

# Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

## Meeting #7 Minutes

March 10, 2021 | 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Via Zoom

Attendees	
Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.)	
Nancy Wilkin	
Andrea Barnett	<i>Staff:</i>
John Bergenske	Tara Szkorupa, Manager of Provincial Operations and Implementation, Together for Wildlife
Mike Demarchi	Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager, Together for Wildlife
Luke Doxtator	Dennis Paradine, Manager of Policy and Legislation, Wildlife and Habitat Branch
Adam Ford	
Caylin Glasser	<i>Consultants:</i>
Megan Hanacek	Derek Thompson
Doug Heard	Judith Cullington
Shaun Hollingsworth	
David Hooper	
Doug Janz	
Jasper Lament	
Richard McLean	
<i>Muq'vas Glaw (White Bear) (Douglas Neasloss) - regrets</i>	
Malii (Glen Williams)	
Kari Stuart-Smith	
Jen Psyllakis	

<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm approach to work planning for objective-setting and funding working groups</li> <li>Review and provide input into high level T4W budget for next fiscal year</li> </ul>
<b>Handouts provided for the Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Minutes from the Feb 10 meeting #6</li> <li>Briefing note on transfer to Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)</li> <li>Draft workplans for Stewardship Objectives and Funding Working Groups</li> </ul>
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harry opened the meeting and provided a prayer.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Approval of meeting minutes (Feb 10, 2021)</b>	<p><b>DECISIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from the Feb 10 MWAC meeting #6: no changes.</li> <li><i>Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth; seconded Cailyn Glasser to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i></li> <li>Harry Nyce confirmed action items from last meeting completed as shown on agenda.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3. Implementation: High level budget</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Tara Szkorupa presented information on a proposed high-level budget and allocations for FY 2021-22 (spending of \$10M uplift to implement Together for Wildlife). Other sources of funding for wildlife, habitat and reconciliation work were identified, including core budgets, COVID stimulus funds, Land Based Investment Strategy, other ministries, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Council requested additional detail for each of the funding ‘pots.’</li> <li>♦ Regions are currently submitting funding priorities. First Nations involvement is varied, need to look at how to make this a more partnership approach and best mechanisms to ensure access to funding.</li> <li>♦ Ideas and questions related to setting aside a percentage of funds for Conservation Land acquisition, data management, predator management, reconciliation, and support for the First Nation Forum.</li> <li>♦ Council should consider performance measures to clearly set out (“tell the story”) what the \$10 M uplift has accomplished; perhaps a role for Foundations WG to provide guidance on this and Director’s Report.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ At the next meeting, Tara Szkorupa will report on regional priorities and provide additional details on the budget categories.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Implementation: HCTF</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Nancy Wilkin talked to Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) about being more inclusive on allocation approaches, and ways to better include First Nations. They are open to this discussion.</li> <li>♦ The Province is proposing to transfer about \$1.3 M from 2020-21 T4W funds to HCTF to support future wildlife and habitat stewardship work in BC. HCTF will continue discussions with MWAC to ensure priorities are considered for allocating these funds.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The Council supported a one-time transfer of Together for Wildlife Funds to HCTF.</li> <li>♦ Recognition of concerns regarding HCTF allocation processes. HCTF needs to better address broader issues, improve partnership approaches, and be less technical project based; good opportunity to make this process work better.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Council or Funding WG to meet with HCTF to discuss allocation process and Council priorities.</li> <li>♦ Province to transfer \$1.3 M from 2020-21 T4W funds to HCTF to support future projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Implementation: website updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Maryam Mofidpoor provided an update on website progress. Content is being developed during March, and design will occur in April. An MWAC logo/branding could occur at a later date.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Stewardship Objectives WG Workplan</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION AND DECISION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Mike Demarchi presented the draft Stewardship Objectives WG workplan. Thinking builds on existing work including a jurisdictional scan by Hatter and Feick.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <i>Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Megan Hanacek to accept the WG report and request that staff work towards the development of a policy as a step towards the broader guidance framework. Approved.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Staff to draft a policy for review by the WG and then Council.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Funding WG Workplan</b>	<p><b>PRESENTATION AND DECISION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Ken Babcock (formerly with Missouri Department of Conservation) had given a presentation to the Funding WG, and provided several valuable insights and lessons.</li> <li>♦ Jasper Lament presented the draft Funding WG workplan. Focus for Funding WG is on ‘closing the gap’ – approx. \$164 M annually required.</li> <li>♦ Link to work of Governance and Reconciliation WG as well.</li> <li>♦ <i>Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Mike Demarchi to accept the WG presentation and draft workplan. Approved.</i></li> </ul>
<b>6. Other business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ First Nation Forum Chairs would like to discuss how to align/merge working groups</li> </ul> <p>Deferred to next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Advice to Minister’s mandate commitments</li> <li>♦ Correspondence matrix</li> </ul>
<b>3. Closing and Next Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ April 14, 2021: to include review of workplans from Research WG and Governance and Reconciliation WG; review of regional funding priorities.</li> </ul>