



Northumberland County Forest Advisory Committee

Facilitator's Summary

Workshop No. 9



Contents



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Workshop No. 9

February 26th, 2009

Northumberland County Council Chambers

555 Courthouse Road

Cobourg, Ontario

3	Introductory Remarks
4	Facilitator's Overview
7	County Presentation
19	Open Discussion
44	Next Steps
45	Supplementary Comments

Introductory Remarks

Hello everyone, my name is Peter Delanty and I am a County Councilor. I'm chair of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) and it's my job, to report back to County Council on the deliberations that, we've been going through over the past several months. I want to welcome Forest Advisory Committee members as well as our guests who are at the back. This is the last FAC workshop before the public open house, which will take place on March the 26th.

I'm really pleased that the staff at the County have been able to meet with all the user groups over the last several weeks, We have come to a consensus with nearly every group. I think a lot of credit goes to those people who were willing to can give a little bit here as long as someone else was giving a little bit there. I'm really pleased and we almost have a 95% consensus.

I'd like to introduce some new folks that are around the table. Now, if I could start over here to my left and if they could just stand; Doug Wharton the detachment commander from the OPP and Ed Chong also from the OPP. And as an alternate to the Ganaraska Conservation Authority we have George Alger.

Al McPherson sends his regrets. I think this will be a great meeting this evening and as I said it's our last FAC workshop before the public open house. I'm going to turn it over to Robb and then Mia and Fred are also going to be involved with the presentation tonight, but first Robb; glad to see you again Robb.



Facilitator's Overview

Good evening everyone, thank you very much; we're glad you were able to come out and I thank the public for also joining us tonight. As you from the public know you're welcome although you're not involved in the discussions. Let me start off with a couple of slides and then we'll quickly get to Mia's presentation, which I know is what you want to see. My role is the Independent Public Facilitator for these discussions and that means I have to ensure that it's fair for everyone; that you're treated with respect; and that your opinions are given a fair hearing. It's transparent because as you know we produce copious summaries that try to track

and be true to the discussions that occur. Balance means no one will be allowed to dominate or hog the discussion and inform means the process will be based on the facts as opposed to rumor or innuendo.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to do three things; provide an update on the results of the meetings with the recreational stakeholder groups and Mia will be doing that presentation. After her presentation we'll have a round table discussion of those results and findings. Our final item for tonight is to get advice on the upcoming open house on March 25th. We've created a new set of discussion

The Independent Public Facilitator

My role is to make sure the discussions are fair, transparent, balanced and informed.

- Fair** means everyone will be treated with respect, their opinions given a fair hearing.
- Transparent** means summaries of these sessions will be published.
- Balanced** means no one will be allowed to dominate or hog the discussion.
- Informed** means the process will be based on "facts".

Purpose of the Meeting

- To provide an up-date on the results of the meetings with the Recreational Stakeholder Groups
- Roundtable discussion of those results
- To get advice on the up-coming Open House on March 26, 2009

Discussion Ground Rules

- Defend the other person's right to say what they want even if you disagree with them
- Encourage openness, transparency and fairness in how we deal with each other
- Challenge self-serving statements that do not consider the larger public good
- Engage the people you don't like or understand in a last ditch effort to find some good in them
- Never kill an idea too fast... once it's gone, it will seldom poke it head up again
- Tell the other person what you liked about their idea before you tell what aspects gave you heartburn

DECENT, eh?

ground rules that we're starting to test out. We call them, Canadian discussion ground rules, and it's a notion that comes from an article by a woman who said "Canadians are if nothing else decent". So we took the word decent and said, okay, could we create a set of ground rules around the letters of the word decent? So the first one is "D" for defend the other person's right to say what they want even if you disagree. That's a typical Canadian thing like we can disagree, but you have the right to your opinion. "E" for Encourage openness, transparency and fairness in how we deal with each other. "C" is for Challenge self serving statements that do not consider the larger public good. "E" is for Engage

the people you don't like or don't understand in a last ditch effort to find some good in them. Doesn't that sound kind of typical of Canadians? We also give the benefit of the doubt. "N" is for Never kill an idea too fast; once it's gone it will seldom poke up its head again. And the final one is "T" which is to Tell the other person what you liked about their idea before you dump on them. So, it's kind of a new version, what do you think and are they okay to use?

The agenda; I'm going to get through this as quickly as I can so that we can get to the County staff progress report on the results of the discussions with the recreational stakeholder groups which Mia

will do. Then we'll do the comment and discussion from the members and then next steps.

We've handed out two paper assistants, you're used to using them; I don't need to drag it out. Also just wanted to mention we've overhauled the website to give it a new look and feel so if you haven't been on it for a while you might find it kind of interesting. So we try to make sure it's totally up to date and that the public have that latest information on the ongoing approach that's been used. And so now we can move on to the next presentations which I thought the photograph would be appropriate Ben, in terms of what we're trying to protect and do. So with that here's Mia.

Forest Advisory Committee



Thursday, February 26, 2009
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
A Hot meal will be Served

6:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Introduction and Purpose of Meeting – Robb Ogilvie, Independent Public Facilitator

6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
County Staff Progress Report – Results of Discussions with Recreational Stakeholder Groups – Mia Frankl

7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
Comments and Discussion with the Members of FAC

8:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Next Steps

- Preparations for Open House-March 26/09
- Prescribed Burn Meeting- March 24/09
- Update on Facilitator's Atlas

OGILVIE, OGILVIE & COMPANY 5

Two "Paper Assistants"

I didn't get a chance to say...

Discussion has compromised the quality of the work. (1 of 1)

Discussion has compromised the quality of the work. (1 of 1)

Please go to the Feedback Form at the end of the session.

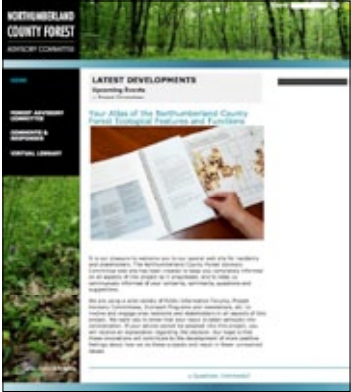
Facilitator's Feedback Form

Discussion Topic	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Introduction	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Purpose of Meeting	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Progress Report	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Comments and Discussion	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Next Steps	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Atlas	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Feedback Form	Yes	No	Other
Facilitator's Other	Yes	No	Other

Please go to the Feedback Form at the end of the session.

OGILVIE, OGILVIE & COMPANY 6

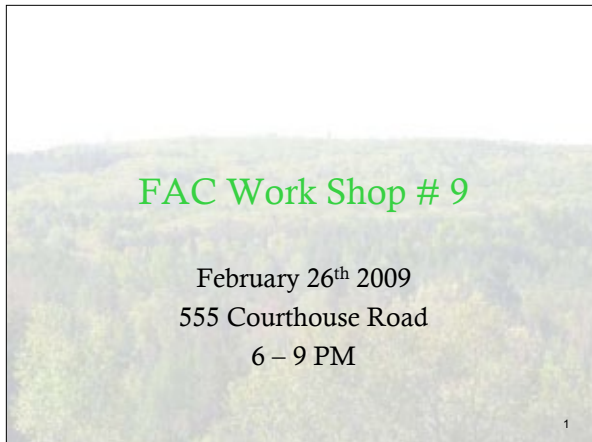
New Look and Feel to the Website



OGILVIE, OGILVIE & COMPANY 7

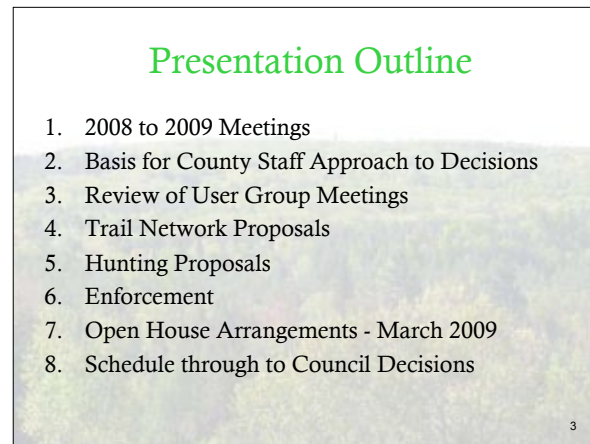
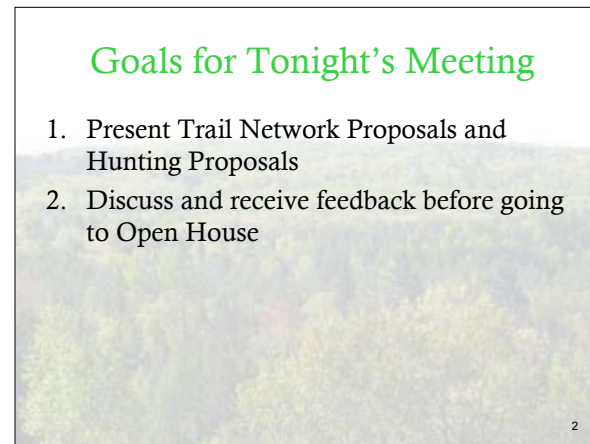
County Presentation

Good evening everyone I'm Mia Frankl the County's Forestry Management Officer, one of many of the staff behind the scenes doing all of the work including tonight's presentation. Thank you to all of our FAC members for your ongoing commitment and dedication and to the work of our consultants and support staff. There are, supplementary materials at the front of the room.



This is the 9th Forest Advisory Committee Workshop. We've got quite a big presentation to go through tonight. I'd like to first take you through all of the slides and ask you to hold discussion, write your questions down; make notes on the handouts that I've given you. Robb will then take you through a facilitated discussion. Goals for tonight's meeting are pretty straight forward; we're going to present the trail network proposals and hunting proposals

and then turn it over to you for what I am sure will be a lively discussion as they always are.



We'll review where we've left off when we last met and the steps that County staff has been working on. We'll go over the objectives and guiding factors for the conclusions that you'll see here tonight in

terms of review of user group meetings (who and when). Then we'll go through each of the user group meetings, present a summary of discussions and the resulting staff trail network proposal. We'll talk about hunting; what, where, when. We'll talk about enforcement issues and I think at that point we may need a little bit of a break, 5 minutes and then we'll come back. Robb will take you through the facilitated discussion and as he mentioned we'll wrap up with some discussion on open house and next steps. We last met in October 2008. We were reviewing the environmental sensitivities atlas; the staff has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes, since then. You guys will recall map F from the atlas; the land use map. This map shows basically two different forest ecosystems conveniently divided by highway 45; East of 45 being the more sensitive ecosystem of the forest.





Between our last workshop and now we have been meeting with our trail user groups on the advisory committee, the hunting group and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. We also met with the MNR's conservation officer Kent Hodgsen. He was unable to join us tonight, but he should make it to the open house so everyone will have an opportunity to meet him then. A lot of members from each trail group came out to these meetings. We had a lot of positive discussion and I'll go into that later in the presentation. So the factors which guided the drafting of our proposals. Point one; we want to implement management, under the spirit and intent of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan with consideration for things like the Endangered Species Act, areas of natural and scientific interest and a legislative requirements to provide a trail for the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

We want to reduce the impact of trails to protect the ecosystem; and when I say we I mean the County, the FAC and the public at large; protecting the forest's ecosystems is first and foremost. This is something we've been hearing a lot of at our workshops. We'd like to provide larger areas with minimal disturbance for interior species; some birds prefer interior. This includes wildlife as well as vegetation restoration; again taking a conservation approach to management on this property. We want to consider sharing trails to reduce the overall number of trails. This also combines our volunteer resources so we can get more than one user group working together and try to foster community stewardship among the user groups rather than as individual groups. We also talked about sharing trails in opposite's seasons since obviously not everybody is compatible year round.

Steps taken by County

- Met with all trail groups, hunting rep, MNR Conservation Officer, O.P.P. & Alnwick Haldimand Twp. rep.
- Discussed current use, compromises, desired trail experience & network
- County staff developed trail network proposals for the groups based on:
 - Meeting discussions
 - Atlas
 - Trail Study

Factors which Guided Drafting of Our Proposals

1. Must adhere to provincial legislative requirements
2. Reduce number of trails & restore significantly degraded sites
3. Shared trails for compatible users
 - a) Work together to maintain a trail system
 - b) Share trails in opposite seasons

More guiding factors: In terms of maintaining regional trail linkages County staff felt that it would be a step too far to place an outright ban on motorized use to the east of County Road 45. There are some regional trails that run through our area that provide value and as we've heard from most of our motorized groups that the desired experience is a touring route; a destination based route that gets you from point A to point B over the course of a day. In terms of point five; there was a desire for more year round multi-use trails. In the winter time the Beagle Club trails are quite taxed with the skiing so let's have some other year round opportunities in other parts of the forest. And point six we want to work with our user groups on trail maintenance and issue resolution. For example create safer access, provide up to date information for emergency responders and OPP, establish some 911 signage

out there. We tried to stay away from user fees as much as possible; let's use our volunteers instead of our tax dollars. And of course all of this has to be something that's easy to sign and enforce. It has to be clear and concise to understand both for the public and for those who would be enforcing it. We want to have an enjoyable experience out there with rules that are easy to understand and be able to know where you're supposed to be and where you're not supposed to be.

Guiding factors continued

4. Maintain motorized regional trail linkages & connectivity
5. Minimize potential for conflicts among users
6. Minimize taxpayers operating costs & legal liability exposure
7. Clear, understandable & enforceable designated use areas & rules

You can see that we've had a lot of meetings with a variety of groups. One thing to point out here is, the Pine Ridge Hiking Club. As I just mentioned we want to establish some more year round hiking trails so we met with the Pine Ridge Hiking Club and other local hiking club in addition to the Oak Ridges Trail Association that has a very specific mandate.

Trail Meeting Schedule

Date	Trail Group
Dec 4	Oak Ridges Trail Association
Dec 8	Dalton McDonald, Twp of A-H
Dec 11	Snowmobilers
Dec 17	Motorcycle Trail riders
Dec 30	ATV Riders
Jan 8	Cross country skiers
Jan 8	Mountain bikers
Jan 13	Hikers (Pine Ridge Hiking Club)

At these meetings; the panel was County staff and our consultants. We had two meetings with the motorcycle trail riders. We did that second meeting with the OPP because there's just a whole pile of legislation to understand on how to best enforce trail use. We had fourteen meetings in total with our user groups that helped forge the recommendations you're going to see here tonight.

By in large most of the groups had very positive discussions with the County and consultants. Most were very willing to compromise, work together, put the forest first, reduce trails, and pair up on trails. We also talked about compatible user types; who can you share trails with each other; Can you do it year round? What seasons might you need to be opposite in? Talked about maintenance and each group's ability or willingness to contribute to trail maintenance. This discussion was positive

Date	Trail Group
Jan 13	Horse back riders
Jan 20	Anglers & Hunters, Conservation Officer
Jan 22	Northumberland O.P.P.
Jan 22	Orienteers
Feb 4	Motorcycle Trail Riders (2 nd meeting)
Feb 23	Northumberland O.P.P (2 nd meeting)
- 14 meetings in total -	

and there is a lot of, human volunteer resource out there and of course the County would support that in any ways we could in terms of infrastructure and perhaps some annual grading of the road, forest access roads and so forth. We talked about insurance and how that could be provided between the County and the trail group who would maintain the trail. Folks who want to come out and use the trail will be covered under things like the Occupiers Liability Act. This is to verify the protection of the volunteers working on the trail as well as the County providing that trail for public use. We talked about the signage; what are the shared signage needs? What kind of things would we need to have on welcome signs? Of course we need location signs and 911 signs. Similar signage needs among different groups and "other" refers to things like having a multi-user garbage cleanup event where

Trail User Group Discussions

Key points of discussion:

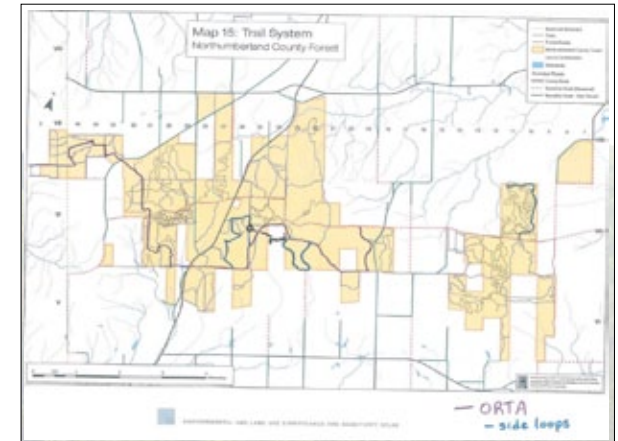
- About your group
 - E.g. Type of experience, trail desired
 - Membership numbers
- Compatible user types
- Maintenance
 - In kind work and County support
 - Multi group clean up events
- Insurance
- Signage
- Other

11

Trail Network Proposals

1. Oak Ridges Trail Association & Hiking
2. Cross Country Skiing & Mountain Biking
3. Horse Back Riding
4. ATV and Snowmobiling
5. Orienteering
6. Motorcycle Trail Riding
7. Hunting

12



the snowmobiler's, the equestrians, the mountain bikers, the skiers; everybody gets out together and participates in doing this... combining our efforts again. Another neat example of what others have done came up in the equestrian meeting on something that was done in Durham forest where they hosted the beast and bike ride and invited equestrians and mountain bikers to come out to get to know each other and agree on how to behave when they encounter each other on the trail.

These are the groups that we've met with over those fourteen meetings and now I'm going to take you through a quick summary of each meeting and show you the maps.

You should have the map handouts to follow along. Starting with the Oak Ridges Trail Association; this is pretty straightforward since it's a legislative requirement. They've been quite pleased with the proposed route and you may notice a couple of differences with that route on the first map versus

the compiled map at the end of that handout. I am waiting on some updates, regarding private landowners to the east of McDonald Road. So, there is a proposed trail in place, Whether or not it stays exactly where it is we'll find out in time through discussions with the ORTA. So this is what that would look like and here is where, with your blessing and discussion, the ORTA trail could be.

We also met with the Alnwick/Haldimand Township through Dalton McDonald who sits on our committee. As you are aware there are many Township owned road allowances that run through the forest. Alnwick/Haldimand has passed the ATV by-law to allow, off-road vehicles on their municipal roads. So what we're hoping to achieve here is having at least two east/west routes, for the passage of these vehicles to maintain those regional trail linkages and to

Oak Ridges Trail Association

Trail Needs:

- Integral part of Provincial trail
- Single use trail
- Prefer single track
- Can use same parking lots as others

Maintenance:

- One to two annual maintenance work parties
- Willing to participate in multi user garbage clean up

Agreement:

- Standard template for whole Trail, can flex some content locally

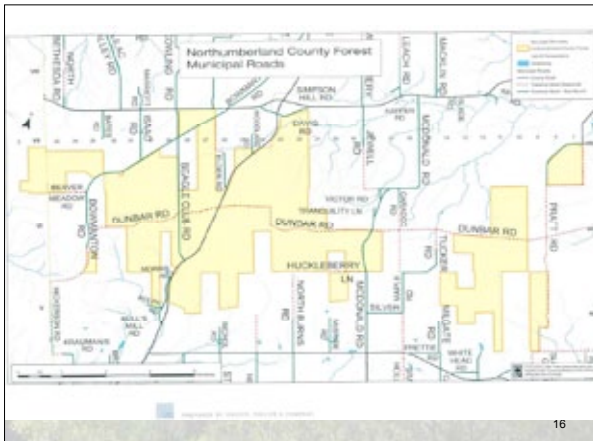
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spread out the flow of traffic. And just a refresher these are all township roads, Dunbar Road being the main road through the forest.

Alnwick-Haldimand Township

- Utilize unopened road allowances for motorized use as much as possible
 - Maintain regional motorized trail systems
 - Do not concentrate too many vehicles on one trail, spread traffic where possible
- Minimize cost to manage Forest and enforce regulations

15



16

Moving right into snowmobiling and again in terms of motorized use, we felt it would be a step too far to outright ban snowmobile use so let's have these east to west corridors. Barb with the snowmobile clubs was positive about that. We also talked about maintenance. They already have a memorandum of understanding MOU in place in accordance with the County standards across the province. These guys do a lot of work. They have equipment for all the grading and in fact I've seen folks out there throughout the winter doing grading all hours of the day. They also do a lot of training, they run a lot of courses, and they do all the permit issuing. Locally the great Pine Ridge Snowmobile Association has about 150 members, but issues upwards of 400 passes for this area, each season. They were willing to change the routes as we proposed, but definitely want time to make sure they can communicate that with their members and take the time to plan and prepare for a change like that. Signage is seasonally posted and removed as part of their risk management. We talked about whether or not there could be some sign sharing with the ATV signs so they could stay up year round. That is something to be explored a little bit further and they are absolutely willing to work with the ATV club and in fact they've already collaborated on some grading. So, this is the proposed motorized route. As you can see we've routed along Dunbar, along the perimeter of the forest through the central track and then out across the east. There are a lot of similarities

Snowmobiling

Desired experience:

- Destination based riding with some local touring (e.g. with family)
- Willing to compromise on fewer east-west trails

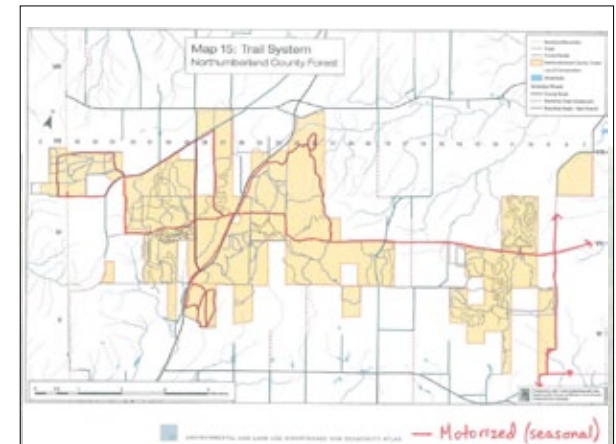
Compatibility:

- Willing to share with ATV's in opposite seasons

Agreement:

- Standard MOU across Ontario, can add amendment for Forest in particular

17



between the ATV meeting and the snowmobile meeting. We talked about when the season should start; for example Ganaraska Forest starts in May and ends in November. Correct me if I'm wrong Barb; but the memorandum of understanding

with your club is from November 1st to the end of April. So a little bit of juggling with the dates will be required. Again, we discussed sharing trails and working together on grading. Mike tells me that the NDATV would like to build up their equipment capital and get their own graders. Right now their

members are donating their private equipment in kind which is very generous of them. So, the ATV map is the same as the snowmobile one.

The cross-country skiing group told us that they had a lot of volunteer resources that they could contribute. They are very willing to work with other groups. They definitely want to cater to the classic style of cross-country skiing, which is single track. The existing trails that they have (i.e. the colour coded trails in the Beagle Club) are quite satisfactory. Opposite seasons with mountain bikers, would suit their needs. They have similar signage needs as other groups and they are willing to sign a memorandum of understanding, with the County. In terms of hunting; what we heard from them is they would just want to know when and where hunting would be permitted. On the cross-country ski map, you might recognize these

outlines here as the existing colour coded ski trails. These could become the designated ski trails with other activities on some of the other trails that exist in there. There is also the possibility of doing a little bit more in this triangle here. With respect to mountain biking there are many similarities with the skiers. One way directional routing was quite important, similar signage needs. Opposite seasons with skiers is a possibility. One thing that came out of the mountain bike meeting was... and we've all heard it before via Helen who's ill and I told her to stay home and get healthy rather than come here; is that mountain bikes and horseback riders aren't necessarily compatible. Mountain bikes can be quite quiet and may come up on horses unexpectedly. It doesn't sound like there have been too many actual incidences through our user surveys and chats with the two groups. What we've

ATV Riding

Desired experience:

- Touring, low speed, destination based and linkages across County
- Already permitted on twp roads, provides loop connections

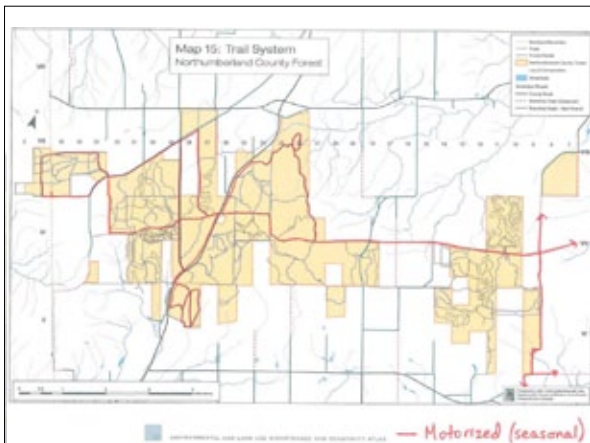
Maintenance:

- Work with snowmobiles on grooming etc
- User education and ATV safety

Agreement:

- Seasonal use (e.g. start May or June to end of October)
- Educate to compliance of designated trail
- Requested membership as a requirement (needs more study)
- County requests standard MOU

19



Cross Country Skiing

Desired Experience:

- Single track, one way directional
- Dedicated cross country ski trails
- Existing trails satisfactory

Compatibility:

- Opposite seasons with hikers and mountain bikers

Agreement:

- Sign an MOU for insurance and maintenance

21



done and you'll see the compiled map at the end is routed them around so there will be intersections, but they won't be sharing trails. And so the mountain bike is the same as the ski map.

With respect to the Pine Ridge hikers there will be more hiking opportunities east of 45 via the Oak Ridges trail and side loops, but we wanted to establish something a little bit more for them. We do have a lot of beautiful forest, that offers a lot of opportunity and we definitely have some good areas that could accommodate some parking. So here is where we would propose a few hiking loops in this area. We could have a parking area right here. This would match with the Oak Ridges trailside loop and then you could have a couple of other options if you like to go for a bit of a longer walk.

Hiking

Desired experience:

- Year round hiking
- Snowshoeing, dog walking, skiing with a dog
- Linear and loop systems

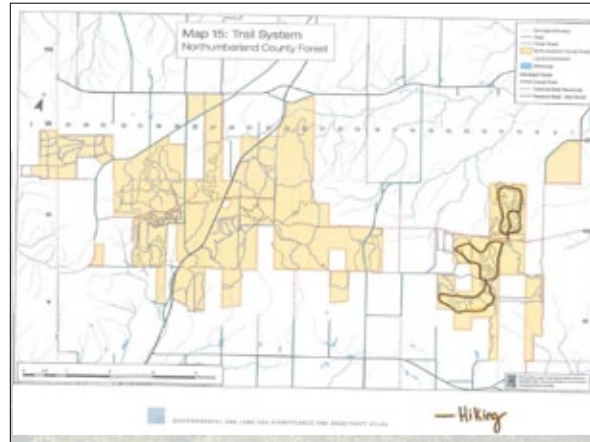
Maintenance:

- Minimal needs, can provide work parties as required

Insurance:

- Standard MOU for insurance and trail maintenance

25



With respect to horseback riding, the equestrians told us that they weren't particularly interested in winter riding. Of course April would be closed to most uses. They also said that they could stay off the single tracks. Some of the equestrians do like to go on the narrower trails, but based on the conflict in terms of the trail's surface from the horse hooves and the needs of skiers/mountain bikers; they're willing to stay off of those. The kind of experience that they're looking for is basically to go out for an hour or two and come back to their trailer. Because the forest doesn't have a lot of water source they're very accustomed to returning to their trailer. It's sort of their daypack that they keep going back to. So they're looking for 2 to 4 hours for a days ride; go out, do a loop and come back. Some of the things that they were a little more concerned about were, parking lots; there are some, specific parking lot

Horse Back Riding

Desired Experience:

- Loops to and from trailer parking
- Trailer parking lot specifications
- Like single and double track trails

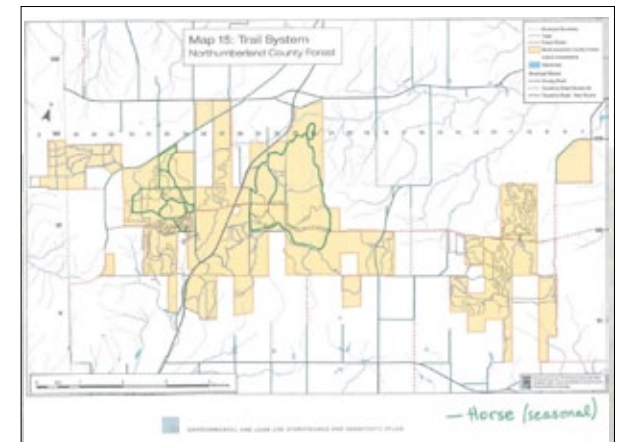
Maintenance:

- Willing to work with other groups to maintain
- No road grading equipment

Agreement:

- Can provide insurance
- Can sign MOU via provincial umbrella

27



needs for a horse trailer unloading and so on. So this is what we're proposing. It might be kind of hard to overlay it in your mind right now. You could look ahead to the map in your map handout, but basically on the forest access roads in the Beagle club area and then on existing forest access roads

east of 45 you're probably noticing some overlap with the motorized route and this was something that Helen mentioned at the equestrian meeting and I'll welcome you to bring it up for discussion as to how you feel about sharing motorized with equestrians, during part of the season. The equestrians did say obviously that they do prefer to share trails with noisy users. So an ATV or a motorcycle you can hear coming up. Cycling, hiking we didn't really talk so much about, but those guys are much quieter and can spook the horse perhaps more readily.

There is no map to accompany Orienteering. These guys tend to avoid our Forest year to year because they don't want to get too familiar with the property. The whole idea of orienteering is to navigate on a map and feel lost and find your way around. So they tend to be more event based. Once every few years, the time of year that they do that is early

spring or late fall. It doesn't fall into winter and it doesn't overlap with hunting, and it doesn't overlap with sensitive times of year for our species at risk; these are plants and animals that come out later in spring. Of course less trail the better. Something that was kind of neat about this group is that they feed into a provincial group, which feeds into a national group, which feeds into an international group. So orienteering is really quite large and in fact Roman was telling us that sometimes they get international visitors to their meets. So it's kind of an exciting opportunity for the County. They keep very excellent maps detailed right down to, each boulder or different trees.

That brings us to the, Final Trail Network Map Version 1. This is what all those trails look like together. You're probably noticing that the hiking trails aren't being shown here. That's because

the GIS tech and I couldn't match up our lines perfectly, but I don't want you to think that they are not being considered. We'll have that corrected for the summary that goes with this.

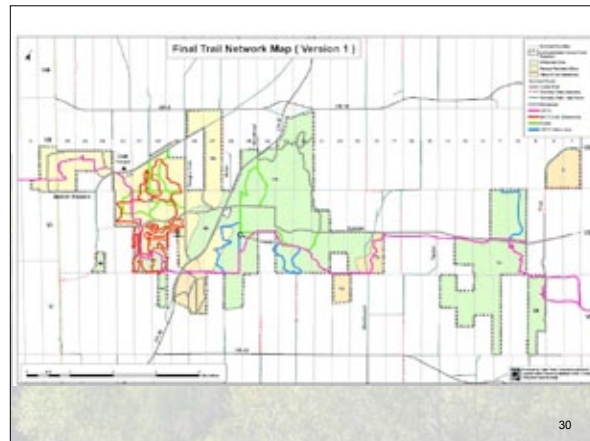
So now I'd like to address motorcycle trail riding. This is where I'll start referring to the memo that you received yesterday. Thank you to everyone for accepting it the way that you did and to Ken for turning around comments as quickly as you did as well as other NTR members. Unfortunately we're not able to come to a mutually satisfactory compromise here. We had two meetings with the Northumberland Trail Riders and the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders. The reason that we use NTR up here in this presentation is they're the local club and so we've had Ken sit in at those meetings and provide support for them, but this is dealing with our local group. Definitely several members

Orienteering

General:

- Concerns with harvest, need to be kept up to date on locations
- Seasonal-early Spring, Fall, never in winter
- Off trail, less trails the better
- Feed into international association
- Do provide insurance for events

29



30

Motorcycle Trail Riding

- County staff's goal to work out compromise solutions with all groups to present to County Council
- Significant efforts put forward
- Not able to arrive at mutually satisfactory solution which meets guiding factors

31

Discussions with NTR

- Many areas of philosophical disagreement
- Two meetings to attempt to reach an agreement
- In the end, no agreement

32

Motorcycle Trail Riding continued

- Not looking for same touring experience as other motorized groups
- Seeking technically challenging trails at speeds of 15-25 km/hr on narrow and winding Forest trails
- Would like 100 km of trails
- Can abrade soils and cause rutting

33

Role of Forest

County Staff	NTR
#1) Forest ecosystems must be preserved and protected	#1) Recreational opportunities for all taxpayers
#2) Recreational uses allowed but must not degrade environment	#2) County guiding principles and Environmental Atlas deeply flawed

34

from the Northumberland trail riders attended the meetings; Staff and consultants were also there. We discussed the Atlas. We discussed the guiding principles. We discussed the existing trails that they have established as well as what future trails they would like to establish.

This group has very different goals and objectives than our other two motorized groups on the committee. They prefer the windier and narrow trails in the interior forest and use the roads as a break. They'll do their technical trail riding on these closed loop circuits and go into the challenging terrain. When they come out to a road, that's when they like to take a break, maybe take their helmet off and stretch for a bit and then, slowly make their way along the road, to catch their wind until they hit another single track trail that takes them back

into interior forest. What we are doing in these slides is presenting the position of the County and the position of the Northumberland Trail Riders. This is outlined in the handout memo. So, from the beginning the County has presented a very conservation based approach. We've had a lot of buy-in since we started from the FAC and a lot of support from the public as well on this. The Northumberland trail riders like many of the other trail groups are concerned about recreation and how they could be impacted by management changes to the property, and they do disagree with the findings in the atlas.

The forests lands east of County road 45 are crisscrossed in trails of all kinds as you can see on some of those maps. The County is looking

to reduce the overall number of trails not just motorized; trails in general. What we want here is a low cost low-tech trail plan. We want to reduce user conflict, we want to increase user safety and we want to preserve the natural core areas. Our Tables and comparisons are based on what we were told by the Northumberland Trail riders and OFTR – Ontario Federation of Trail Riders. The Northumberland trail riders are about 30 members and so we were asking if that would be enough for volunteer maintenance and patrol and this kind of thing. We anticipate that as a land use agreement comes into place when trails are established membership will grow, as was the case in Simcoe County forest. The NTR said that to ensure impact is mitigated on a forest ecosystem, it needs to be spread out over more trails rather than condense it to one area in particular or one trails in particular.

Forest Lands East of County Road 45

County Staff	NTR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Environmentally very significant & vulnerable •Existing damage in violation of ORM Act and Conservation Plan •Too many trails now •Need to reduce # of motorized trails overall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ecosystems have withstood and adapted satisfactorily •Existing trails are legally permitted •As ridership increases the # of motorcycle trails needs to be increased •Trail restrictions will lead to excessive erosion.³⁵

Health Benefits

County Staff	NTR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •N’ld Cty Medical Officer of Health concerns re. existing accidents and injuries •Concern re. exhaust emissions •York study very limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Motorcycle riding a benefit to health •York study concluded better than jogging •Trail riding supports M.O.H.P. health objectives

No Other Recreational Options

County Staff	NTR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorcycle trails require frequent maintenance • GRCA trails closely available • Other options- CKL, Haliburton County, Limerick Forest • Intensive uses should be on single use facilities and users should pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other groups (e.g. hikers) have other options, they have none • Public lands should be open to all taxpayers at no cost to them

We also talked about health benefits with the trail riders and had some good discussions there. The Ministry of Health Promotion (MOHP) in this area does have a very active promotion on right now for all trail user types; motorized, non-motorized. Everybody needs to get out and exercise and get healthy. A recent letter from Dr. Lyn Noseworthy, the Northumberland County Medical Officer talks about health concerns related to ATV’s related injuries. However there are studies for and against the health benefits of Trail bike use as well as around all kinds of different uses. The health units provided us with many different health studies and if you guys would like to read some of those just let me know. We talked about other recreational options and what’s possible around. We’ve got Ganaraska forest. It’s within 50 kilometers of the County forest. They do have motorcycle trails available there; the OFTR

clubs established those. Other options include the City of Kawartha Lakes; CKL, Haliburton County and Limerick Forest. There are pay and play facilities. The trail bike rider’s position is that other groups such as hikers, cyclists do have other trail options in the County and public land should be available to all taxpayers by all means. One thing about these other options for trail bike riding; is that they are far away. They are, City of Kawartha Lakes; not too bad, Haliburton, Limerick you’re talking 2 or 3 hours from here. So these kinds of facilities tend to be further away. So that does make a bit of an unfortunate situation for folks who like to ride in their home grounds. We talked about the historical motorcycle approval. We’ve heard Ken bring up the 1997 council resolution and you’ve seen that in the memo. The approval does state permission for future

events. There were no terms and conditions. There was no renewal period. It’s very vague and the fact of the matter is that the County is not bound to it. The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan has come in 2001 and an expansion of trails would certainly have to meet the criteria in that legislation. We do recognize absolutely that there is an investment by the Northumberland trail riders in the trails here. It’s unfortunate that council resolution was as vague as it was and we have to plan for the future and the present. County staff conclusions from this are; the Northumberland trail riders themselves right now are a small group granted with potential to grow. It’s not the local group that’s the problem, that’s not what we’re concerned about. We’re concerned about the larger demographic. A lot of places in the greater Toronto area have closed areas to motorcycle trail riding and other off-road vehicle use.

Historical Motorcycle Approval

County Staff	NTR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A trail was approved for a fundraising ride •NOT extensive trails throughout the Forest •ORMCP legislation supersedes all •County is not bound forever by 1997 approval and must meet ORMCP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1997 Council approval for motorcycle trails in Forest •Significant NTR investment in time and effort to establish trails •Not fair to take away

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If we establish official trails here and if we welcome more trail use we may see sizable increases. In one example that Ken gave and I mentioned earlier; Simcoe County Forest had under 50 members; established trails and then grew to over 400 members. You need to think if that's something that we can accommodate here with all of our other users and our environmental sensitivities. So the County recommendation is to offer them the same motorized recreational opportunity that we've offered the ATV's and the snowmobiles and for them to share those trails although not ideal to that riding style. This is what we're proposing and so again we show, the same motorized map that we saw for the other motorized folks.

As we move into the hunting proposal, I think we all know somebody who's been in a car accident with a deer. Perhaps injured with lasting effects.

Recommendations

1. That motorcycle trail riders be offered the same Forest touring experience as the other motorized groups
2. That motorcycle trail riders be restricted to the same trails as the snowmobiles & ATV's

Over 40% of our traffic accidents in the County are wildlife related. There are also farmer's field and the vegetation of our County forest, which need to be protected from deer over population. We've met with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the MNR's conservation officer. As a result we proposed the following; no hunting year round of any game species to the west of County Road 45 and to allow deer hunting to the east of County Road 45 during the shotgun and archery season. We didn't include muzzle loading because our hunter surveys showed it was not pursued in high numbers. The shotgun season is November 3rd to November 16th. Muzzle loading is December 1 to 7. We wanted to keep things simple instead of having the season's pop in and out. Archery is there and shotgun use tends to be the one that

most folks are concerned about. While I'm on this slide I want to mention we talked about ATV game retrieval and we're going to give that a little bit further study. There are certainly other places that allow ATV game retrieval. We do have motorized routes and whether or not you could go off of those

Hunting Proposals

- All agree that deer over-population is an issue
 - Damage to Forest and farm land
 - Motor vehicle accidents
- Presently County is exposed to significant legal liability with year round hunting

42

Hunting Proposals continued

- Recommendations supported by MNR Conservation Officer
- West of County Road 45:
 - No hunting year round
- East of County Road 45:
 - Permitted deer seasons only
 - Shot gun Nov 1 to Nov 15
 - Archery Oct 1 to Dec 31
 - Muzzle loading not permitted

43

Hunting Proposals continued 2

- Temporary signage at all trail heads & parking lots during deer season
- Ads in the paper and on the radio before and after season begins & ends
- OFAH has concerns with loss of turkey season

44



trails to retrieve your deer will be given further study. To communicate this with the public, we would do temporary signage and that means installing it the week before the hunting season and removing it after. It's something new that would really stand out perhaps even be separate from the usual welcome display. We would have ads in the paper and on the radio before and after; really do a big advertising blitz. We would post it on the website, communicate it through our trail groups. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) have some concerns with any restrictions on hunting especially the loss of the turkey season. However the conservation officer mentioned that the County Forest provides habitat for the turkey's to breed and live in, but the likelihood of shooting them in the forest versus in a farmer's field is somewhat negligible and your likelihood of

success is probably better outside. I'm sure that will come up in the discussion. It should be pretty clear to understand what side of the County road you're on when you're out there, making it something easy to sign and enforce.

This leads us into County forest enforcement. This slide show you the complexity and all the different legislation that we need to ensure that we apply appropriately. I'm pointing out that the Highway Traffic Act does not apply to the County forest off of the township roads. Off of the township road it's essentially treated as private property owned by the public yes but treated as private property under the law in terms of how we can enforce uses. As I mentioned we've been meeting with the OPP and we'll continue to meet with them and you'll see in our next steps that we have some things on

County Forest Enforcement

- Applicable legislation:
 - Trespass to Property Act
 - Off Road Vehicles Act
 - Occupiers Liability Act
- County can pass by laws to:
 - Exclude certain types of vehicles e.g. ATV's, off road motorcycles
 - To restrict all motorized vehicles to well signed trail corridors
- Highway Traffic Act does not apply to Forest
- County cannot apply HTA restrictions
 - e.g. license, insurance, noise

46

Enforcement Provisions 1

Goals:

- Designated Use Areas and Trail restrictions are easy for the public to understand
- Sufficient signage and clear rules so O.P.P.'s job is facilitated

47

Enforcement Provisions 2

Next Steps:

- Prior to Open House meet with Alnwick Haldimand and Hamilton Twps. and O.P.P. to discuss enforcement issues
- Develop a staged plan to implement signage over 3-4 years
- Priority areas for 2009:
 - Lookout Mountain
 - "Mud Holes"
 - Areas East of CR 45

48

the agenda to address that. We can pass by-laws on unauthorized use such as illegal dumping, camping and so forth. We have some pretty clear enforcement goals here. Clear and simple; you'll keep hearing this through the presentation. We want the public to be able to understand it so they can go out and enjoy their experience without having to worry about whether or not they're in the right area. We also want to make sure that if we have by-law

officers and OPP out there enforcing the rules that they can do it well and do it properly. The last thing we'd want to see is a charge to get laid and then have it turned around and cancelled out because signage or something like that was unclear. Prior to our open house in a month from today we would like to meet with the Townships of Alnwick/Haldimand and Hamilton, and bring the OPP along to talk about how we can deal with those road allowances and

property that is not a part of the forest. Of course we'll have a staged plan that will take a few years to implement and we've highlighted some priority areas of course for 2009. The next slide here is the open house slide and as Robb mentioned I'd like to leave that for the end. That will serve better as a wrap up.

Open Discussion



Robb: To start the discussion I want to get a sense of what you liked in terms of the presentation and what you didn't like.

Comment: I have nothing to say but a commendation for the work that has been done by the County staff and everybody else involved. The compromise that has taken place is phenomenal. I'm really proud of the presentation and the work that has gone into it. Nothing more than it really shows a great deal of sharing.

Comment: I still have some questions about certain areas, but I'd like to come back to that later on after I hear some other comments.

Q: With respect to the question about ATV's being used to bring out their game in the hunting season; do we know how many deer get shot in the forest each year? We don't eh? And I guess there's no way to track that? Does the MNR keep tracks of the tags where they come from?

A: The MNR keeps track in terms of the wildlife management unit, but not for specific areas... the way their database is set up it doesn't get that specific.

Q: I just wondered if we could relate that to how much use (i.e. ATV use) it would be during that hunting season?

A: Well, because you're going to be in an area where motorized use is disallowed, right. Depending on how much they'd be in their getting their game out or whether they're using it to move from stand to stand, sight to sight.

Comment: Yes, and how repetitive it would be throughout that month because you're talking archery season; archery season goes from October to December the 30th, right.

Q: Do they have some kind of anecdotal sense of what kind of usage we are talking about?

Comment: I liked a lot of the presentation. I think everybody here got his or her eyes open about what's going on and, compromise is the key word, in making this all work. A couple of other things that we touched on; a south end trail and an east/west trail for the motorized groups and a couple other little north/south accesses to connect those two and one to connect into the hydro line. We need some clarification maybe we can get into that later .

Q: Could you put the map up and show us--?

Comment: Show us what Mike's referring to so we all know what you know.

A: Thanks Mike, for bringing that back up. I said I'd touch on it and I forgot. So, going to our motorized route, when we met we had looked at a route that

would run along the bottom here and actually more along here. Now, the reason that we've taken that off and routed it along the north is because that it goes off and on of County forest property and we can't approve something that's not on our property. So if an agreement comes back with Hydro One that says those routes can be used, then we can put a southerly link along the bottom. Otherwise it would be sort of here and there and wouldn't really go anywhere. So that's why its not shown.

Comment: That would be up to the trail groups to see if they can get a land use agreement in place for those sections of trail that would be needed for conductivity to the County forest.

Q: Can I ask Barb what the snowmobile club does?

A: We are within the forest because the 10 trail is within the forest. But that is not Hydro owned property.

Q: The hydro lines there?

A: No, there are several private landowners through there. They're all land locked pieces of land.

Q: And what do you do to groom them?

A: We don't groom that much down in there.

Q: You don't groom the hydro line?

A: No. We come through it to go south.

Question: Okay, so what's going to happen, you're going to explore- further?

Comment: The other thing that I thought we talked about was a trail in the forest that goes to the number 10 trail that runs north and south from Gleason's Corners.

Comment: Yes, I think it comes off Morris Road from the hydro road there and crosses County Road 45 into that little parking lot just below Beagle Club Road. And it whips up and comes down through and then back out to the hydro line and then back in. And then from McDonald parking lot east again off everything to the south. We talked about that.

A: We deliberated over the results of all of our meetings and so this is what we're offering as the motorized route. If you'd like further discussion please have that tonight and we can continue to work and see if there are other options.

Comment: Yes, because once you come back off the hydro line at Centreton then you'd only have that one route that comes from the parking lot east.

Comment: And it will just take you to the 10 which runs south and then you're right back out.



Comment: It is to the south of the forest and it actually runs in that smaller area to the east end there and it's probably not a lot of area. I think we sent you the GPS... it was on that one map, but anyway you can look at that. With the Northumberland trail riders; did you talk about the areas over in Haddlesey's Hills? No, sorry Minnie's property that just comes in off Turk Road. That whole big chunk of land there; they could make some good routes and a track out there and you could hold some events there. I don't know if it's big enough for them.

Q: I believe you're referring to this area somewhere around here is that right?

A: Yes.

Q: Turk Road somewhere around here?

A: Is that where Turk Road comes in to the bottom right there?

A: Yes, down around here.

Comment: Yes. I don't know, every time I go out for a ride, there's always ATV's or dirt bikes in there running around that little course and up along the hills and stuff in there.

A: That didn't come up during our meetings, but it's on the floor now.

Comment: Well, since we're talking about Ken's area let's wait until we get around the table and come back in on that topic.

Comment: Staff was able to come up with workable solutions for almost every group here except the trail riders and that's unfortunate. It would be nice if they had a spot where they could play just as we all have a spot where we could do our sport. But other than that I think it's a marvelous job they did.

Comment: I always felt right from the very beginning that there was room for everybody and that a lot of compromises could be made where everybody gets a little piece. I still hope that can be accommodated for the trail riders. I don't see timber harvest here anywhere Mia, but I'm sure you have that in your back pocket. As you know, we want to maintain that... it's very important to maintain that forest cover and proper forest management.

Q: There's a lot to digest here. The first one I got on my list and I do have a list is we represented by the hunters here tonight? Do we have a hunter?

A: Yes, the OFAH is here.

Comment: Alright, so they can speak to it, that's fine. Because the turkey thing kind of threw me for a loop.



Comment: I think that's for us that live out there in that area; I think that (i.e. the turkeys) is as big an issue now as the deer. It's going to get worse. We can just see it getting compounded and doubling every year. I've got turkeys running on my back step. So, I mean, we need some sort of control of that and hunting is kind of a balance. It seems that the only predator that a turkey has is hunting. So we need that and I think that has to be readdressed.

Comment: Yes, no time limit?

Comment: I see in the plan that the County wants to talk with the two Townships before the public meeting and it's too bad that we didn't have some of those discussions before this meeting because it kind of leaves me in a conundrum here. I don't know



what we're going to discuss or what your plan is or whether you're just going to show us what you've just shown us here and say do you want that or do you not want that? I'm not sure how you're going to approach that. And to have public meeting... a final public meeting and not having sat down with the township yet. I think Alnwick/Halldimand kind of thinks of themselves as the host municipality; 95% of that forest is in our municipality. We're responsible. Our people live around there. We instigated the policing in the forest. We instigated fire protection in a better mode than we had in the past. We're the principal fire responders for the Township. I remember when we instigated the parking lot for where the skiers are; we had trouble on Beagle Club Road... you couldn't drive down the Beagle Club Road on Sunday because there were so many

cars between the snowmobiles and the skiers. So we made a deal with the County and said, if you upgrade that parking lot we'll plow it free of charge so that we can get these people off the road and keep our road clear and safer. So, we've always been involved with the County and the forest and we feel it's rightly part of our lifestyle. There's no taxes paid for the County forest. There's no income that way for us, but there's certainly lots of costs. I'm sure if you sat down with an analysis you could figure out how many costs that the Township has with that forest just because it's there but we have to live with and we do and that's fine. We never wrote a letter to anybody to complain about that, but we also think that we should be entitled to have some say on what we're going to do out there in the future. We think that's very important. And so far we think that we've been basically somewhat limited to that. We don't think that our Township has been involved as deep as it should be.

A: Yes, certainly and we definitely want to work more closely with the Townships in particular with the road allowances and if there's other items that you would like to work more closely with us on we're open to that.

Comment: Well, we haven't been totally left out of the loop, but I don't think we've been involved as deeply as Alnwick/Halldimand should be up to this point and we're starting to think that it's not going

to happen. We keep thinking we're going to have some meetings; we're going to have some round table discussions, but really we haven't. We haven't had any discussions of any serious consequence on this whole issue and I think that's not right.

Comment: The taxpayers out there they think that's their forest and they'd like to have a little input on it and I can't blame them. So yes, that's an issue, and I don't know whether we can solve that by March 26th for your public meeting or not, but I think something should occur before that.

A: We can do that.

Comment: Our issues may be solved, but I am concerned that the motorcycle group was kind of banned from the forest. I'm a politician and we have taxpayers out in all Alnwick/Halldimand. You may be banning the motorcycle group from Oshawa or something from that forest, but you're also banning the motorcyclists that live out in the backyard of Northumberland forest right there. That's a big step for us and to say that everybody was in agreement; I don't think I've ever agreed to that. I'm not going to say you can't convince me of it, but I certainly up to this point have not stood up and said that I don't want any motorcycles in the forest. I don't want it inferred that Alnwick/Halldimand or myself have done that. Politically that's not a very good statement.

Comment: At least there's good will to solve that problem.

Comment: We know there are issues and we know they have to be dealt with. We don't always agree on how we're going to attack that situation and I think that's where we have to come to some compromise.

Comment: As everyone has mentioned earlier I'm an alternate tonight for the Ganaraska Conservation Authority. I really like the fact that we have moved the meeting along quite quickly. A lot of information here; a lot to absorb. Believe it or not I think I've absorbed most of it I guess that comes with the 30 years experience with the authority. I have some concerns I have a few questions. I don't necessarily have to have them all answered now I'm sure I'll have equal opportunity later. A couple quick ones maybe. I assume there's logging in the east side of 45 highway; is it fair to say that the whole area is open for logging or is there an area that's going to be kept and not logged?

A: We do have a new silviculture consultant on board; James Rogers who's actually with us tonight. We have had those conversations and what they tell me is there's a lot of red pine that needs some attention right now. Our red pine plantations are more to the west of 45. They do have a 5 year plan for harvest in the County forest and so we're discussing with them exactly those kinds of things.

Q: For this discussion, I was more interested in that eastern section... east of 45 which I'm told is quite a sensitive area and I have a lot of respect of course for the sensitive areas. A couple of notes to put forward on your presentation earlier, the Ganaraska forest did host a world-class orienteering event years ago. It went over really well. People came from all over the world. Orienteering is a great thing to have in the forest. Most times you won't see them of course. The only problem that we did have is if you ever do hold a world class event in the forest is the fact that they don't want to bump into anybody because if I'm out there orienteering and I bump into a mountain bike or a hiker I'm going to use the excuse that they slowed me down and so we basically had to keep the forest only for their use and had other user groups monitor it for us and police it for us so they weren't interfered with, but an excellent event. I noticed in some of the reading before I came to the meeting tonight there's a few references there to the authority which I'd like to talk to later, nothing major just a couple of things I personally don't agree with. Definitely will go on record to say that any relationships the authorities had over the years... many years with the motorized organizations, is they've been a great partner to the authority. When we completed our professional audit report it should be noted to the committee that all the funding for that entire report came totally from all the members of the user groups. No

money was spent from the authority for professor Marsh's report. The authority of course has always taken the position that the forest is there... it's a multi-use forest; 11,000 acres roughly available for all user groups. I support what they've done and I've seen it happen over the years. So there's no doubt in my mind that all the user groups can work together and the concerns I've heard tonight some of the minor ones; horseback riders and mountain bikers... I'm quite familiar with all their concerns. They do all work together and that beast and bike thing was an excellent thing that took place in Durham Region. They wondered how it would turn out, but it was great. They basically had two routes where they all met in the morning; the mountain bike people, the horseback people; they talked about each other's concerns and then there was a trail for the horseback riders to go on and a trail for the mountain bikers to go on. They crisscrossed in a few locations and at the end of the day it was just a plus/plus. Everybody had a great day and it was a real eye opener for some of the concerns that they each had with each other. I think I'll leave it at that for now and I'll have plenty of opportunity I'm sure to talk later, thanks.

Comment: It's a great step on moving things forward and it's amazing to see the amount of compromise that's happened so far, great.

Comment: I won't take up a lot of time then. I just have a couple concerns, again, the amount of work that's being done on this is pretty impressive for all the user groups they got together on this. With the meeting we had with the with Mia we had some questions about the trails that are in the 4B and the 2B areas; they're in that little triangle of land.

Comment: Yes, those are an area that we had some concerns about for the more advanced cyclists who are out there who are looking to stay away from trails that may have some hikers or younger people out there. We asked for an area out there that would be kind of out of the way and I don't see that any sort of trails on or anything being allowed in that area or recommended in that area and I'd just like to have some clarification



as whether those trails or ones that are going to disappear or not.

A: Sure Peter, that was a quick presentation so maybe it wasn't clear. I did speak to that and said that there could be opportunity to explore some more trails between Beagle Club and County road 45 granted they haven't been mapped yet.

Q: You've got the maps broken down as to certain users using a certain area and my concern with that is over where the hiking is allowed... way over in the east end; does that mean that nobody can hike in the ski trails now? Is that the message that I'm getting? Is that going to be the only area for hiking? Is that going to be the only area for mountain biking? Same for the horses or anything else?

A: What we're developing here is some designated trails for some user types. The Beagle Club area definitely has a larger concentration of activity and if you look at your map compilation you can see that there are a lot of trails there, but essentially the idea is to designate set trails for set uses. In terms of hiking there will be hiking opportunities throughout the property amongst some of the Beagle trails along the Oak Ridges trail as well as in 5A.

Q: Is that's the direction that we're heading in.

A: In terms of the ski trails specifically Peter, the cross-country skiers did state that they did not want other uses in the winter on those trails. So those would become designated cross-country ski trails, but that's not to say that the Beagle Club area and other trails for example; the horse trails won't be used for things like snow shoeing, dog walking... that kind of thing.

Comment: According to your guidelines I'm to be permitted to express any opinion so I really need to get off my chest the fact that I think, ATV's, snowmobiles and so on are brilliantly engineered machines which are admirably suited for doing certain jobs and I think from a societal point of view it's really unfortunate that so many people feel compelled to use them as toys and I think we ought to be using motorized vehicles to get where we need to go or to do what we need to do and to engage in recreational pursuits. It's unfortunate that we can't use human power. So that's my rant. However; I also need to say that I think Mia and the County staff have done an amazing job of working with all the people and groups and I think they are really to be commended. I do feel some concern about whether these proposed plans will meet with all provincial legislative requirements particularly with respect to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. I think there may be some battle brewing to do with motorized use in this sensitive land however, we'll have to see how that works

out. I think the proposed ATV, snowmobile use are proposing more or less straight fairly level, relatively slow speed routes. I wonder about that use as opposed to what I've often encountered both in this forest and in the Ganaraska. Many times when I've been walking or skiing, an ATV or a snowmobiler slow down, wave, say hello, have a chat and we both move on, but there are those who, come by way too close way too fast and it's pretty scary. Maybe these are the people who aren't members of the clubs and, I don't know how all that is going to be policed and I wonder how it's going to be possible to effectively police all the use in all this land because there's a lot of land where according to these maps, should have no use which I think is as it should be, but, I think of the potential difficulties policing all that. And I have a question for the snowmobilers in particular; do the snowmobilers object to skiers using their trails?

A: We encounter lots of skiers out on the trail especially to the east side of the 45 because there's no ski trails in that area. Lots of times we'll encounter skiers, but it's not fun when they're coming up the middle of the trail because sometimes you don't see them and we can't hear them coming whereas normally you can hear the snowmobiler coming.

Comment: We've been out there and come over the top of a hill and there's a skier down in the middle of the trail. So, that can be an issue yes.

Comment: In my experience it is mostly very benign. You wave and pass by and carry on. But the odd problem does occur.

Comment: Some have tried to run us off the trail and it's pretty scary. But if you want to skate, you need to get onto the snowmobile trails because there is no skating snowmobile or skating ski trail in the forest and so it's... you know it's good to know that at least most snowmobilers are quite happy with this. Thank you.

Comment: One thing giving me a lot less heartburn is the maps compared to the maps we started with at the beginning, so I think that's quite nice to see. The one thing that kind of upsets me is that at the last meeting or the meeting before that we had, we were told that there wouldn't be any more of those, trail committee meetings and I guess that's not really what you did. But the Field Naturalist Club weren't talked to. We were left out. We use the trails, we're in the forest and we also have a pretty good knowledge of what's in the forest. It was a bit of a slap in the face that we were left out. Hopefully we can get that dealt with. I guess everyone knows our opinion. We'd rather not see motorized use of the forest, but at the same rate if it's going to happen, we have to mitigate the impacts as best as we can. I've heard, the idea of spreading out to do less damage. It's going to damage wildlife a lot



more if you spread out. If you make more trails to try to spread the use out because the use is going to actually disturb wildlife throughout the entire forest and, I know I haven't sent these along to you Mia because I'm just getting the first chapter of my thesis written, but I have, you know, some pretty good results here from Northumberland County Forest on the birds showing that all of the trails; single track, double track and roads have impact on birds compared to off-trail areas. Obviously with the wider trails there's more impact... double tracks and roads have the most significant impact, but there's also a significant impact difference between motorized and non-motorized trails and that's really hard because that's even using the Beagle Club area as a non-motorized area which we all know it's not really a non-motorized area. When you actually use a non-motorized area from the Ganaraska forest

you can really see the difference between motorized and non-motorized trails. I think we'd see the same if the Beagle Club was actually off limits too.

Comment: I'm sitting here with results that show there are negative, consequences to wildlife especially forest breeding birds. Robins are doing fine, but Robins are doing fine in subdivisions, southern birds and things like that that are actually in decline. They decline as soon as you get on to a trail so it's nice to see we're reducing the number of trails because that leaves more areas for them. The way I figure it is if I use a 50 meter buffer on either side of the trail which is what the birds were counted at for, every kilometer of trail that's basically you're losing about 10 hectares of forest for a forest breeding bird. So it's actually a substantial amount that you're losing and you just keep knocking it off.



Comment: If you're going to consider more trails for any motorized use I'd say you have to get rid of that trail that goes up through 4A; the one that goes right up through the north of the forest. Where that trail meets at Dunbar road and there's the gate there... that was so unbelievably eroded this summer and fall you would be hard pressed to get an ATV up there; the erosion was so bad.

Comment: In the Ganaraska forest they get along pretty well. Obviously the dirt bike erosion can be pretty bad, but maybe that's something to consider because that 4B area is, somewhat a disturbed forest... same with same with 3. And then if you were to take away that trail that goes up around 4A and like Mike was saying wanting that trail along the lower area kind of the Morris Road area or something like that you're going through a little bit more of just plantation forest down there. But I think if you were to keep them out from north of Dunbar you could, substitute that for south of Dunbar pretty easily and it would have a really beneficial, impact I think.

Comment: And it's too bad that John Marsh only spent half of a meeting with us and he kept saying he was going to get back together and he never did so. I think we only filled out half of the survey that John had.

Comment: We can definitely schedule a follow up Ben. We felt that the Willow Beach could, provide their input at the FAC workshop, but if you feel the need to have a one on one, we can get something arranged.

Comment: We're breaking comments into two parts where you want to talk about the presentation first and then go through my letter and memos regarding this issue.

Robb: Well, I would think that if we started that the other people probably wouldn't finish. Is it that lengthy?

Comment: No, what I'm saying is that if anybody's taken the time to read our letter and our adjustments to the comments then I believe that discussion is going to take some time, but I can do that now, but I'm concerned about the rest of the participants. I have comments only.

Robb: Okay.

Comment: I have comments on the presentation from Mia and the comments that we've heard up until now. I noticed that the, trail maps for the mountain bikers and the hikers, were interesting, because they were the trails that were developed by the Northumberland trail riders (NTR), and what we question is that it's basically an asset of that club although not listed as an asset. It's the trails

that they build and we're wondering why or how those uses no longer support the shared uses that we've enjoyed so far? We're also wondering what their (the hikers) investment was in the trails that they're claiming for use because as far as we know we (NTR) designed and built them. So that's my first comment.

Q: You're referring specifically to the trails in the Beagle Club area?

A: I'm referring to the trails I saw on the map for hiking and mountain biking.

Comment: Well, let's go to that trail map.

Comment: And I discovered this through consultation with the people that I have here so I'm not one 100% familiar with the actual trail so if you'll let me refer to the person who built them who is here, and bring them to discuss it that's up to you.

Q: Are you referring to these ones or are you referring to what was shown in this area?

Comment: From what I know, the cross-country ski trails they did not develop, but used up until '97. The agreement to build other alternative trails was because they wanted to make that a cross-country ski trail area. So everything other than

the cross country ski trail area... the single track marked for the hikers and the mountain bikers are trails that were developed with permission of the County by the Northumberland trail riders. So we're wondering what investment those organizations put into those trails and we're wondering why that since they've been shared use up until... whether they still are officially today; why they feel the need to claim them as non-shared use when typically we don't see much traffic on them... we don't see that conflict of use.

A: Yes, it's my understanding and I'm going to call on Alistair to clarify that these trails were established through the Northumberland cross-country skiers.

Comment: I said beside the cross-country ski trails.

Comment: Beside, okay, so things over this way.

Comment: Yes.

Comment: So your group developed them... we've had discussions to try and see where we could accommodate, your use within them.

Comment: The point we're making is that the choice you made for hikers are trails that were developed and invested in by the Northumberland trail riders and I think it's important that the committee knows that you're in effect taking over

an asset and trying to tell the Northumberland Trail Riders that you no longer have those trails that you built under permission. So I think it's important that the committee is aware that, you're claiming the assets of an organization that you're trying to change their experience, which we'll get to in a minute.

A: The County has proposed, the motorized route option; the same as for the other motorized groups to the Northumberland trail riders and as such, those trails you identified can be closed or used otherwise.

Comment: That wasn't an answer to the question. The question was what investment did those organizations make into the trails that they're claiming to use?



A: Those hiking trails were not asked for by the hiking club they were recommended by staff.

Comment: So staff decided to take the trails developed by the Northumberland trail riders and assign them to hikers? If the answer is yes just say yes.

A: Yes.

Comment: Thank you.

Comment: I apologize for appearing adversary and we don't intend to appear that way. We do want to appear defensive because we do feel we're losing something.

Robb: Okay.

Comment: Mia gave us a great segue whereby the experience was important to the County, for each user group. We clearly illustrated to the county that our experience involves the trails and not the areas of an ATV or a snowmobile. So really what this proposal from the County does is say that we want you to modify your experience, to suit our needs. For example Mike's suggestion of saying, well, I've seen ATV's and snowmobiles over there you can have a little track and some trails. Well, that's like telling the hikers, well, I saw a track over behind the high school; if you really just want to

walk why don't you do it there? The notion is, that we enjoy the forest for the same reasons as other people that enjoy single-track trails. So we really feel that the experience that we enjoy is still not being considered. Back to the presentation; the common thing we've seen a new topics arise as statements of fact that have yet to be discussed. Particularly during Mia's presentation, she mentioned that there has been several trail closures of this type in the Metropolitan area of Toronto and the GTA. The truth is, that has not occurred. We have not lost a motorcycle trail in this Province. So to state that it's a matter of fact, something that occurs often and we're not doing something new is a misstatement of a fact. So we certainly resent not being consulted when new topics arise and that comes up in my letter later.

Comment: I was referring to; natural areas within York, Durham and so on that do not offer off-road trail use.

Comment: But never did. So saying they were closed is a misstatement.

Comment: I can agree with that.

Comment: And a misdirection of this committee.

Comment: Yes, I correct myself on that.



Comment: During Mia's presentation we talked about the resolve of each user group, but I felt that Mia's presentation was a reaffirmation of the County's position when I thought that that was the second part of this meeting. As to that gentleman's comment regarding motorized transport and toys, which is a very good comment; what we had presented to the County was that off-road motorcycling and not ATV and snowmobiling has been studied and is a valid physical activity that exceeds the metabolic benefits of jogging. The County questioned the research and I refuted that and the point that I wanted to make to that gentleman was that, children aren't necessarily motivated or young people aren't motivated by walking or hiking as much as they used to be. So what we're finding is that we use these activities to motivate young people. Our organization has grown four fold in

children in the last 5 years. So that's maybe just an explanation. Someone else brought up the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, I think we seem to keep forgetting that we have a legal opinion from Paul Peterson that says any trail that existed from November 2001 or at that time is a valid trail and does not fall under the confines or protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. It can be decided and negotiated, but that there's an exception. So I think that's important to note and we seem to be forgetting that because it was an expensive legal opinion.

Comment: It's really not clear, but stating it as a fact saying that we can't do this under the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan is again a misstatement. So we're getting a lot of misstatements.

Comment: Ken is quite right when he talks about the issue of existing trails; I think I made that point in my presentation about the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Paul Peterson the lawyer made his interpretation. There was... I recall a lot of disagreement around what Ken said in terms of a legal interpretation, but I gave the interpretation specifically to section 7, which related to the pre-existing uses and I don't think my statements were ever contested. I would say that Ken is right; if there is an existing trail through the forest, the county is within the rights to continue that trail; that it is not a breach of the Oak Ridges Moraine

Conservation Plan. They also have the right under section 7 to look at modifications provided they could demonstrate it's an improvement or it doesn't worsen the situation. Where I would disagree with Ken it doesn't provide the trail user or the trail owner with any particular rights. Its County property the County can keep it or the County can eliminate it. It's County property.

Comment: We fully acknowledge you can close the trails, we just don't acknowledge that you can close them based on the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. So if that's the foundation that's presented to council to say, well, the reason we're doing this is because it is against the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan when the by-law is drafted, I believe they're going to believe you and I don't want your council to think that they're telling the truth.

Comment: Because it is constantly repeated and again in Mr. Pyatt's memo that if we were to call in the Province they would shut us down and that's totally misstatement and it's in his memo... you all have a copy.

Comment: Exactly and we acknowledge that.

Comment: Thank you.

Comment: So I believe as far as the presentation is concerned I think we're done, but I do absolutely have to insist that if we do not get through this correspondence between Mr. Pyatt and myself that we will have to have another meeting.

Robb: I'm not saying you have to agree, but I have to say that this has to be considered. If there's a chance or not, I'll continue.

Comment: Absolutely and I Promise to be as fast as possible if the clock is getting late.

Comment: Thanks. I'd like to start by saying I think the presentation and the work that's been done since the last meeting is a really good. It's a first attempt at consolidating trails and trail use and trying to eliminate some trails. Maybe I didn't notice and this comes as a question is that the trails right now are marked, approximately, where they are currently and a question that I have is, what is the timetable, for getting down to the micro level for looking at how does a location of the trails or parts of these trails impact some of the natural features and functions they've identified? So at what time are you going to be looking at re-routes, remediation efforts and so on, moving forward?

A: What we have here is a starting place. As we all know there is some lack of data on impacts year to year. We have photographic evidence, sight

visits and so on. Some sites speak for themselves. So what we'd like to do here Chris is get our trail networks established, get it approved and while we're doing that is continue to set up monitoring plots from which we can gauge impacts and correct them as results of that become quantifiable.

Comment: Right, just a suggestion on that and looking at some of the maps and the atlas and perhaps you can look at some of those of potentially vulnerable areas as a starting point and where they exist in proximity to what you've presented here. I also wanted to acknowledge it looks like, from what I can see on a cursory glance, you have made some effort in avoiding some of the impacts on residential users based on the trail location which is again a good start. One area of concern or question and perhaps that will be answered in your upcoming



meetings with Alnwick/Halldimand is, all of the other areas that won't be official trail heads; we all know there's still a ton of unopened road allowances and roads that are entering the forest all over the place and there are still a lot of hot spots that need to be dealt with it. So that's something that, I still don't fully understand how you're going to deal with. So again, perhaps that's part of the discussion with Alnwick/Halldimand and the OPP and other groups and, actually I'd also like to offer my input to that discussion as a citizen rep from Alnwick/Halldimand; someone who has done presentations to the police services and board and the township on these issues. I would like to have some involvement if that's possible and I would invite others who have similar concerns and may be able to provide some other input to that.

Comment: Just one final point and I wish Mike hadn't mentioned the old Minnie's Ranch property. It is on private land, it doesn't meet the minimum requirements for dirt bike track. I know they had races there illegally for a while and they weren't in compliance with their own by-law. Unfortunately that still continues to be a real magnet for a lot of what we're calling road riders who exit Dunbar onto public roads, illegally and, tear down the road, race around there for a while and then come back. So it's not a good location. It was shut down by the township for a number of reasons and it is something that I think

will make enforcement and compliance a challenge. It sets a bad image for that type of sport and activity and it will deal a nastier blow for trying to come up with resolutions. It's probably not a good area.

Comment: Thank you. Mia can go to slide 42 please? While you're putting that up first I'd like to say that OFAH never agreed nor were asked as key trail users about the adequacy of the trail maps that, we've seen today. We were simply shown the county trails maps as they are right now and Ben I hear you, we had to beg for a meeting with them too. We found out about it after they had already started.

Comment: We were never asked if we concur with the maps as presented. I heard at the start of this meeting that 95% of the group except for one all agreed with the trail maps and nobody ever asked us whether or not we thought they were adequate or not. I'm actually going to need a few minutes here because, hunting has actually been on the agenda for a minimum of three times that I can recall and it's been deferred until now. I'm from Head Office; I'm a professional wildlife biologist and forester out of Head Office in Peterborough with 83,000 member [OFH] and I've actually, we've held back on addressing this one for a while until we found out what devils were in the details and I guess we found out tonight what those details were. Looking at this slide, it's presented that the County is

exposed to significant legal liability with year round hunting. I've talked about this at previous meetings. I've asked, the County to distribute the Occupiers Liability Act, which, I don't believe, ever happened. I strongly disagree with this statement. I talked about it when we had a meeting with the County staff. The conservation officer that was present; Kent, also reassured staff that, liability for simply permitting hunting on a property is negligible and the liability largely rests with the hunters themselves. So, I have a serious concern with that, bullet point and can we go to the next slide.

Comment: There's a perceived liability and we argue about what that perception really is on the ground with respect to public concerns.

A: We did have a lengthy discussion about liability. But at the same time if there is hunting and recreation and as it is right now it's unorganized we could be facing liability. If we're saying you can go out and hunt and you can go out and recreate at the same time and we're not communicating where that's occurring very clearly there is a liability.

Comment: Well, I would again refer to the Occupiers Liability Act. You can talk to your enforcement professionals; Kent, provided his opinion and I'm sure, some of the OPP gentleman here would, also be able to weigh in on that one a little bit.

Comment Can you check with legal counsel and find out what their opinion is?

We could likewise get some, opinion if you so need it.

Comment: I believe I mentioned in previous meetings that we've actually had this face-to-face discussion with the Ministry of Natural Resources and, provided the County with the response from that meeting. The next slide, the first bullet point on slide 43 there is recommendations supported by MNR conservation officer; this one gives me the greatest heartache. It's, completely and unequivocally untrue. It's too bad that Kent can't be here today. I had a lengthy discussion with him after our meeting and unless you guys went to him after the meeting he did not support no hunting year-round west of County 45 nor, permitted deer seasons only which actually I'm only seeing in black and white here today. So perhaps some clarification on that and, if not maybe we should contact Kent and have something ASAP.

Comment: We had discussions about how the County could address hunting and Kent said that we could basically do what we want with it. If we want to only allow the shotgun, if we only want to allow archery so on and so forth. So what this is saying here is, from that discussion that we had he was supportive that we could flex the hunting to what

we felt would be a more manageable and easy, to communicate means of permitting hunting. In terms of you seeing this for the first time; we did have this discussion, during our meeting granted the specific recommendations were not proposed at the time, but what's occurred with all of the meetings is that we've reviewed that data, reviewed our guiding principals and pulled together recommendations based on that.

Comment: What I read when I first saw that was that the recommendations from the conservation officer was that he supported west of county 45 no hunting year- round or no, only deer seasons. That's what that reads to me and I'm just saying perhaps it is a misrepresentation.

Comment: Definitely. With respect to the, no hunting year-round west of County Road 45, I'm surprised to see this, in the slide. There was somewhat of a discussion; I believe I initiated it to say that, west of the Beagle Club Road not west of 45; west of the Beagle Club Road, was relatively lower hunting value than the rest of the Northumberland County Forest largely due to the nature of the forest and pine row plantations, heavily, trailed area and I had said that perhaps we could look at options to minimize conflict in that particular area and how it led to no hunting west of County 45 I am not clear on, and also with the bullet point after that – permitted deer seasons only; there was



no indication of that, recommendation after our meeting was concluded with the County.

Comment: With respect to OFAH concerns with loss of turkey seasons. There are multiple concerns seeing this the first time in the recommendations. Our recommendation was actually, status quo that hunting be regulated as it has under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, which provides regulations for the area. With respect to, big game retrieval, which was mentioned earlier I had proposed similar direction for big game retrieval as, is for provincial conservation reserves, which are governed under the new Provincial Parks, and Conservations Reserves Acts. Conservations reserves are, part of the protected area system in Ontario and the direction under conservation

reserves is that it's on-trail use for motorized vehicles only and off-trail use only for the direct retrieval of big game and that's where that option came from was the direction from conservation reserves. So what I don't really understand was why these restrictions are proposed in the first place. When I sat down with the County, the first thing I had mentioned was that safety is not a concern and the County said, yes, we agree with you. If we look at the statistics around hunting and if we look at the statistics around other activities, not to throw anybody else under the bus, there are a whole lot of activities that need to be addressed before hunting. If safety is the stickler on this one, I would suggest that nobody drive home if they're concerned about hunting safety in the County forest. In addition if we look at snowmobiling there were 47 deaths in 1997 and in the first 3 months of last year there were 17. If we want to get into 17 deaths from hunting we have to add up every year all the way back to 1993 and we only get 16 across the province. So hunting is by far a safer activity and a lot of things that have been proposed in here, if we're talking about serious injury then we need to take a serious look at, horseback riding. Horseback riding has a higher, serious injury rate than motorcycling actually. You'll be happy to hear that Ken; 1 every 7,000 hours for motorcycling and 1 every 350 hours for, horseback riding, so what I'm trying to get at is I don't understand why the restrictions are proposed throughout this exercise. I've been through a lot

of these sessions across the province as a key land use guy and, dealt with a lot of parks and protected areas and what I seen with this exercise is a lot of proposed restrictions, but not a whole lot of rationale... solid rationale behind why and what the need for the restrictions are and that's what I always ask when I get into these exercises. Like I said this is the first time seeing these proposals. I guess if, we're looking for input at the open house we're going to get it now. Dalton is going to be sure to get some phone calls along with the MPP and the County is going to get some calls because, it's definitely not in line with, what we thought was most appropriate for this area, so thank you.

Robb: We've heard about all the things hunters don't like about the presentation; what do they want? What is appropriate for this area? Well, let's look at it from both sides.

Comment: Status quo, what's the issue?

Comment: I really appreciate all the work that's gone into this. I'm a little disappointed that, the proposals that were presented at our meeting are totally different than what we are seeing on this map. People don't seem to understand that when they think that snowmobilers go from east to west and that's all they do is ride through and that's not the case. We've lost all our snow outside the forest

for the last 3 weeks, but yet we've been able to do fundraising events within the forest because of the trail system that's there. My husband and I were out riding for 5½ hours last Sunday; we never left the forest and we didn't ride the same trail twice except the short little piece that took us to our house. It's just the experience of riding in the trails. You don't need to have any place to go it's just going for a ride... seeing the wildlife and the beauty of the forest and I hate to see our trails being as restricted, as they are, especially the lower trail. We have two snowmobile dealers that we'll have no access to by eliminating that lower trail. So that's a discussion I would really like to have.

Comment: Thank you Barb for your comments. If another meeting is felt to be necessary then we can follow up with you on that, okay?

Comment: Thanks Mia.

Comment: First of all, Mia, you did a wonderful presentation. It was well put together and even though you did speak fast everything was clear. I have a few questions and a lot of them have been answered. First of all I'd like to know what numbers of trails have been reduced to the stage we're at now.

A: The length of trails, let me just do some quick math here Isobel.

Comment: While Mia is doing that, I'd also like to thank all the members of the user groups who are here. I think you've been able to come to a meeting of the minds and that's, very important for such a big issue that we're looking at here. This forest is a very important piece of livelihood not only to the animals, but to everybody that drinks water because we all know that the aquifer runs under this forest and it's very important to us. I believe that the forest should be protected. Every forest is important and really we probably shouldn't have any activity on the forest other than soft service activities. However; I think we're intelligent enough that we can realize the importance of what is there and we can educate all of the users as to what we should be doing to look after this forest. A lot of users have been using it to date and there has been destruction to it, for the number of years that it's been just willy-nilly everybody coming and going it's still in pretty good shape. One concern I have is the parking lot on Beagle Club Road. We did discuss that there was quite an aquifer under this parking lot and it was brought up that perhaps that parking lot should be moved and I haven't heard anything further on that and further perhaps there should be a bit bigger parking lot because when you come down Beagle Club Road sometimes there's cars parked all over the road and to me that's a safety issue to any municipality.



A: Well, I can give you a rough estimate and I would like to, explore it a little bit further, but with some quick calculations that the GIS Tech at Lower Trent Conservation provided me, the existing trail system is well over 200 kilometers, and what this map shows is under 150 kilometers of trail.

Comment: I'm wondering when we're looking at these trails there's been no consideration given to those who live in the vicinity that have the dogsleds and I know they'll be using the trails at night so they have told us. So I don't know whether that's a group that should maybe have a little bit of say somewhere, but, that's up to the committee to decide that.

A: That's a great point Isobel and, we have been in communications with Jim Cunningham. We do have a meeting scheduled once he returns from an event that he's going to and he'll bring along some of his fellow dogsledder's.

Comment: Thank you. I'm assuming there's going to be a probation period for these trails to see how they work out. Also regulations for the use of trails as well policies, procedures put in place so that if something goes wrong, the County will step in and Mia you'll be watching that closely. And then if there is abuse on one of the trails and the trail has to be shut down will you have alternate trails to look at for whichever user group is using that trail?



Comment: That's another good question I'd like to report back to you Isobel as a follow up from this meeting.

Comment: I'm just wondering if the residents that live on Turk Road and Beaver Meadow Road; were polled to see how they feel about, motorized vehicles on their roads? I know that if this goes through, there will be more use on these trails I'm 100% sure of it because it's going to be regulated... there's going to be more people coming and I do have concern for the residents of that part of the township.

A: I know John Marsh did do some more landowner contact. I can get the locations of where that was and report back to you on that. I'm not sure exactly where they were.

Comment: Okay, thanks Mia.

Comment: Northumberland Forest skiers are pleased to be able to keep their trails. Skiers have very minimal impact on the environment and we can only use the trails in the wintertime because of our activity. I guess the concern we have is that the plan doesn't respect the spirit of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and Plan. I think for the most part we're concerned that it should respect the environment and this will, help us with rehabilitation

of our trails, which we are looking forward to doing. With regard to skiers on the snowmobile trails, that wouldn't be me. I don't think it could be a member of our club because our club members are all law-abiding trail following individuals and they would never do anything like that.

Comment: I would like some names please if you can get their license plate number. We also do the trail maintenance in November, which would be a reason for not having hunting there. Not everybody is aware of when all the hunting times are and I think it discourages hikers and trail maintenance. Nobody wants to go near there at those times. I know it may be, a very safe activity, but the perception is that if somebody has a gun and I know the bullets only go a certain distance, but nobody wants to get hit with one, so that would be our concern.

Comment: From the Oak Ridges Trail view... thank you very much for the trail which we discussed and has been completed and we have additional loop trails which are very nice, so thank you so much for that. However; in regard to the hiking map these additional trails within the 5A area; I would like to see more access to them. I don't believe Dunbar Road would be an acceptable route for hikers to get into that area. I don't know whether we could have a little spur trail down to the southern border of that particular area and I believe that would connect us to municipal roads, which would be better for

hiking access basically. So that would be one extra request I would ask Mia to have another look at it. Alistair just mentioned the hunting situation. That area has designated within the hunting area. I know the conversation maybe still needs to be completed in that area, but from a hiking point of view it will definitely detract from the use of that area and I would suggest that hikers within this time frame of the hunting season would be more inclined to go back to the cross country ski trails in the Beagle Club area. I think that will be a big distraction from that particular area because it is or would be a designated hunting area. Unless you go out with your orange gear on and hope nobody hits you. I respect that we have some statistics here that say people don't get hit, but there are instances of people being hurt from hunting. So I would ask that that be considered. I don't know how it could be covered under the terms of this particular presentation to be honest with you, but as I said I feel that would be a big distraction from that particular hiking loop.

Comment: One important point I failed to mention is that, we are happy to see a hiking area that could be used for people who wish to walk their dogs in the wintertime and people who wish to ski with their dogs, rather than skiing on the trails which destroys them and make them a little bit dangerous.

Comment: Well, having listened to everyone this evening I want to compliment everyone for in fact saying we're going to use the forest and that we have to have compromises, We have to realize that other people using the forest and we have to have compromises. I'm really pleased with what's going this evening what's been going on for the last 6 or 8 weeks... This has been a long process. But I remember when the, provincial government downloaded the forest and ownership and responsibility of the forest onto Northumberland County and they said you own it; you're responsible for it. We said what are we going to do? It's been through this whole process, but particularly in the last 6 weeks that I feel we're really starting to reach a goal. I must compliment everyone because I think we're reaching the goal because we're prepared to compromise. I see that through nearly everyone's presentation. They're not sort of saying I have my own agenda and I'm sticking to it. So I compliment you on that. The County has to look at the forest and the forest use because they realize it's an urban forest from a perspective of not only how do we make sure everyone has a use for it, but we also have to say we have six guiding principles and the one is to protect the ecology of the forest and that's one of the driving forces that has been a key as we try and develop a compromise for everyone to be able to use the forest, but also preserve the ecology. All of us who have been out in that forest know that it's been badly damaged in many places.



Now, some of us say, well, it looks pretty pristine to me in most parts, but it is being damaged and we are the custodians of that forest. I think it's our duty to make sure that we keep the damage to a minimum. That we in fact recognize the ecological responsibility we have. So I'm really delighted that we are prepared to compromise and I see it in nearly everyone's presentation tonight. They still have some axes to grind and some particulars that we want to bring forward and that's good. That's what it's all about, but we're well on the road to a compromised solution which all of us can live with and I feel comfortable taking this back to the county councilors and saying I endorse this proposal that's being put forward. So I thank everyone... I thank



staff and I thank the user groups who are present and maybe we missed some who said okay, let's get down to the task of making this work. I think its great thanks very much.

Comment: It's fair to say we've had a number of suggestions tonight that we're going to look at okay. I think there may be some changes, and we certainly will look at them. We don't have a closed mind on it. One I'm particularly interested in is certainly having a dialogue with Alnwick/Halldimand Township. I think that's fair, it's in their Township, it belongs to the County... it has Township roads allowances going through it. I was hoping that they felt that they have been fully, brought into the situation, but if they haven't I'm certainly prepared to

say on a political level we can go back and address those issues. But I'm really happy with where we're going... I think we're moving and we're getting close to the goal line, thanks.

Comment: Robb, just before you go to the next step here, we need to read into the record... a written comment from a member who couldn't be here tonight; it's from Peter Cleary Northumberland County Youth Advisory Committee.

I'll just read it. It's a response to Mia in terms of the information letter that she sent out and it reads;

"Thank you for sending the information for tonight's meeting. As per our discussion on the phone I will not be unable to attend this evening nor will the NCYAC's General Manager. I would like to through writing for the committee vocalize my support for the County and their decision to move forward in presenting the recommended trail maps based on the information I've received in the County memo regarding Northumberland Trail Riders and the letter provided to the members of the committee offered by the Northumberland Trail Riders. Considering banned off-road vehicles should be viewed as a viable option for the committee to recommend to counsel. This is of course if off-road motorcycles are

not in agreement to being confined to the same trails as ATV's and snowmobiles. From the beginning of this process I've committed myself, as has the organization I represent to the 6 guiding principals of the committee and formulate in a reasonable forest management plan. These principals have been in the public domain since the beginning of the process and it's important to continue to support these principals as we move forward through some of the most important steps of the process.

Regards, Peter Cleary"

And that I'm assuming we'll go into the minutes. Thank you.

Comment: A number of us here who weren't part of the trail user group discussions are seeing this information for the very first time tonight and I was certainly left with the impression and I'm sure some others were that, this is our opportunity to be heard and that our comments should be taken as more than just comments and more than just sort of the last kick at the cat. Because, again we haven't been involved in the in-depth discussions. I know things are in deadlines or seem to be in deadlines to get things wrapped up before the snow melts, but I'm a little concerned that perhaps some of the finer details are being rushed a little bit too much. And again we have input from the public yet to come and potentially some other meetings. So I think... maybe

it's just the sense I'm getting that we're rushing to get things done and wrapped up tonight which I don't think is the case is that correct?

Comment: Are we trying to finalize things, from an FAC prospective tonight or are we going to have another meeting to try and go over the public input and things we have not discussed tonight as well?

A: That's a really great segway into the next three slides of the presentation.

In response Chris what we've done tonight is presented; the current staff recommendations on trail use. We've heard from all of you guys, and we're going to have a little bit more work to do before we go to open house and then we'll be coming back to the FAC before going to County council. So by all means we haven't been in a rush any way along this. We want to take our time and ensure that everybody's concerns are voiced, recorded and addressed as best that we can. As we've seen, you know, we can't please everybody all at the same time to 110%, but we've all compromised. You guys have all worked fantastically together and we are getting there and we're going to continue along that path and if it takes a little bit longer then it takes a little bit longer.

Comment: Well said, thank you.

Comment: I don't think this committee wants to go through the issues item by item so I think what I can do in about probably 4 to 5 minutes I believe make point that I think I want to make. I also have to defer to a couple of the other committee members that I've discussed this concern with. But I don't think we want to be here until midnight and, because I've just been assured that nothing will be going to counsel until after the open house and another [NCFAC] meeting at least and that is an assurance of the County that we're hearing now that we will not see a proposed by-law or any changes to these rules until those two situations at least occur.

Comment: Confirmed that Ken.

Comment: Initially the point I want to make and I will be going through some of the points because I think they're important, but I don't think we need to go through every single detail. One of the things that we're trying to infer in our letter is that we found this process to be flawed. We have directly attacked I think now pretty plainly the facilitators atlas and its credibility yet no one has responded. I just checked the most revised version and it still has Graham Davis and John Marsh who both deny they actually participated in the process. John Marsh has reserved and said I did not comment on that atlas and still need to do so when he was in the audience. I called Graham Davis and I said what were you thinking and he said I have no input



in that document. So I've brought that up at the last two [NFAC] meetings yet the document still gets republished with those people's credits. Secondly; we were informed at our December 17th meeting that it's no longer called the Facilitators Atlas, however you're still publishing it as such. It was referred to as the New Ecological Atlas and was to be re-titled. Thirdly on the atlas, your words in the notes of October 8th state that this is a working document and that the comments of [NFAC] will change the recommendations on the pages. I just reviewed the last section and I know that my comments or some of the resolutions made by this committee are not reflected in that document.

Facilitator's Clarification:

The following clarification was provided in response to comments made concerning the accuracy of the Facilitator's Atlas and the Changes the County Agreed to make to it:

With respect to citations for contributions made by individuals, Fred Johnson confirmed that the citations at the back of the Atlas were made to recognize information provided by individuals such as John Marsh and Graeme Davis early in the preparation of the Atlas. This citation was in no way intended to infer peer review or support of the individuals cited. All individuals cited did receive a complimentary copy of the draft Atlas.

There is intent to change the title of the Atlas to " Ecological Sensitivity and Land Use Atlas" so that it can be used in the future as a reference work. The Atlas will be finalized under this new title in the near future.

In completing our obligations to the Facilitator's Advisory Committee we did re-issue an interim revised report

in February 2009, which still bears the title of "Facilitator's Atlas. This was circulated as a CD to members of the FAC to demonstrate that we had made the edits they identified as well as including a section at the back of the Atlas called the Facilitator's Cache that included comments they had made about the Atlas and providing additional information requested at FAC meetings in October 2008.

We regret if our approach caused any confusion.

And the only reason we're questioning it is because we're the one standing to lose everything we've invested; we now have to challenge the process because we seem to not be able to reason with the County. And that is our opinion and we are entitled to that. Thirdly or secondly one of the biggest problems we're having and I mentioned this earlier is that as we respond to what we feel are the County's concerns, the County introduces new issues without consultation. So in my letter to Mr. Pyatt, his original memo refers to the health concerns of the safety officer of the county. Well, that was never discussed at our meeting so in effect it's stating to the committee here that the OTR

is aware of those concerns because it's listed on their side of the paper, but it's the first we've heard of the concern. It's also the first we've heard of the omissions. And then to get to what I think is one of the stronger points and the reason I'll defer this is that, in the general recommendations of the County, the County got very personal with us and stated that, we do not join clubs and that we are the greatest expense for trail maintenance in the Ganaraska Conservation Authority and that the Conservation Authority staff are the ones that told them so. So in fairness to Mr. Pyatt I offered this letter in confidence to say you need to change that because that's an outright lie. That is absolutely not true because I'm aware of our relationship with the GRCA. So as I did with Mr. Davis and as I did with Mr. Marsh I picked up a telephone because I do that when I question things; and I called the Ganaraska Conservation Authority and I spoke with one gentleman... I tried to get a hold of Steve McMullen who wouldn't say... or in my opinion would not say what was said and I spoke with another gentleman and I found out that George was coming to the meeting this evening. And so I think it's important because if I was an [NFAC] member who read this memo or this apparent report of what occurred at our meeting; which if you read my comments is absolutely 90% untrue and not what happened at our meeting. I believe this committee needs to know that this is not what occurred at our meeting. We were sort

of infumed and we gave the County fair chance although they only gave us 24 hours notice after 3 weeks of lapse, they gave us 24 hours to respond to their memo. We did so on time by 3:30 the next day. The County still chose to release the original memo which has so many outright challenges in it that we don't think that they read our comments at all. So with that I would like this committee or the chair to ask George from the GRCA to at least make comment on the comments from the County who is reporting what is supposed to be the truth and impartially and who is supposedly not supposed to have a side, to determine whether or not what the County is stating is actually a fact.

Comment: Is someone going to ask for a response you're the facilitator, but--.

Robb: I don't want a response I want you to ask him to respond to this memo.

Comment: Mr. Pyatt's is not here this evening. There's been some pretty strong statements made about the meeting. He's not here to defend himself on that. I don't mind discussing the comments made, accusing him of certain things, but I think it would be only fair that Mr. Pyatt be able to respond to them himself. I mean, there have been some pretty serious allegations that, Mr. Pyatt is almost at the verge of lying and I resent that, but I do think it's up to him... He'll be back, he's away right now,

but when he comes back he'll have the opportunity to confront those statements that have been made, so that's where I'm going to leave that.

Comment: And in the meantime I would like you to ask George Alger from the Ganaraska Conservation Authority who is essentially quoted in this document as saying that we are bad people, don't join the clubs and are the biggest cost within his forest because I think as an [NCFAC] member I would believe that because they're the neighboring forest that has expertise in off-road motorcycles. I was an [NCFAC] member unaware of the nature of off-road motorcyclists I would take that as a fairly strong statement. So this memo, which was released yesterday, has now changed the opinion of off-road motorcyclists without warning to the OFTR, and in affect we feel to be almost a strategy. So I need to at least have that statement, which is the general comments by the County within his memo, not my copy, but his... and to have Mr. Alger comment on that. Is that fair?

Comment: I disagree because, Mr. Alger offered the comment, earlier during his statement and said that he would be given the opportunity to state these statements, during his time to talk. He graciously gave it up on the premise that he would be given time to come back and if you read the notes you gave him that time. Secondly, while this is in our opinion falsehood shared within the [NFAC]

committee members, without rebuttal it would tend to fester. So I really want to see this nipped in the bud at least this one document. By the way I am surprised that Mr. Pyatt is not here, because he was aware of tonight's meeting.

Comment: Thank you. Okay, but anyways I think Mr. Alger was promised the opportunity to address this. It was referred to in his discussion. I believe he needs to at least go to the two comments on here that he was asked to comment on by me this evening.

Comment: Yes.

Comment: He's a member of this committee sitting in for Mr. McMullen. He's an alternate, but the reason I asked him was because yesterday when I got this memo I saw this to be... a mistruth. I picked



up the phone and I said “are you in agreement with this statement?” And he said “absolutely not” and I said “well, will you be stating that at the [NFAC] meeting on Thursday?” And he said “Yes I will”. So it’s not a preclusion... he’s a member of the committee standing in for Steve McMullen... he represents the GRCA and he had the opportunity to speak and deferred on the notion that we’d come back to this.

Comment: Absolutely.

Comment: Ken called the authority office and asked for Steve. I think he talked to Bob Penwell first and Bob said that I was planning on attending the meeting in Steve’s place. Then I spoke to Ken on the phone, Bob transferred the call over to me and, he asked me if I, agreed with that statement and I said that, I didn’t say that statement. I said I



don’t think Steve would have said it in that context, but again I can’t say what someone else could have said. So my point was I’m willing to talk to that in my opinion, my thoughts of it and that’s not a problem, so I’ll continue on that basis that if that’s alright with the committee. First of all I should read it again. In comparing the off-road motorcycle club to snowmobile and ATV clubs as far as memberships joining... people joining and being members of those clubs; my experience over the years has been that it’s a matter of education, it’s a matter of timing and as we all know if you’re lucky enough to look back as far as I’m lucky enough to look back for the snowmobile clubs went through all this process, followed by the motorcycle clubs followed by the mountain bike people followed by the ATV people. In my opinion the ATV people have just reached the plateau in the last 6 months or so whereas ATV people are willing to join in ATV club. Why I say that is because for the last 3 or 4 years I’ve been to lots of meetings and different things with conservation Ontario or whatever else and the problem ATV’s had in organizing themselves to have a club is the fact that you have to be able to offer them something. So when you come to a person and say you’re going to start up an ATV club in Northumberland County and I’ve had them approach us with the authority of course for different reasons; the first thing a person is going to say is, well, what have you got to offer? Well, we’re not quite organized yet. We don’t quite have a trail system that we can offer. We don’t quite

have any insurance policies like a group policy that we can offer you, but we want you to give us \$50 dollars or \$65 dollars and become a member because then eventually we’re going to have a club and we’re going to have more clout and we’re going to be able to be better organized and we’re going to move forward like all those other organizations did. So I would never make that statement because in my view the ATV club recently are the ones that have had trouble getting membership for those reasons. Snowmobile club you’ve seen them progress. I mean, snowmobile clubs, snowmobile federation is a wonderful organization, well run, well mandated. Off the top of my head right now I’m just going to mention that in all honesty some of the problem for the ATV club in my mind for not being able to form as fast as the snowmobilers did is because the provincial government dropped the ball. When the provincial government created the snowmobile federation they came out with regulations for the snowmobile regulation just like an off-road vehicle act. There’s nothing for ATV’s. So the provincial police have had a heck of a time trying to deal with ATV’s .In the Ganaraska Forest we’ve had similar problem dealing with mountain bikes because they’ve all come about recently. There weren’t mountain bikes 15, 20 years ago. There weren’t problems with ATV’s 15, 20 years ago. So I couldn’t personally agree to that statement from the GRCA standpoint because I don’t feel it’s true. I

can't speak on what someone else said. Was there a second part to that?

Comment: The second part is that because it specifically mentions your organization is that it generally infers that you support this opinion, and by the way I don't believe that you made the point that the motorcycles have always been organized in Ganaraska--.

Comment: I'm going to say as I did earlier that if the GRCA's had a great working relationship with motorcycle clubs that are organized, and our user's committee was set up with that in mind because our feeling was it was a lot better to have people around the table to deal with these issues. The users committee of course makes recommendations to the full authority board which is similar to here where we're making recommendations to the County and, the system works and in my opinion it's a lot better to have people at the table and to have the different organizations policing themselves not in the method of, of course policing themselves, but in peer pressure saying this is the right thing to do... this is the wrong thing to do. We've spent years and years to get it to this point, so we're allowed sharing the forest with all these other user groups whether it's a snowmobile club or a cross country ski club, so don't ruin it for everyone else. I can probably tell a story about every user around this table where

there's 2 or 5% of the population who just won't obey the rules or ruins it for others. And that's the concern I have personally about the motorcycle club is the fact that... and I'm still having problems in the forest with this and that. The club members aren't the problem is what I've heard other people here today say and that's true. There are a few people that race motorbikes and they want to come out to the Ganaraska Forest or they want to come out to the Northumberland Forest and they want to go as fast as they can. That's not what the club supports. That's not what the landowner wants of course and that's a liability concern. I personally think I'm going to have an easier time in the Ganaraska Forest dealing with those issues than the County if they can't get a handle on those 2 to 5% or have as much support as possible to control that. And as I mentioned earlier we do a lot of pay duty patrols and that makes a major difference. We also have forest volunteers who are trained, and again not to get into any confrontation, but just to say here's the rules here's what you should be doing. You should have a day pass... here's where you go if you have any questions. You can buy a yearly membership... you can go there no you can't go in the passive use area. Okay, so working together as the Chair has said is the way to go. Everybody's got to work together... everybody's got to give and cooperate. Second part of that question I'm not sure--.



Comment: Well, the other thing that I asked you was on the bottom of page 7 on the County's copies of the meeting that infers that because of off-road motorcycling causes erosion resources must be in place by the GRCA, to rebuild this and the complaint is that the Northumberland County doesn't have these funds. So I'm very much aware of the money we've invested in Ganaraska Conservation Authority in regards to trail redevelopment and I also confirmed that the Ganaraska does not have a budget or spend money fixing the damage from off-road motorcycles. So this document infers to the [NCFAC] members that if you let these guys in here you're going to need twice the budget because the



motorcycle is going to ruin everything and this is not true and that the Ganaraska Conservation Authority does not according to your staff from invest heavily in repairing off-road motorcycle damage.

Comment: Yes, when I read that statement I remember thinking that it was unfair in my opinion to comment on just the one organized group. I mean, there's no doubt in my mind that, Mia and I had a conversation earlier at break time about the fact that the two forests can be compared, but they can only be compared so far and then they're both different; different user groups and different soil types, different uses and so on. In the Ganaraska Forest which I'm most familiar with I spend roughly ten thousand dollars a year on roads. In no way is it any one group. There's damage from equestrians. First of all let me step back; that's a multi-use trail

system so we haven't said that group gets this trail or this group gets that trail. Seasonally we have to, of course for skiing or for snowmobiling, but all the different user groups are on certain trails other than in the passive areas. So we see equestrian damage, we see mountain bike damage, we see 4x4 trucks, and we see hunting damage from 4x4 trucks. People touring through just looking around with vehicles too early in the spring which is why we moved to the policy of closed from the 15th of November to the 1st of May for the forest to dry up to motorized vehicles. So basically the users in there are still snowmobiler's or skiers from the winter or hikers and that's it until May 1st and they've got a yearly membership of course. I can't go and see one spot where it's been one group. And the number one thing is the weather. In rain one of the problems with Ganaraska Forest is a lot of the roads are in the bottoms of ravines and of course the problem is the water wants to go from east to west and west to east; it wants to keep crossing the road and that's where a lot of the erosion occurs. So, I mean, there's a lot of erosion problems just from weather alone and the actual soil and the fact that the forest is the way it is.

Q: Sorry, George I have one question... I don't want to put you too much on the spot, but you just said that it's not one group, but what about like the two major areas that are going to cost the Ganaraska the most money like a lot of money to restore, the

Garscadden Road, Hardwood Hills on Garscadden Road and Lookout Mountain. Like, Lookout Hill.

Q: The original Lookout Hill, which is just north of the other spot you're talking about?

A: Yes, north/east of that spot and to me those two areas are clear-cut motorcycle trails... and ATV trails and no other users really use them.

Q: Expense wise those are--. I just didn't want the committee to think that it was--.

Comment: Sure, yes.

Comment: Actually its a level playing field financially. These are two areas that need attention and are just too much money.

Comment: The authority has only owned the property a short time in my mind compared to all the other property we've owned. The other spot that Ben's talking about is a badly damaged spot, which I don't think, was either.

Comment: I don't want to point fingers or blame, but the conservation authority, has always owned the property, but it was managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and then transferred to the Conversation Authority responsibility. The County has been handed the County Forest that the Ministry

of Natural Resources used to supposedly manage, but really didn't do too much with regard to the recreational component and that's the same with the Ganaraska Forest. So we've both inherited some problems from the past that we now have to deal with which are major problems; major damage. I want to also say that in both those projects and other rehabilitation projects, we've had the support of the motorcycle organizations; both clubs funding wise, labour wise and, they've helped us reroute some of the trails and sign some of the areas so that the public would leave those spots alone. And they are policing it for us, suggesting that people stay off that area we are going to rehabilitate. You see the signs there leave it alone until its rehabilitated there is other trails.

Comment: So in response to your concerns for Lookout Hill these are addressed by off-road motorcyclists. In the minutes of November 2/06 the Ganaraska Conservation Authority refers to where our organization was asked to put up barriers and did so and reroute the trails and govern them to help. What I wanted to pledge to NCFAC was that with your Lookout Hill; we have no interest in it, we are willing to help you direct riders away from there. If you have an area of concern you need to simply ask if it's with the motorcycles; and by saying you need to help us fix this. If you do not offer the trails to the Northumberland trail riders they simply walk away and you'll have a problem that you can't fix.

Q: Can I ask George just a question of clarification. In the, Ganaraska Forest all the users, did they pay a fee to use the trails?

A: Yes, the only exception would be the Federation of Snowmobilers. We have an agreement with them because years ago we used to groom the snowmobile trails and then after that gave them some funding towards grooming the trails, and at this point we recognized the federation pass in the Ganaraska Forest. And again that's because the federal government passed a ruling where you had to be an OFAC member to be on any part of the groomed snowmobile trails. Up until then the Ganaraska Forest allowed all people... the odd person who wants to come out once a year with their family could buy our pass to snowmobile just in the forest without buying the federation pass.

Q: So, what you're saying George, is when you say there's no cost to the Ganaraska... it is because you're collecting fees that covers the cost of maintaining the trails?

A: Sorry, I didn't mean to say there was no cost for anything. There's a cost for everything. The cost, for roadwork I mentioned was \$10,000 a year, I just said that it wasn't from one particular user. It's from multi-use. There's always a cost. The only thing I did say about no cost was the Professor Marsh report.

All the different organizations paid for the Professor Marsh report and the authority didn't have to pay any money for that.

Comment: Yes, we permit multi use but it depends on the use, depends on the soil, depends on environmental sensitivity; a lot of different characteristics, but you're sharing. The Ganaraska Forest is an 11,000 acre forest. The advantages we have over the County are we have one area that's passive use and that makes a big difference. So I'd have to rethink multi-use trails without a passive use area. But with our plan where we have a passive use area for some users and then multi-use everywhere else. That's not to say that that passive use area isn't multi-use; it's multi-use for everything except motorized. So seasonally we do have, what was the trail? We do have, designated trails because of course you can only ski on the trail in the wintertime. You can only snowmobile on the snowmobile trail in the wintertime.

Comment: Yes, I'm willing to provide more feedback on that, but should it not be Steve because he's the rep... like we could both come, I guess, if it was important.

Robb: You were asked by Ken.

Comment: Okay.

Next Steps

As you guys head out the door I just want to let you know we're having our prescribed burn open house on March 24th details to follow. Thanks a lot everybody.

Open House-March 26 2009

- Format
 - Drop in center
 - Staff and consultants available to answer questions
 - Attendees can leave written comments/feedback
- Display Content:
 - Tonight's presentation & Maps
 - Tonight's discussions
- Info provided
 - Public Information Package
 - Web Site Package

49

Open House continued

Date	March 26
Time	2- 8 PM
Location	Baltimore Recreation Center

50

Next Steps

- Open House March 26 2009
- April/May final FAC Work Shop
- June 2009 recommendations to County Council for approval
 - 5 year implementation plan
 - Start with priority areas (e.g. Lookout Mountain, Fish Pond/Mud Hole, Haddesley's Hill)
- Recreation Policy & Event Policy
- Submit agreements to groups for signing
- On ongoing basis reconstitute FAC

51

Supplementary Comments

The following Comments were provided by members of the FAC subsequent to the Meeting.

In the “I Didn’t get a chance to Say” Form, an FAC member wrote:

While I think that trail riders should be assigned an area where they can practice their sport. I do not think they should be permitted to expand venues.

In response to GRCA comments on orienteers wanting exclusive use during an orienteering meet, this may be true during a world class event (which are few and far between), a normal orienteering event would not preclude other users groups from practicing their sport during an “o” meet.

In the “I Didn’t get a chance to Say” Form, an FAC member provided the following statistics:

Hunting is one of the safest recreational sports in Canada. Hunting is one of the few recreational activities that require proof of competency through both a hunter education course and a Canadian Firearm Safety Course. There is also the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program (H.A.S.P.), which is designed to enhance the existing Hunter Education program (H.E.P.) by allowing individuals the

opportunity to safely develop their hunting skills while under the direct and immediate supervision of a qualified mentor.

If we use some currently available statistics (U.S. National Safety Council, 1991) compare hunting to other recreation activities we see the following.

Recreational Activity	# Injuries per 100,000 participants
Bicycle Riding	904.6
Horseback Riding	464.6
Skating	334.9
Golf	104.4
<i>Hunting</i>	<i>8.0</i>

Accident Cause	Mortality rate per 100,000 people
Automobile	18.6
Home accidents	8.6
Falls	5.0
Insect stings	0.02
Lightning	0.04
<i>Hunting (non participant)</i>	<i>0.001</i>

Swimming, cycling, driving and boating are far more dangerous than hunting, if safety is truly the concern then hunting would be very low on this list of activities that need to be addressed.

Conflicting Uses

Conflict between non-hunting users should be minimal. The majority of non-hunting users of the site will be using the area primarily in the summer, as is the typical use pattern for all areas in Southern Ontario. The peak use by hunters will occur during the gun season for deer typically goes from the beginning of October to the end of December but fewer hunters tend to participate and bowhunting creates less noise and hunters are less visible than during the gun season, thus the potential conflict during this time is diminished. The temporal separation of activities should in itself be sufficient to minimize perceived conflicting uses.

Car/deer collision #s

- On average, there is a motor vehicle/wild animal collision every 39 minutes
- Highway 401 has the distinction of being North America’s busiest freeway
- One out of every 17 motor vehicle collisions involves a wild animal
- Motor vehicle/wild animal collisions are increasing annually. In 2004, 13,592 collisions were reported. Many more go unreported.
- Deer are involved in 90% of the fatal wildlife collisions.
- Hunting keeps Ontario Roads safe; wildlife agencies estimate that deer –related road hazards and costs would increase more than 200% if deer populations were not managed by hunters.

E-Mail Comment from Helen Mason, an FAC member who was unable to attend the February 26, 2008 Workshop

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Comment on Materials for FAC Workshop #9, February 26-09

I apologize for not being able to make that workshop. I know, however,

that several horseback riders in attendance provided feedback. Here are my comments:

1. I am impressed by the willingness of the Northumberland County Staff to listen to all users and to balance the demands of so many users with the needs of the environment. Congratulations to Bill Pyatt and Mia Frankl for their patience and perseverance in this area.

2. I support the atlas produced for and discussed by the FAC. This Atlas allowed us to consider the Northumberland County Forest in a more responsible way. I believe that it has helped us develop better trails that will better balance the environment and our desire to use the forest. This is what I see on the trail network map provided.

3. The horse trails I see on the proposed map reflect what we discussed at our meeting with staff. I understand that horseback riders can use the ATV/Snowmobile Trails.

4. The horseback riders I have talked to are supportive of the county efforts and willing to work within them. They are willing to assist other groups with trail maintenance.

5. The current plans do not include a large horse parking lot. We do recommend such an area in the Woodland Road area. Horseback riders need a lot large enough for them to turn their trailers around. The Beagle Club Road parking lot is too small for

a number of horse trailers, especially when other people are using the parking lot. The parking area near Panic City is also unsuitable because, if anyone started shooting paint balls while a horse was loading, unloading, being mounted, or tied, we would all get a new meaning of Panic City.

6. I have read the letter and revised Bill Pyatt report from the OFTR, as well as the original report from Bill Pyatt. I have not personally had problems with any motorcycle riders in the forest. They have been invariably polite and cooperative. As a result, I am not against their use of the forest, as long as their trails agree with what the majority of the FAC has suggested.

I believe that the OFTR needs to work with the FAC rather than against it. It seems to me that the OFTR has come in with a planned stance and is not willing to shift, despite discussions with other trail users and despite concerns about the environment.

I support the County stand about protecting the environment. I do not believe that the County needs to maintain an agreement made in 1997 (note that the agreement says "events" not fulltime use). The purpose of this planning process is to look at all of these agreements and to decide which ones best suit the needs of forest users.

Having said that, if the OFTR is willing to modify its position, I think it might be feasible to maintain a certain number of trails in the forest parallel to and close to the wider ATV/snowmobile trails. if that can be arranged without adversely affecting the environment. If some agreement could be made along those lines, I would support it. But my experience of the forest and understanding of what I hear from OFTR members at the FAC is that they believe that there are not enough off-road motorcycle trails in the forest and that they should be able to put any trails wherever they wish at any time. This is definitely contrary to what the other members of the FAC appear to believe and contrary to what I think is okay.

I also question the supposedly scientific studies that the OFTR refer to. None of these studies have been fully reported or provided to us. Instead the OFTR makes global comments about their findings, such as that they support the use of off-road motorcycles. On the other hand, the OFTR appears to completely discount the scientific study made by one of our members and reported to FAC. If I remember correctly, this study suggested that bird-nesting success was reduced in areas close to motorized trails. The fact that the OFTR discounts this study which was fully reported to us and appeared scientifically sound but throws the supposed results of others at us, without a full explanation of the scientific background, makes me question their claims.

Helen Mason
Horseback Riding Representative
Ontario Competitive Riders' Association

