

Nipissing Forest Local Citizens Committee Meeting
Location: Average Joe's Restaurant
Date: Monday, Dec.14, 2009

INTEREST	Primary Member	P/A	Alternate Member	P/A	Others Present
Access groups, Anglers/Hunters	Lloyd Anderson	P	Peter Foy	A	<p>MNR Staff: Phil Hall Mary Lou McKeen Guylaine Thauvette</p> <p>SFL – Support Resources Ric Hansel – support resources NFRM Mark Lockhart – support resources NFRM</p> <p>Guests: Fred Pinto MNR Southern Sciences and Information – Conifer Prog. Leader</p> <p>Andree Morneault MNR Southern Science and Information – Vegetative Mgmt Program Leader</p> <p>Joanne Jamieson MNR Forest Health Technical Specialist</p> <p>Observer: Recorder: Gerry Van Leeuwen</p> <p>c.c. Peter Street, NFRM Inc. Dave Payne, MNR</p>
Cottagers	Dave Minden	P	Vacant	N/A	
District Aboriginal Working Group	Dave Joannis	A	Clayton Dokis	P	
Education	Jan Vandermeer	A	VACANT	N/A	
Environmental Groups	Jan Vandermeer	A	Brennain Lloyd	P	
Independent Loggers	Elwyn Behnke	A	Blayne Behnke	A	
Local Cultural Heritage Groups	Roy Summers	P	VACANT	N/A	
Municipalities, Chmbrs of Comm, Econ. Development	Chris Mayne	A	Sarah Campbell	A	
Naturalists	Lorie Reed	A	Roy Summers	P	
Prospectors, Mining/Aggregates	Frank Tagliamonte	A	Mike Roxborough	A	
Public at Large	Tracey Cain	P	Tim Toepfner	P	
Silvicultural Contractors	Andy Straughan	P	VACANT	N/A	
Sustainable Forest Licensee – Nipissing For.Res.Mgmt.Inc.	John McNutt	A	Peter Street	A	
Tourist Industry	VACANT	N/A	VACANT	N/A	
Trails	Jennifer McCourt	P	Tracey Cain	P	
Trappers & Baitfish	Johnny Matthews	P	Heinz Erb	P	
Wood Workers/Trade Unions	VACANT	N/A	VACANT	N/A	

Agenda

1. Call to Order 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. social; 5:15 p.m. place dinner order). - Chair: Tracey Cain.
2. Approval of the Agenda. - (5 min.)
3. Review and Approval of Minutes from Sept. 15, 2009 LCC.- (10 min.)
4. Presentation– Forest Insects and Disease. (a.k.a. Forest Health Update 2009) - JOHANNE JAMIESON, MNR Forest Health Technical Specialist - (30 min.)
5. LCC Forum – Forests Without Borders presentation – Fred Pinto, Andree Morneault
6. 2008-2009 Annual Report. – Guylaine or Ric or Mark - (30 min.)
7. Summary of Forest Management Plan AMENDMENTS and Annual Work Schedule revisions. - Guylaine or Ric - (10 min.)
8. Class Environmental Assessment Review. - Brennain Lloyd - (15 min.)
9. Environmental Bill of Rights. - Brennain - (10 min)
10. LCC Representatives – Resigning (Doug Billingsley) and filling vacancies - (15 min.)
11. Report on the October Field Trip. - Andy - (15 min.)
12. LCC Forum - continued. - (10 min.)
13. Discuss Next Meetings – **Tuesday, January 19, 2010, then April 20, 2010.**
Proposal: to not to meet on Feb. 16, 2010 and March 16, 2010. - (10 min.)
14. Adjournment. Season's Greeting. Happy and Safe Holidays to all!

1. Call to Order

CO-chair Tracey Cain called the meeting to order at 5:34 leading off with introductions of guests present and having LCC introduce them selves in round table fashion. Meal orders were then taken as business continued.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to allow guest speakers Fred Pinto and Andree Morneault, included at item 12 under LCC forum, to move up into slot 5 on the agenda above, to allow them to leave following their presentation if they so wished. This would simply move all subsequent items one position down the agenda. Approved as amended.

3. Review and Approval of the Sept. 15/09 LCC Minutes

Minutes of our September 15/09 meeting were discussed and item 6, Report of the Forestry Audit, was amended as per wording provided by the presenter, Andy Straughan. Item 8, Aerial Spray Project, was amended as per the wording provided by Guylaine Thauvette following email conversation with Dave Minden. These changes were highlighted for LCC in the second DRAFT of the minutes forwarded to members. Brennain Lloyd requested several other amendments to this topic at this meeting, specifically;

- a) That the title of the presentation be renamed to "Herbicide" or "Pesticide" spray project to clarify what had been sprayed.

- b) That the phrase "knocking down competing vegetation" be changed to "knocking back competing vegetation."
- c) That the concerns of the woman mentioned in the MCTV article were one and the same as those of the group mentioned in the River Valley area in that they were upset with the spraying of herbicides generally.

The proposed amendments were accepted by the LCC and the September Minutes were approved as now amended.

4. Presentation – Forest Health Update 2009 – Johanne Jamieson, MNR Forest Health Technical Specialist

Joanne provided the group with an interesting slide show of her duties and what insects, disease, and abiotic damage (non-biological damage such as blow down areas, etc.) are currently present within the Northeast MNR region.

Forest health monitoring is co-operatively done between the provincial and federal government agencies. The province does ongoing operational monitoring and surveying of forest health while Canada conducts research. Ontario is responsible for identifying the diseases that Johanne observes and samples (keyed out at the Ontario Forest Research Institute, SSMarie) while the federal government identifies the insect species that she collects. (Canadian Forest Service, also in SSMarie).

In the field, Johanne flies over the region surveying for major disturbances large enough to map from the air and then visits those mapped sites, when necessary, to determine what the source of the disturbance is (insect, disease or abiotic cause). Her slide show then focused on presenting the major problems encountered in 2009

NORTH BAY AND KIRKLAND LAKE DISTRICTS

Spruce Budworm is currently a big problem in North Bay as well as the rest of the region, being the largest defoliator in the region at present, (over 165,000 ha. mapped this year). Spruce dies after 5-6 years of attack while balsam fir succumbs after only 2-3 years of infestation.

Joanne had a special request to monitor the red spruce stands of Blyth Twp. but no sign of Spruce Budworm was currently present there this year.

Large Aspen Tortrix, a leaf rolling caterpillar that attacks aspen leaves is currently active in small pockets within North Bay district. (1032 ha. in defoliation)

Needle Cast Fungus is attacking a small stand of red pine in McGillvray Twp. (196 ha.)

A blowdown (abiotic factor) was also reported S. of the South shore of Lake Nipissing in 2009 and aerial mapping determined that a 220 ha. area had been affected.

TIMMINS, HEARST AND COCHRANE DISTRICTS

Jack Pine Budworm was mentioned as the largest problem in the Timmins district and that mapping indicated that the infestation had been much reduced, down to 8039 ha. following a spraying program this year. B.T.K. (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*), a biological insecticide produced from a naturally occurring bacterium, had been applied to the area. The bacteria are ingested through the leaves by the feeding caterpillars. The

bacteria then produce toxins in the gut of the caterpillar which crystallizes and kills them. The BTK is said to degrade from the environment within a week of application. Hail damage was another abiotic disturbance that Johanne described for us. Directional damage is the key to determining when hail has caused holes in leaves. (471 ha. in Timmins District this year).

EXTENSION CALLS – Johanne's other duties included doing extension calls to specific sites for homeowners, cottagers, etc. calling in with problems which resulted in discoveries of;

- localized sites with White Pine Blister Rust, Balsam Poplar Leaf Blotch Miner, some Dutch Elm disease in the Bonfield and Kiosk areas, Pine False Webworm affecting red and white pine on three islands on Lake Nipissing near Cache Bay, as well as some other fungus disease discoveries on red and white pine. (Diplodia Tip Blight fungus).

INVASIVE SPECIES

Johanne also showed slides of invasive species now present in the southern part of the province, namely the Pine Shoot Beetle, European Oak Borer and the Emerald Ash Borer. She was involved in some Invasive Species Surveys and employed funnel traps and small piles of scots pine logs to sample for a damaging Pine Shoot Beetle that attacks red, white, jack and scots pine. The log piles give off a scent that attracts such beetles in the area. Fortunately the presence of this foreign invader was not found here yet. Surveys also revealed that European Oak Borer and Emerald Ash Borer were not yet present in this part of the province.

5. **LCC Forum – FORESTS WITHOUT BORDERS** - Fred Pinto and Andree Morneault (Attachment #1 Forests Without Borders)

Andree Morneault, representing the Algonquin section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, discussed some of the local fund raising ideas they were using to assist Forests Without Borders, (see presentation given by Fred Pinto a few moments later).

Merchandise was available at the meeting and all members were given a "Clean Air Tree Kit Globe" resembling a Christmas ornament that contained white spruce seed and the medium upon which to start them. This is an available fund raiser.

Andree also announced that the Canadian Institute of Forestry's Algonquin Section would be hosting their Annual General Meeting at the Deerhurst conference centre in Huntsville in 2011. Organizers are hoping that other groups might be interested in holding their meetings at this site at the same time to facilitate joint workshops and shared speakers while providing an excellent networking opportunity for all.

Fred Pinto then presented a slide show on an initiative he has started locally called Forests Without Borders (FWB). This program, supported by the Canadian Forestry Institute, seeks to assist third world countries in ecosystem restoration by re-establishing thriving forests where they have been lost due to overharvest, primarily for fuel source needs by the general populace. Many of these countries will soon have little forested lands left while demand for basic needs such as water (directly related to forest cover) and wood as a heating/cooking fuel, can no longer be met in a sustainable manner. New

forests are required to provide these basics to survival and Forests Without Borders is the initiative that seeks to cut through the red tape to get this valuable work done.

Fred showed slides of some of the projects underway in Zambia, Uganda and India. Forests Without Borders works with local village leaders and schools to have local people involved directly in these projects. FWB does not compete with other organizations attempting to do similar work but rather augments the work of organizations such as "Ryan's Well Foundation" who drill wells to create water supply. Massive forest replanting is being undertaken in some areas as a result of this initiative. It is estimated that there are currently 1.7 million people living in such water stressed environments and the number is expected to grow substantially in the future.

6. 2008-09 Annual Report – Mark Lockhart
(Attachment #2 – 2008-2009 Annual Report)

Mark Presented portions of the annual report by means of a slide show and handout (attached). Due to the down turn in the economy of the past year, fewer companies operated and those that did cut lesser volumes of wood from the Nipissing Forest land base as demand for wood products and fibre decreased. As a result, smaller areas needed to be replanted and/or tended following harvest. Some funding needed to be diverted from direct silvicultural work to forest protection needs...i.e. To battle forest pests through aerial pesticide application.

Forest harvesting, renewal and tending overviews were discussed as were roads, water crossings and compliance.

There were some 160 Compliance reports issued and 12% of those reports identified violations. Most of the lack of compliance was administrative in nature involving the wrong paper work for some of the wood hauling that took place. (lack of bills of lading on the trucks, mix ups of haul destinations, etc.). Numerous violations were cited against companies in the spring as they neglected to have the required fire fighting equipment on site at their operations as the fire season began. Nipissing will focus on these issues at next spring's start up meetings again.

A ten year trend analysis was also included in Mark's presentation.

The final report from Nipissing Forest Management Inc. is expected in February.

7. Summary of Forest Management Plan Amendments and Annual Work Schedule revisions – Guylaine Thauvette

(Attachment #3 – FMP Amendments and AWS Revisions 2004-present)

Guylaine explained that this review had not taken place since June 2008 and presented the amendments and revisions that had taken place since that time. (See handout attached). She highlighted the more significant ones for our group.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENTS - The currently approved Nipissing Forest Management Plan will run from 2009-2019 and any changes proposed to it (AMENDMENTS) must be documented. Amendments are categorized as major, minor or administrative. Part C, Section 2.2.1 of the Forest Management Planning Manual describes the factors considered to categorize amendments.

ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE REVISIONS – Since the Annual Work Schedule (AWS) is merely a sub-set of the FMP, any proposed revisions to the work schedules are handled internally by MNR.

Discussion occurred on amendment 2009-03 (handout). This amendment allows full tree skidding in hardwood shelterwood removal cuts, with monitoring of the damage to the site and regeneration. This type of operation is approved in the Forest Management Plan as an 'exception' and requires field sampling and assessments, to determine if skidding trees with soft branches causes excess damage to residual trees and regeneration. The results of the monitoring will determine if this practice (full tree skidding in shelterwood removal cuts) can continue. It was suggested that this might be an interesting site to visit on a future field trip.

Many of the AWS revisions dealt with the addition of water crossings because provincial funding, to assist with the cost of road construction, had not been confirmed until after the AWS had been approved.

8. Class Environmental Assessment Review for Forest Management Planning activities – Brennain Lloyd

(Attachment #4 – Environmental Assessment Act and FMP Planning)

Brennain led us through a presentation on how the Class Environmental Review process Manual has helped govern forest management in Ontario since public hearings on Timber Management on Crown Lands began in 1988. The process has resulted in establishment of the Forest Management Planning manual currently in use today, which is slated for yet more revision over the next two years as 55 terms and conditions, coming out of the most recent review of the document, are incorporated into it. The handout attached is very detailed on the process followed to create the current FMP.

9. Environmental Bill of Rights posting review – Brennain Lloyd

(Attachment #5 – EBR Postings Dec. 2009)

Brennain gave us a quick overview of the EBR postings for the period Sept.15/09 to Dec.14/09. Postings included enhanced policy for protecting habitat for species at risk, policies for management of moose, deer and caribou, regulation proposal to control the entry of Chronic Wasting Disease in Ontario, plus numerous forestry postings.

10. LCC Representatives – Resignations and filling vacancies

Doug Billingsley has recently had to resign from LCC – Tracey will provide Doug with a card and token of our appreciation for his past participation with LCC.

It was decided that we would place "recruitment to fill vacancies" on our April LCC agenda.

Some other representation changes were approved at the meeting, specifically that Johnny Matthews would represent Tourist Operators and Baitfish in future while Heinz Erb would represent Trapping interests.

11. Report on the October Field Trip – Daventry Road – Andy Straughan

Co-chair Andy Straughan presented a brief slide presentation of our October field trip down the Daventry Road system. Thanks given to Gerry Van Leeuwen for having provided the photos.

12. LCC Forum - continued

Co-chair Tracey Cain presented Mary Lou McKeen with a card of thanks, signed by all LCC members, for her work in guiding the LCC through the FMP process. Mary Lou will no longer be attending LCC now that the planning exercise has been completed.

Johnny Matthews stated that in the interest of stand improvement, he would like to see more personal use fuelwood harvesting allowed by the public, specifically that species like maple, white birch and ash be made available.

Ric Hansel stated that if anyone had recommendations to make for such fuelwood sites, he would like them discussed with the MNR forester (Guylaine). Guylaine stated that proposed sites should ideally have good access and be within 200 metres of a roadway. Fuelwood permits for personal use are always required on Crown land.

13. Discussion of Next Meetings

It was decided that our next meeting would occur on Jan 19, 2010 for a review of the Annual Work Schedule of the FMP. We will not meet in Feb. or March but will resume meetings in April.

14. Adjournment

Chair Tracey Cain adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. with special thanks to the MNR staff and NFRM Inc. for hosting this special dinner meeting. Merry Christmas everyone. See you all again in 2010.