

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #9 Minutes

May 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	
<i>Luke Doxtator (regrets)</i>	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
<i>Doug Janz (regrets)</i>	
Jasper Lament	<i>Guests:</i>
<i>Richard McLean (regrets)</i>	Rachael Pollard, FLNR
<i>Muq'vas Glaw (Douglas Neasloss) (regrets)</i>	Julie Castonguay, FLNR
<i>Malii (Glen Williams) (regrets)</i>	Ariel Taylor, FLNR
Kari Stuart-Smith	Margaret Gibbs, FLNR
Jen Psyllakis, Director, Wildlife and Habitat, T4W	

Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about Forest and Range Practices Act and Old Growth strategies Updates from working groups and other initiatives 	
Handouts provided for the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda Minutes from the April 12 meeting #8 	
Action items (from May meeting)	Lead	Status
Provide MWAC with draft information on how objective setting for wildlife can feed into FRPA implementation.	Jen Psyllakis	
Council members to review and provide input on WG documents	All Council members	Ongoing
Hire a consultant who can help to review governance structure.	Maryam Mofidpoor and Dennis Paradine	Schedule A prepared, for review by Governance and Reconciliation WG
Ask Hunter Lampreau to share information on the draft Grizzly Bear management plan at a future meeting.	Tara Szkorupa	Information provided at Objectives WG
MWAC Minutes		Posted publicly at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/e

Minutes

1. Welcome

- ♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. Approval of meeting minutes (April 12, 2021)

DECISIONS

- ♦ Minutes from the April 12 MWAC meeting #8: no changes.
- ♦ *Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth; seconded Dave Hooper to approve meeting minutes. Approved.*
- ♦ Action items from last meeting completed as shown in minutes.

3. Presentation: Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)

PRESENTATION

- ♦ Rachael Pollard (A/Director, Forest Practices Branch, FLNR), Julie Castonguay (Manager, Forest Landscape Planning, Sustainable Forest Management) and Ariel Taylor (Indigenous Relations Specialist, Sustainable Forest Management) provided a [presentation](#) on updates to the FRPA.
- ♦ FRPA is being updated to clarify government’s objectives for forest and range resources, improve information sharing in forest planning, create more frequent and reliable opportunities for input, strengthen government’s ability to manage forest activity, enhance stewardship of resource values, enhance accountability for achieving desired outcomes, increase opportunities for communities to engage in planning, advance reconciliation with Indigenous Nations by enhancing their participation in forest and range management, and adapt resource management to changing land base and values.
- ♦ The primary tool will be Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs), with a planning table for each of the 37 areas (TSAs or TFLs). FLPs will establish targets and indicators to achieve desired outcomes for the management of forest resource values over a defined landscape.
- ♦ Four pilot projects are planned: Lakes, Quesnel, Sunshine Coast, TFL 37 (North Vancouver Island).

DISCUSSION

- ♦ Questions and discussion focused on reconciliation/co-management, selection of pilot areas (and opportunities to connect to similar Indigenous-led projects), relationship to TSA and annual allowable cut, how wildlife and habitat objectives will be taken into account in FLPs, how existing annual allowable cuts (AACs) have created loss of wildlife habitat, opportunity to include regional tables, climate change impacts, how this will work across Ministries (especially in relation to cumulative effects, making decisions based on future needs and spatial planning (not old AACs), timely decisions and flexibility within the plan, creating habitat targets in TSRs.
- ♦ Jen Psyllakis is working with FRPA initiative to look how objective setting for wildlife can feed into FRPA implementation.
- ♦ FRPA representatives would be pleased to come back to future meetings.

ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jen Psyllakis to provide MWAC with draft information on how objective setting for wildlife can feed into FRPA implementation.
<p>3. Presentation: Old Growth (OG) Forests</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Margaret Gibbs (Director, Provincial Stewardship Strategies, Resource Stewardship Division, FLNR) provided an update on the OG Strategic Review. ♦ Report made 14 recommendations, there will be a recommendation group working towards each of these. Many recommendations align with T4W (especially goals 1,2, 4). ♦ Implementing recommendations will enable alignment with DRIPA, and support work on enhancing species at risk and biodiversity, the BC-Canada Nature Agreement and the Integrated Land Use Policy. ♦ Draft OG Strategic Review Implementation Action Plan anticipated fall 2021, final in winter 2022. ♦ MWAC can provide a good sounding board for the OG Strategy. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Questions and discussion focused on timelines for transition plans, relationship to other initiatives (to avoid siloing), deferring cutting while discussion takes place (with regional input on deferrals), need for public input, using a broad definition of old growth that includes interior forests, resourcing, prioritizing ecosystem health ahead of resource extraction.
<p>4. Objectives WG</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mike Demarchi reported on the Stewardship Objectives WG meeting of April 29th. ♦ WG is aiming to first get a policy in place to set the stage for objective setting. Group has reviewed and discussed draft policy. ♦ Will need effective legislation to make objectives effective, align HQ and regions, and enable on-the-ground action. ♦ Mike encouraged and welcomed Indigenous representation in this WG. ♦ WG aiming to finalize policy at next meeting (May 27), to bring to Council for approval in July, and then present to Minister. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council members encouraged to review meeting notes and comment on draft policy.
<p>5. Governance and Reconciliation WG</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Cailyn Glasser (supported by Andrea Barnett) reported on WG meeting of May 3rd, also attended by Forum Co-Chairs Hunter Lampreau and Lisa Helmer. ♦ Cailyn and Hunter will be discussing how the Forum Shared Decision Making group and Governance and Reconciliation WG will work together, also how Forum and MWAC can work together more strategically. ♦ This WG will support/elevate the Forum workplan, determine what roles MWAC can best play and how best they can support the Forum. ♦ Will aim to link to Funding WG and discussion of governance of funding at a later date. Also discussing how to align with HCTF. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Maryam Mofidpoor and Dennis Paradine to lead hiring of a consultant who can help to review governance structure.
6. Research WG	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Adam Ford noted that at next meeting (May 14th) they will be meeting with consultant Brian Starzomski to discuss research priorities. ♦ Focus on how to make BC a world leader in wildlife science. ♦ Additional members welcomed.
7. Funding WG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Derek has spoken to former TB officials re Funding WG goals; their advice is to stay focused on outcomes not mechanisms. ♦ Funding principles document is being finalized; all to provide comments by May 14th.
8. Communications and other updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ BC Conservation Land audit provided 11 recommendations, all were accepted by FLRN. MWAC and Forum to help the Ministry develop and implement a strategic plan. ♦ Co-chairs met with Forum Secretariat and discussed shared objectives and ways of working together. Forum Shared Decision Making WG and MWAC Governance and Reconciliation WG will be working out how best to collaborate, and Forum members have confirmed they will be joining the Objectives and Funding WGs. ♦ MWAC and Forum Secretariats will meet discuss approach to HCTF prior to meeting with them. ♦ Co-Chairs met with PHTAT, presentation well received. Policy on Objective Setting could come back to PHTAT for review. PHTAT also interested in education role of MWAC. Good communication between the two groups important. ♦ Strategy has been communicated to ELUC Ministers, and is being talked about. ♦ The America the Beautiful program has shown value of very broad coalitions. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ask Hunter Lampreau to share information on the draft Grizzly Bear management plan at a future meeting.
9. Closing and Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next meeting July 14, 2021: to include review of Director’s annual report, updates from all working groups, discussion on outcomes for this year and how Council will embrace growing list of working partnerships.