

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #10 Minutes

July 14, 2021 | 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Via Zoom

Attendees	
Simoojit 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	Danica Crystal, Senior Advisor, 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 (Douglas Neasloss)	
Malii (Glen Williams)	
Kari Stuart-Smith	
Jen Psyllakis, Director, Wildlife and Habitat, T4W	

Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hear updates from Working Groups, with input to Fall 2021 letter to Minister ◆ Discuss Director's Report ◆ Discuss MWAC Wildlife Dialogue Sessions
Handouts provided for the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Minutes from May meeting ◆ Report from Objectives Working Group with draft Stewardship Policy and potential recommendations to the Minister ◆ Report from Funding Working Group with draft principles ◆ Report from Research Working Group ◆ Outline for Director's Report ◆ Outline of Wildlife Dialogue Sessions with T4W stakeholders ◆ Response from Minister to MWAC January letter.

Action items (from July meeting)	Lead	Status
Send appropriate condolences on the passing of Bill Blackwater	Co-chairs, Maryam	
Submit comments on Objectives policy paper	Cailyn Glasser	
Provide other input on the Objectives policy paper or recommendations via Teams or directly to Mike Demarchi/Judith Cullington	All	
Prepare updated materials for next Objectives WG meeting	Tara Szkorupa	
Share information on the BCWF report and grey literature review	Jen Psyllakis	
Consider funding required for Indigenous co-management and priorities	Governance and Reconciliation WG	
Revise the principles for the next Funding WG meeting	Jasper Lament and Doug Janz	
Revise the Research content for the letter to the Minister	Adam Ford	
Prepare a draft Director's Report for the next Council meeting	Tara Szkorupa	
Discuss regional committees at next Governance and Reconciliation meeting	Governance and Reconciliation WG	
Revise the proposed approach to Wildlife Dialogues	Nancy Wilkin, staff	
Provide headshot pictures to Maryam Mofidpoor by July 21	All	
Notify Council when the website goes live Council members to review content	Maryam Mofidpoor, all	
Coordinate a meeting to discuss funding information	Co-chairs, staff	

Minutes

1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members ♦ MWAC noted with sadness the passing of Bill Blackwater of the Forum. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chairs to work with Maryam and Forum to send appropriate condolences on the passing of Bill Blackwater.
2. Approval of meeting minutes (May 12, 2021)	<p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from the May 12 MWAC meeting #9: no changes. ♦ <i>Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Rick Mclean to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed as shown in minutes.

<p>3. Principles and priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Derek Thompson congratulated Council on progress to date. Council is remaining focused on wildlife, and ideas are well aligned with the Minister’s requests. ♦ Key challenges will be to grow support within and outside of government, thinking both long- and short-term, staying strategic and focused, and providing a ‘road map’ for the government.
<p>3. WG Objectives</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mike Demarchi provide an overview of the Objectives WG work, draft “Towards a Wildlife Stewardship Planning and Objective-Setting Policy” and proposed recommendations to include in fall letter to Minister. ♦ Rachyl Lukie (new Coast Area lead) will be joining the Objectives WG. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Policy paper and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Add information on ‘why is this needed, what will it deliver, what difference will this make’. ♦ Need for this (and other T4W materials) to be clear about the problem we are trying to solve. Good to communicate this in letter to Minister. ♦ Communications document with strategic shifts to be added to MWAC website. ♦ Consider timing re moving the objectives work forward, whether this needs to sync with information from the Forum Shared Decision Making and Reconciliation WG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This may be an interim policy that is updated as it evolves (continuous improvement). There should be commitment to transparency on how improvements are made and changes will be communicated. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Cailyn Glasser to submit her comments on Objectives policy paper by email ♦ All Council members to provide other input on the Objectives policy paper or recommendations via Teams or directly to Mike Demarchi/Judith Cullington. ♦ Tara Szkorupa to prepare updated materials for next Objectives WG meeting.
<p>4. Funding WG</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jasper Lament provided an update on the WG progress and presented the draft principles. ♦ The WG is working towards a submission to Treasury Board. A contractor is being hired to provide in-depth economic analysis to support this. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ There is need to demonstrate to Treasury Board that wildlife is underfunded in BC, and by how much. Staff are helping to provide this information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can also look at how BC compares to other jurisdictions, and how this higher funding has a positive impact on wildlife. ○ Need to be specific about why additional funding is required, how it will benefit wildlife. Provide the context; include the implications of meeting (or failing to meet) the objectives for wildlife conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Funding is already short, and the paradigm shift will add to this. Example of costs of moving to co-management, shared decision making and resourcing First Nations governments. ◆ The paradigm shift may mean decentralization of the funding model and providing First Nations a share in the revenues. ◆ Other ideas to be considered include surcharges on licences and tags, endowment funds, carbon credits. ◆ Need to include all industries in the “everyone pays” principle. ◆ Remove the last sentence in the preamble. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Jen Psyllakis will share information on the BCWF report and grey literature review. ◆ Governance and Reconciliation WG to consider funding required for Indigenous co-management and priorities. ◆ Jasper Lament and Doug Janz to revise the principles for the next Funding WG meeting.
<p>5. Research WG</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adam Ford provided an overview of the Research WG progress. The aim is to make BC a leader in wildlife science, ensuring that it includes ecology, social science, Indigenous Knowledge and citizen science. Data should be accessible, e.g., through a dashboard. ◆ Science needs to be relevant and address critical knowledge gaps. The WG are recommending the establishment of a science advisory panel to support MWAC, PHTAT and the Forum. A next step will be to determine the terms of reference for this panel. ◆ A contractor is preparing information on how government and institutions can work together more closely. ◆ The letter to the Minister will note this direction and look for her support. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Clearly define the problem being addressed, and what other solutions have been considered. Some of this is in the Primer prepared by the WG. ◆ Link to the goals and strategies of T4W, and show how this connects to work in neighbouring jurisdictions.

	<p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Adam Ford to revise the Research content for the letter to the Minister.
<p>6. Director’s Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tara Szkorupa presented the concept for the first annual Director’s report on T4W. This is part of transparency. ♦ Will be developing performance metrics; “telling the story by numbers”. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Document is visually appealing. ♦ Need to include information on each of the projects funded (an appendix or companion document). ♦ GeoBC will be helping to create an interactive spatial database on project funding. ♦ Needs to include the change in worldview, the influence of UNDRIP and Goal 5, modelling reconciliation in action. Include Indigenous images, languages. The document itself needs to reflect the changing paradigm. ♦ Reflect changes resulting from DRIPA: Indigenous rights to land and wildlife; this is more than about wildlife, it is about food and security, how ecosystems function to support life. Regionalization of governance, and changes to boundaries of Wildlife Management Units that reflect Indigenous territories. Incorporating traditional laws of consent (permission to use territory). <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tara Szkorupa to prepare a draft Director’s Report for the next Council meeting.
<p>7. Wildlife Dialogues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-chair Nancy Wilkin provided an introduction to the proposed virtual Wildlife Dialogue sessions. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Agreement that this will be helpful, supports transparency. ♦ Suggested timing late November 2021. ♦ Ensure that First Nations are contacted before stakeholders. ♦ Ensure Minister’s office is briefed before the meetings. ♦ Need for good background information to enable people to make informed comment. Example of regional groups: what is their mission and mandate, how will these relate to territorial boundaries. ♦ Consider sessions aimed at providing information on territorial rights. ♦ Talk about paradigm shift from managing wildlife for maximum allowable harvest to managing wildlife for sustainability. ♦ Include information on what actions are being take to improve wildlife “on-the-ground”.

	<p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Governance and Reconciliation WG to discuss regional committees at its next meeting. ♦ Nancy Wilkin to work with staff to revise the proposed approach to Wildlife Dialogues.
8. Communications and other updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-chairs of MWAC and Forum will be meeting with HCTF in July. ♦ Maryam Mofidpoor gave an overview of the draft website. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council members to provide their headshot pictures to Maryam by July 21. ♦ Maryam Mofidpoor to notify Council when the website goes live; Council members to review content. ♦ Co-chairs to help coordinate a meeting to discuss funding information.
9. Closing and Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next meeting September 8, 2021: to include Wildlife Dialogues, letter to Minister, Director's Report.