

# Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

## Meeting #8 Minutes

April 12, 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	
Luke Doxtator	Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager, Together for Wildlife
Adam Ford	Dennis Paradine, Manager of Policy and Legislation, Wildlife and Habitat Branch
Caylin Glasser	
Megan Hanacek	
Doug Heard	<i>Consultants:</i>
Shaun Hollingsworth	Derek Thompson
David Hooper	Judith Cullington
Doug Janz	
Jasper Lament	
Richard McLean	
Muq'vas Glaw (White Bear) (Douglas Neasloss)	
<i>Malii (Glen Williams) (regrets)</i>	
Kari Stuart-Smith	
Jen Psyllakis	

<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Discussion of detailed budget (2021-22); updates from Research, Governance &amp; Reconciliation and Funding Working Groups</li> <li>◆ Discussion of Roundtable with Minister Cullen and Minister's Corridors mandate</li> </ul>
<b>Handouts provided for the Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Agenda</li> <li>◆ Minutes from the March 10 meeting #7</li> <li>◆ Draft note for Minister Cullen Roundtable</li> <li>◆ Draft note on Corridors</li> </ul>
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Chief Harry Nyce 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 March 10 MWAC meeting #7: no changes.</li> <li>◆ <i>Moved by Andrea Barnett; seconded Dave Hooper to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i></li> <li>◆ Harry Nyce confirmed action items from last meeting completed as shown on agenda.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Implementation: Regional funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Tara Szkorupa presented more detailed information on the 2021-22 budget for T4W. Regional funding requests will support projects most likely to benefit wildlife and</li> </ul>

<p><b>requests and detailed budget breakdown</b></p>	<p>habitat, especially those in partnership with First Nations and stakeholders, and with matching funds. Staffing for T4W is moving forward.</p> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Efforts are being made to connect wildlife related data from multiple ministries include BiodiversityHub BC (“Biohub”).</li> <li>♦ No requirement yet to report on harvest before applying for a new licence: in the short term, will continue as voluntary survey (mail or online) reporting. Staff looking at options to incentivize reporting. [Note: the difference between hunter survey and compulsory reporting was not discussed in the meeting. Where compulsory inspection is required by regulation, it is enforceable and taking licence action is an option.]</li> <li>♦ Implementation plans should have a more multi-species, ecosystem/habitat-based approach (broader biodiversity lens).</li> <li>♦ Some funding has been allocated to Multiple Resource Value Assessments (MRVA) (Action 10), in relation to longer-term inventory. (Forest Range and Evaluation Program (FREP) collects data, MRVA analyzes and interprets).</li> <li>♦ Integrated monitoring reports are available from <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/integrated-resource-monitoring/integrated-monitoring-reports">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/integrated-resource-monitoring/integrated-monitoring-reports</a></li> <li>♦ Need for good communications with the public on T4W. Will be part of role for new staff person.</li> <li>♦ Need to be working with federal government, e.g., opportunities for salmon and steelhead in wetland funding, potential for collaboration on a BC wetland inventory.</li> <li>♦ Alignment between provincial and regional level goals and business plans should be greater: agreed and intended outcome implementation planning process.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Tara Szkorupa to follow up with more information on Biohub.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Implementation: HCTF</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ T4W has transferred \$1.7 million to Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) from year-end funds. Outcomes must include improved wildlife and habitat outcomes, linkages to First Nations and other partners. MWAC role to advise on priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ HCTF (new Board) should meet with Funding WG (and leads from Governance and Reconciliation WG) to discuss short-term uses of funds for this year, longer term approaches to relationship with MWAC and improving HCTF application process (e.g., remove barriers to First Nations ability to apply).</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Tara Szkorupa to check if HCTF funding will support any unfunded projects from 2020-21 FY.</li> <li>♦ Tara Szkorupa to follow up with Dan Buffet of HCTF re meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Implementation: - Minister’s letter response</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Draft response to Council’s letter to Minister is in process. Inter-ministry discussions during preparation of response have been helpful in beginning to progress this work.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Tara Szkorupa to check on progress of response.</li> </ul>

<b>4. Research WG</b>	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Adam Ford noted that the Working Group had its first meeting. They are looking to the Objectives WG to identify some key research priorities.</li> <li>♦ There are also many ways to improve research, e.g., how we do research, ways to connect this with policy and decision makers.</li> <li>♦ Group will be developing its workplan at upcoming meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Governance and Reconciliation WG</b>	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Andrea Barnett (supported by Cailyn Glasser) noted that the Governance and Reconciliation WG had its first meeting.</li> <li>♦ Discussion focused on working with the BC First Nations Forum (who are leading Goal 5), the importance of aligning workplans and working with what the Forum have already laid out.</li> <li>♦ Group will be developing its workplan at upcoming meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Funding WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jasper Lament reported on the Funding WG and some of its preliminary thinking.</li> <li>♦ Work has begun on drafting principles, including the sources of funding, need for long-term dedicated funding and the opportunity to leverage federal and other funds.</li> <li>♦ Funding WG should meet with former senior Treasury Board representatives to gather information.</li> <li>♦ Funding WG met with Kaaren Lewis, who is working towards a bilateral agreement with the federal government on biodiversity and protected areas.</li> <li>♦ There may be opportunities for funding identified through reconciliation in the upcoming provincial budget.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Derek Thompson to talk to possible former Treasury Board individuals about meeting with the WG.</li> <li>♦ Council to review and comment on draft funding principles on <a href="#">Teams</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Communications updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Co-chairs will be meeting with PHTAT on April 30.</li> <li>♦ MWAC Secretariat will be meeting with BC First Nations Forum Secretariat on April 26.</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Correspondence</a> received has been posted to Teams, for information only.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ MWAC Co-Chairs to ask Forum for members to join the MWAC working groups.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Input to Minister Cullen on new ministry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Co-chairs have been invited to a meeting with Minister Cullen to provide input on the potential ministry realignments.</li> <li>♦ Draft responses to the three questions posed were reviewed and adjusted.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin to adjust the draft response to Minister Cullen’s questions and present to the Minister at the meeting and in a letter.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Corridor discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jen Psyllakis noted that Minister Conroy’s mandate includes “work with neighbouring jurisdictions to cooperatively develop and invest in new strategies aimed at better protecting our shared wildlife and habitat corridors.” A draft briefing note was</li> </ul>

	<p>circulated prior to the meeting. The focus is on border corridors (i.e., shared with Alaska, Yukon, Washington, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ It was suggested that internal corridors deserve even more attention than transboundary ones.</li> <li>♦ Note that definition of “protection” evolving – now focuses on the proper management to achieve outcomes (not necessarily preservation as a park or similar).</li> <li>♦ Western States use a <a href="#">Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool</a> (CHAT) to assess priority for big game corridors.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Judith Cullington will post the draft corridors briefing note on Teams for all to review and comment on (or send Jen an email).</li> <li>♦ Jen Psyllakis will bring this back for discussion with additional background, following meetings with the Minister.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Closing and Next Meetings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Next meeting May 12, 2021: to include presentations from FRPA and Old Growth; updates from working groups.</li> </ul>