - NANCY SCOTT AND CHRIS CALDWELL

Ron introduced Nancy Scott, Park Planner and Chris Caldwell, Pancake Park Superintendent and Project Manager for the Algoma Headwaters Signature Site. Allen Prodan explained that both Nancy and Chris were asked to provide an update on their park project and answer questions raised by Paul Foisy concerning input deadlines and potential access restrictions through the park.

Nancy gave an overhead presentation entitled " Algoma Headwaters Signature Site Strategy: Management Options Stage " outlining the fact that most existing uses will be permitted to continue including authorized hiking trails, canoe routes, ATV routes, snowmobile routes and other major recreational trails. The Whitman Dam Road will not be closed or restricted and the two locations on that road where the snowmobile trail is being rerouted to cross the Goulais River will be identified as authorized trails in the strategy.

The Point Lake Road is identified as an authorized trail and existing use will be permitted to continue. Should the forest industry require the use of the Point Lake road then measures will be taken to ensure conflicts are minimized and trail access will continue.

The planning team would like the public and trail groups to identify all authorized trails and include any new proposals in their input.

The comment deadline has been extended to October 7th however the team is more than willing to sit down and discuss access issues with any group up to the end of October. The planning team would like to meet specifically with those trappers whose trap lines are affected.

Allen Prodan thanked both Nancy and Chris for their attendance on short notice and the information provided.

8. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. *Current FMP Update - Jim Miller*

Jim provided members present with the FMP amendment update, the AWS revision update and the compliance summary.

Jim mentioned that the aerial spray project would take place either this week or next week.

2. FMP Amendment - Brock Lake/Hydro Line Road - Jim Miller

Jim stated that Brock Lake/Hydro Road amendment has generated one written comment to date. Ron mentioned that the deadline has been extended to Friday, September 12th because the mail out was delayed by the blackout.

3. LCC FMP Update - Jeff Hinich

Jeff handed out copies of the report prepared by himself and Joe Bucknell from the August 12th, 21st and September 5th planning team meetings. Jeff will prepare a summary report later this week for the open house on the 15th.

4. First Information Centre - Jim Miller

Tim Reece provided a 12 minute slide show of a variety of activities, scenery, wildlife and local people that will be shown at the open houses. All members provided positive comments on Tim's efforts.

Next Tim provided a reviewed of the management alternatives for the members present.

Jim asked the committee to consider their participation in the open house including assistance to set up and take down the display material. The open house runs from noon to 8:00pm. Several members indicated that they would attend.

Art, Jeff and Kerry indicated that they would gather the required material for the LCC booth.

5. FMP questions and Answers - All

Kitty stated that there are no FMP guidelines for trapping similar to other guidelines that supply protection for a value. She handed out copies of a report entitled " The Economic Impact Of Commercial Wild Fur Harvesting In Ontario 1997/98 " and a copy of a note from Alan Herscovici from the Fur Council of Canada describing a value added model for the fur industry.

Kitty also mentioned that she understands that other FMPs deal with this item.

Tim Reece explained that trapper values are covered off by the fur bearing guidelines such as martin values. Spacial analysis for martin also covers off other fur bearers values. Martin is used as an indicator species.

ACTION: Kitty will check with her contacts for examples in other FMPs to see how trappers values have been addressed.

Jim also stated that any economical information can be included in the socio-economic text.

There was also some discussion of the protection of beaver ponds. The current situation is quite hazardous to beavers and if the beavers are removed then the pond suffers and negatively impacts other species.

Jim mentioned that Ducks Unlimited are interested in this type of project. Specific ponds need to be identified and consideration of a small scale project could be considered.

6. *Communications - All*

Art has booked Shaw Cable and they will provide some filming that can be used for the February open house.

Art reports that putting the public input form on the web will cost between \$300.00 and \$700.00. Committee agreed that this is too expensive.

9. New Business

1. Jim mentioned that the Algoma Forest Coalition tour is on September 27th. Let Jim know if you would like to go.
2. Ron stated that the LCC budget has been reduced by \$1,000.00 due to the government-wide constraint. The District gave up \$150,000.00. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes. If we see any problems with LCC expenditures then Ron will review with Serge Tenaglia. (**NOTE: The Main Office returned the LCC budget reduction dollars so I have revised the attachment to reflect the original allocation.**)
3. This is our last meeting at Minelli's since it is closing at the end of the month. Our next two meetings will be held at the Legion (upstairs - use the side door at the back of the building) on October 6th and November 3rd.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Andy Pedersen, seconded by all members. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

11. NEXT MEETING

Due to the number of members unavailable for a meeting on October 6th. the next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 20th at 5:30pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, 96 Great Northern Road.**

Ron Reffle
Recording Secretary
Local Citizens' Committee
Attachments