

(K) LOCAL CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE REPORT

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

BANCROFT MINDEN FOREST 2021-31 FMP

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Local Citizens Committee (LCC) is an advisory committee appointed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) District Manager. The District Manager approves the Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee's terms of reference (ToRs) that describe the LCCs' role in the Forest Management Planning process. The LCC members provide advice on the development and the implementation the Forest Management Plan, participate in public consultation, planning of operations, preparation of the Local Citizens' Committee reports and independent forest audits. The LCC members represent a wide range of interests.

LCC members meet regularly with key partners including the Bancroft District MNRF staff, mainly the Management Forester, and the Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC) (holder of the Sustainable Forest Licence) represented by the General Manager (who is the Forest Management Plan author)

1.1 LCC MEMBERSHIP

The following is a listing of all members of the LCC and their affiliations:

Name	Affiliation
Jane Dumas	Mayor - Township of South Algonquin
Lou Freymond	Sawmill owner (industry), BMFC President and Shareholder
Keith Hodgson	Minden SFL Loggers (industry), Baitfish harvester, Director – The Land Between
Jan MacKillican	Councillor – Limerick Township, Limerick Lake Cottage Association
Kim Roberts	Resident
Chris Ursulak	McKenzie Lake POA - Environmental Committee
Peter Wood	Ontario Federation of 4WD Clubs, Crown land recreationists, Member - Highlands East Trails and Outdoor Tourism Advisory Committee
Irvan Yateman	Algonquin Nation Kijicho-Manito (Baptiste)

NOTES:

- Jane Dumas is the LCC representative on the Planning Team.
- Peter Wood is the LCC Chair.
- All members represent residents, cottage owners and Crown land users in the management unit.
- Keith Hodgson and Kim Roberts resigned as of December 11, 2020.

1.2 LCC ACTIVITIES DURING PREPARATION OF THE 2021-2031 FMP

1.2.1 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Number of meetings to date: 14

The following provides a summary of the LCC meetings held to date:

Date	Main Topics Discussed
12-Mar-18	Continued Review of LCC ToR; BMFC presentation and review of Annual Work Schedule (AWS); Inspection Notice 2018-2019 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) distributed by MNRF to public;
8-May-18	Updated committee Terms of Reference (ToR)– including FMP Amendment protocol; discussed strategy for membership recruitment; MNRF Resources Management Supervisor advised of staffing updates; BMFC advised AWS approved; Jane Dumas appointed as LCC representative on Planning Team with Peter Wood as alternate
15-Oct-18	Updates on LCC recruitment and 2021 FMP production schedule
25-Feb-19	Continued discussions on ToR updates and Unopened Municipal Road Allowances (UMRAs); 2019/20 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) presentation; recruitment and FMP updates
8-Apr-19	Welcomed new members Jan MacKillican and Chris Ursulak; BMFC presented the 2017/18 Annual Report
3-Jun-19	BMFC presentation on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid; overview of results from Desired Forest & Benefits (DFB) session; Previous minute taker Emily Trolley retired – LCC noted that ToR indicates MNRF will provide a minute taker and lack of this function impedes full effectiveness of a committee member who must now take minutes
23-Sep-19	FMP update, including public consultation and using DFB results to set plan objectives
10-Feb-20	2020/21 AWS presentation; FMP update; discussion on Forest Sector Strategy and proposed changes to forest policy
15-Jun-20	Update on status of FMP development (progressing towards LTMD); input to this LCC report for Stage 2; Review of Amendment #62 with action item to review amendment conditions in LCC Terms of Reference at a future meeting
13-Aug-20	Final review of Stage 2 LCC Report; presentation and endorsement of LTMD; review of request from Wilderness Committee to make a presentation on old-growth forests
5-Oct-20	Review and update of Amendment Protocol in LCC ToR; other edits to LCC ToR flagged to align with new FMPM requirements; presentation on FMP progress; summary of comments / input being received by LCC members on plan development / current operations; overview of road classification issue
23-Nov-20	Ernie Demuth confirmed as new MNRF Management Forester in Bancroft District; review and acceptance of revised LCC ToR; overview of public comments received during Stage 2: LTMD; update on products being developed

	for Stage 3: Proposed Operations; update on roads planning approach (status quo) as per Steering Committee direction; review of letter received from Kamaniskeg Area Property Owners Association re: planning and operational concerns regarding Block 2020
15-Dec-20	Update regarding follow-up communications with Kamaniskeg Cottagers who sent in letter to LCC; Update on Newly proposed Branch roads for 2021 FMP; Presentation on Stage 3: Proposed Operations products and how to navigate the Natural Resources Information Portal; Seek input for Learning Manual for LCC; Presentation of Stage 3 LCC Report (Jane Dumas); Note- Keith Hodgson and Kim Roberts resigned on December 11, 2020, this was not presented at the meeting but was added to the minutes.
22-Feb-21	Discussed new member that have expressed interest in joining LCC; Review LCC Self Evaluation Survey; move LCC meeting to daytime meeting discussion; Overview of Stage 3 comments, Svetlana and Ernie gave an overview of all comments and responses provided; LCC report for Stage 4 due and reviewed briefly with team, will send out prior to draft plan submission; Invitation for LCC to attend PT meeting on March 18 where Draft Plan was presented.

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2 1.2.2 JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE PLANNING TEAM

3 Joint meetings between the Planning Team (PT) and the LCC are not practical for the Bancroft-
4 Minden Forest Management Unit (FMU). This is due to travel distances, work hours and other
5 commitments, especially by the LCC members who generally have jobs, additional volunteer or
6 political commitments. Members of the PT who are staff members of the MNRF or the Bancroft
7 Minden Forest Company are in the same situation and have numerous other commitments. In
8 place of joint meetings, members of the PT attend LCC meetings providing updates and plan
9 related information, and a designated member of the LCC (currently Jane Dumas) attends PT
10 meetings.

11 The following provides a summary of Planning Team meetings attended by LCC designate, Jane
12 Dumas:

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Date	Main Topics Discussed
10-Jul-18	Forest Management Planning - highlights and getting started; Project Plan outline, Plan production schedule, Legislation review, Review of ToR
14-Sep-18	Ongoing ToR and Project Plan review, Progress on Checkpoints, Planning Composite Inventory (PCI) update
2-Oct-18	Task Teams (TT) discussed and established, PCI updated and submitted, Public Consultation TT to meet to explore options for distributing public notices (LCC member Jane Dumas on this TT)
15-Oct-18	Public Consultation TT Meeting - Reviewed broadening types of contact to enhance public notice practices to achieve good geographic coverage as well as reach seasonal residents

19-Nov-18	MNRF staffing updates, Stage 1 complete (endorsed October 12, 2018), membership signing of ToR and Project Plan review, BMFC provided comprehensive review of timeline and progress to date
18-Jan-19	MNRF Staffing updates; Update on progress / timeline, checkpoints and PCI; BMFC presentation on Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM); MNRF presentation on Delineation of Moose Emphasis Areas (MEA), Task Team updates
1-Mar-19	Update on modelling, Ontario Landscape Tool (OLT), Deer Yard Survey, Advanced Analysis
3-May-19	MNRF Staffing update, LCC Report - New members, Candidate MEAs in the Bancroft Minden Forest, Information on Areas of Concern (AOC) and Conditions on Regular Operations (CRO)
31-May-19	TT updates - Modelling and Analysis, Public Consultation, Indigenous - Archaeological Potential Areas
13-Jun-19	Moose Emphasis Area Task Team - Members - MNRF, AOO, LCC, BMFC – developed two options per proposed MEA
26-Jun-19	Task Team updates, Production schedule update
24-Jul-19	Production schedule update - LTMD timelines and products; Base Model Inventory update; Relic Shorelines - Opportunity for planning team to gain knowledge and information regarding recent work done by AOO on mapping post-glacial shorelines
27-Sep-19	MNRF staffing update, MEA Discussion / review, Introduction to Strategic Forest Management Model (SFMM) and some key info being used to develop Long Term Management Direction, Introduction to Yield Curves, Introduction to Natural Succession in SFMM, Update on Silvicultural Ground Rules (SGR), Update on the status of developing Management Objectives (FMP-10)
28-Oct-19	MNRF staffing updates, presentation on Indigenous Cultural Heritage CROs - rationale for recommending if CRO should remain or be changed to AOC; MEA - Roundtable table discussion lead by Suzy Shalla (Acting District Manager) - goal to reach a resolution on the boundaries of proposed MEAs to provide a final MEA layer for use in the FMP planning process (especially for Hindon and Cashel); a third option for Hindon and Cashel to be presented at next Planning Team meeting
29-Nov-19	MNRF staffing update, Plan timeline and schedule update - Checkpoint 3 submitted to MNRF November 15, 2019 for review; MEA Update - options for three of four MEAs were settled (previous meeting); third option for Hindon and Cashel were approved; Discussion of Checkpoint 4 requirements; Cultural Heritage Values and protection in FMP - specific questions responded to by Renee Bellini, MNRF Cultural Heritage Specialist
12-Feb-20	Timeline and schedule update, Task team updates
23-Mar-20	Impacts of COVID-19 / adapting to working from home; Conference call meetings being used; working on Checkpoints (CP) #4 and #5
14-Apr-20	CP3 base model is endorsed; Majority of modelling for CP4 has been done; CP5 working on modeling and augmentation
5-May-20	Comprehensive Landscape Guide review provided; Explanation of use of qualitative vs quantitative socio-economic (SE) assessment methodologies

8-Jun-20	Public Consultation TT meeting – reviewing requirements and preparing for opportunities for public input
17-Aug-20	Public Consultation TT meeting - discussion and review of Stage 2 material, public notice process and progression from paper to digital formats
4-Sep-20	Industry rep being added to Steering Committee; overview of policy updates resulting from new FMPM; review of recent decision-making memo providing supplementary guidance to PT ToR; PT input on road classifications
6-Oct-20	Timeline / schedule update; additional information on FMPM policy changes; update on Proposed Operations planning and product development for Stage 3; presentation on AOCs; overview of proposed allocations; discussion on bridging and plan extension options
23-Oct-20	Public Consultation TT meeting - LTMD public comment review, update and summary
30-Oct-20	Presentation of Algonquin Aboriginal Background Information Report (ABIR); Review of public comments received on LTMD and proposed responses; review of proposed communications plan for Stage 3; review of new AOCs – Provincial Park and Conservation Reserves, and Remote Trout Lake / Stream; update on proposed Short-term Plan Extension
11-Dec-20	MNRF staffing updates; LTMD public comments / responses update and discussion of Stage 3 media notices; presentation of 6 new proposed branch roads; overview of materials for Stage 3: Proposed Operations to be posted to NRIP
10-Feb-21	Various updates to the ToR for PT; Stage 3 review and next steps to Draft Plan; Task team updates – Modelling and Analysis low planned AHA, overview of public consultations (stage 3) presented all comments and planned responses, Indigenous, Operations, Roads, Discussions on comments from interest groups moving forward

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2 1.2.3 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3 The following training opportunities have been provided to LCC members:

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Date	Type of Training
20-Jun-18	FMP training – 2021 Forest Management Plans – Organizing for Planning (full day session hosted by Southern Region MNRF - attended by Jane Dumas) - Overview of Planning process and LCC role
30/31-Oct-18	Long Term Management Direction (LTMD) training for 2021 FMP teams (full day session hosted by Southern Region MNRF - attended by Jane Dumas) - Current forest conditions, understand basics of Base Model, develop objectives and indicators, management zones, social and economic assessment, understand landscape patterns, strategic ungulate management, developing proposed management strategy, documenting assessment of sustainability
24-Apr-19	Orientation session for new LCC members (hosted by Bancroft District MNRF - joint with Mazinaw-Lanark LCC)
3-Jun-19	Presentation on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (delivered by Svetlana Zeran, BMFC)

23-Sep-19	Power Point Presentation – Summary and Explanation of Desired Forest & Benefits Results and Setting Plan Objectives (delivered by Svetlana Zeran, BMFC)
10-Feb-20	Presentation: 2020/21 AWS (delivered by Svetlana Zeran, BMFC)
13-Aug-20	Presentation: LTMD – Purpose/Schedule/Reasons for Delays/Actual Planning Schedule/what is under development/Modeling/Horizons and Terms (delivered by Svetlana Zeran, BMFC)
5-Oct-20	Updating Amendment Review Protocol section in LCC Terms of Reference (ToR) and how this aligns with recent changes in the FMPM 2020 (delivered by Svetlana Zeran, BMFC)

The LCC has the following recommendations for improvements and suggestions for training:

- Training for LCC members on a regular schedule to match the stage of the FMP process is desired, such as:
 - Immersive sessions that provide mentoring opportunities in diverse group settings (e.g. Desired Forests and Benefits meeting);
 - Assisting members in digesting large volumes of information to enable productive engagement in specific topics and issues of discussion.
- Creating a training registry with links to background information, forestry terminology and educational resources that members can reference as needed.

1.2.4 PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF VALUES MAPS AND LTMD

Description of Long-Term Management Direction (FMPM 2017) - The management objectives, indicators, assessment of sustainability, social and economic assessment, and levels of activities required to achieve the desired forest and benefits and provide for the sustainability of the forest for the management unit.

The LCC has received multiple presentations and updates from the Plan Author specific to the various stages of the planning process. The LCC has had the opportunity to review detailed values maps for the plan and provide input to the draft LTMD prior to formal public consultation opportunities as prescribed in the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM).

1.2.5 PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION EFFORTS

The LCC has been engaged in the various stages of public consultation to date, including:

- Stage 1 Invitation to Participate – October 2018
- Desired Forests and Benefits meeting - May 13, 2019
- Stage 2 Review of the Proposed LTMD – September 2020
- Catchacoma Hemlock Stand stakeholder meeting (attended by Jane Dumas) - October 13, 2020
- Review of DRAFT Information Products Required for the Information Forums (Stage 3 – Proposed Operations) – December 17, 2020

There have been no information centres to this date due to Covid-19. This next stage (Stage 4) is similar to Stage 3 in that there will be an opportunity for 'virtual' information centres upon public request. LCC members will be invited to any virtual meetings involving their constituent groups. LCC members were advised of all public input received during Stages 2 and 3 and were given the opportunity to assist with

1 responses. The LCC Representative Jane Dumas was involved in writing/reviewing responses to the
2 submissions received during Stages 2 and 3 of consultation.

3 **1.2.6 PARTICIPATION IN ISSUES RESOLUTION PROCESS**

4 During this timeframe, the LCC has not received any requests to participate in a formal Issues Resolution
5 Process related to the FMP.

6 **2 PROBLEMS AND ISSUES ADDRESSED BY COMMITTEE**

7 Issues or concerns that have been discussed and addressed by the LCC include:

- 8 • Unopened Municipal Road Allowances (UMRAs);
- 9 • Inclusion of feedback provided at the Desired Forest and Benefits meeting;
- 10 • Continued interest in road classification and decommissioning discussions as part of roads
11 planning.

12 The LCC encourages and welcomes the ability to have greater input and feedback into specific planning
13 topics through increased learning / training opportunities and stakeholder outreach abilities. This is
14 currently being created.

15 The LCC would like to see a formal feedback loop implemented that confirms or demonstrates how our
16 input is being considered and utilized by the Planning Team, the SFL and MNRF. This is currently being
17 created.

18 **3 ASSESSMENT OF COOPERATION PROVIDED BY MNRF AND SFL / PLAN** 19 **AUTHOR**

20 To date in the FMP process, the LCC has experienced good group mentoring opportunities and an
21 ongoing collaborative input process.

22 MNRF staff continue to provide support and updates at LCC meetings along with detailed and
23 informative presentations provided by the SFL plan author. The committee wishes to express its
24 appreciation for the professional effort contributed in keeping them updated and informed on the
25 planning process for the Bancroft Minden Forest FMP.

26 **4 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND** 27 **ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE;**

28 Overall, the LCC is pleased with the level of engagement and input we are contributing to the FMP
29 process. The PT has always kept the LCC members informed and involved in critical decision points.

Understanding what input from the LCC is used in the final plan is raised as a concern and will be discussed below. The committee is satisfied with the structure of the LCC but acknowledge it is sometimes difficult for volunteers to commit the time required to stay informed and provide meaningful input. The LCC is pleased with the rigorous member recruitment process that was followed to fill gaps in membership and onboard two new members at the start of the planning process.

In February 2021, LCC members completed a self-evaluation of its effectiveness in plan development as part of the CFSA Indicators of Objective Achievement required for the Draft Plan. This mark will be reported in FMP-10 under the 'Social and economic – harvest levels and community well-being' category. The overall mark was 8.0. The headings in the evaluation were: Informed, Involved, Influential, Representative, Functioning and Satisfaction. There was also an opportunity to provide comments for each category.

Positive comments included: the group communicates well, good participation from members, feel that their stakeholders are being represented through the LCC, Good training opportunities on forest management by the plan author, a broad cross section of stakeholders being represented.

The areas for improvement included: improvements in communicating the expected outcomes for each meeting through pre-meeting readings, stakeholder involvement was low due to the presentation of the FMP process literature, meetings at times could be monopolized by individual stakeholder interests. These comments are noted with some being addressed earlier in this report. The largest area for improvement is understanding where the LCC's input influences the final FMP. An attempt at addressing this through a 'Formal Feedback Loop' is one suggestion that is being implemented.

5 COMMITTEE'S ASSESSMENT OF FMP

The LCC is in full agreement with the 2021-2031 FMP Draft Plan as presented.