

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #11 Minutes

September 8, 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	<i>Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager, T4W (regrets)</i>
<i>Adam Ford (regrets)</i>	Dennis Paradine, A/Manager of Policy and Legislation, T4W
<i>Caylin Glasser (regrets)</i>	
Megan Hanacek	
Doug Heard	<i>Consultants:</i>
Shaun Hollingsworth	Derek Thompson
David Hooper	Judith Cullington
Doug Janz	Sairah Tyler
Jasper Lament	
Richard McLean	
<i>Muq'vas Glaw (Douglas Neasloss) (regrets)</i>	
<i>Malii (Glen Williams) (regrets)</i>	
Kari Stuart-Smith	
Jen Psyllakis, Director, Wildlife and Habitat, T4W	

Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Updates on T4W implementation ◆ Discuss MWAC input to Director's Report ◆ Updates from Working Groups, with input to Fall 2021 letter to Minister ◆ Discuss MWAC Wildlife Dialogue Sessions ◆ Update on the review of the Wildlife Act, wildlife recovery plan following wildfires
Handouts provided for the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Minutes from July meeting ◆ Report from Objectives Working Group with draft Stewardship Policy and potential recommendations to the Minister ◆ Recommendations from Funding Working Group ◆ Draft Director's Report and Co-Chairs input

Action items (from September meeting)	Lead	Status
Send out list of all upcoming MWAC meetings	Judith Cullington	Complete
Post the revised wording of Directors Report message on Teams and email to members. Council members to provide comments on the adjusted draft by September 14 th .	Judith Cullington, all	Complete
Provide an updated draft of the Objectives recommendations with more assertive wording for inclusion in the letter to the Minister.	Tara Szkorupa and Mike Demarchi	Complete
Funding WG to consider increases to tag licences/royalties and court awards.	Jasper Lament	For future meeting
Confirm the impact of the recommended changes on revenue to HCTF.	Dennis Paradine	Complete
Invite TB representative to brief Funding WG on their processes.	Dennis Paradine/Jasper Lament	For future meeting
Write to BCWF and CoS to note that we are supporting their proposals.	Co-Chairs	Drafted
Provide updated language and input for the second Wildlife Dialogues question.	Luke Doxtator	Complete
Send out a “save the date” notice to Council members and invitees.	Judith Cullington, Maryam Mofidpoor	Sent to Council, pending for invitees
Prepare an updated agenda for the dialogues.	Nancy Wilkin and Judith Cullington	Complete
Provide more information on the Wildlife Act review and implications of the Blueberry River First Nations (Yahey) decision at a future MWAC meeting.	Dennis Paradine	For future meeting
Provide an email update on wildlife recovery following wildfires.	Jen Psyllakis	Complete
Draft a letter to the Minister for Council review Provide input on road rehabilitation.	Nancy Wilkin Kari Stuart-Smith & John Bergenske	Complete
Seek input on the questions to be asked in the Year One reflection.	Derek Thompson	Complete
Minutes		
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Chief Harry Nyce welcomed members and provided a blessing. 	
2. Approval of meeting minutes (July 14, 2021)	<p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from the July MWAC meeting #10: no changes. ♦ <i>Moved by Andrea Barnett, seconded by Kari-Stuart-Smith to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed as shown in minutes. 	

<p>3. Communications and Implementation updates</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tara Szkorupa provided updates on the work towards regional committees, funding updates and staffing. (PPT available on Teams.) ◆ The Special Budget meeting to review allocations is scheduled for October 13th, 1–3 pm. ◆ Next steps in implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity/resources - additional staff coming on board ○ Mapping out current advisory bodies for MWAC ○ Beginning regional engagement this fall (internal, indigenous Nations, stakeholders) ○ Complete draft plan for establishing/expanding committees in each region by end of 2021. Established by spring 2022. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Judith Cullington to send out list of all upcoming MWAC meetings.
<p>3. Director’s Report</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tara Szkorupa noted updates to the draft Directors Report. ◆ Nancy Wilkin gave an overview of the draft message from the Co-Chairs to be included in the report and sought comments from Council. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council provided several editorial comments. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Judith Cullington to post the revised wording of Directors Report message on Teams and email to members. ◆ Council members to provide comments on the adjusted draft by September 14th.
<p>4. Working Group Reports</p>	<p>Objectives WG</p> <p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tara Szkorupa reported on the Objectives WG meeting and provided an overview of changes to the ‘Towards a Policy’ and ‘Recommendations’ documents, including language for inclusion in the fall letter to the Minister and ideas for inclusion in a future letter. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council would like to see stronger, more direct wording (e.g., “enact legislation” not “commit to enacting legislation”). Recommended timelines should be included to indicate Council’s sense of priorities, recognizing that government processes can take time.

ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS

Tara Szkorupa and Mike Demarchi to provide an updated draft with more assertive wording in the Recommendations for inclusion in the letter to the Minister.

Funding WG

PRESENTATION

- ♦ Jasper Lament provided an overview of the BC Wildlife Federation motion to support doubling the surcharges on hunting and species licences; the Conservation Officer Service proposal to review and increase fines under the Wildlife Act. These would create a small uplift to dedicated revenues (maybe 1% of the funding gap). BCTF hunting surcharge in 2019/20 was \$2.6 M. Recommendations of the Funding WG were:
 - To support the BCWF proposal to double the HCTF surcharge on hunting and species licenses for resident hunters and non-resident hunters and to review and increase the surcharge on a regular basis;
 - To support the Conservation Officer Services request for increases to *Wildlife Act* fines, and request that the Ministry consider dedicating the funds for wildlife penalties (or a new surcharge on such penalties) to HCTF (or similar body) so that they can directly support wildlife and habitat stewardship; and
 - To continue conversations with the HCTF to better reflect Indigenous needs and processes.
- ♦ Ontario has a dedicated fund for fish and wildlife fines.
- ♦ Funding principles to be included in letter to Minister.

DISCUSSION

- ♦ Council sought clarification on the impact on the funding shortfall.
- ♦ There is an opportunity to explore tag licences and royalties as a larger source of funding. Dedicated funding from court awards can also be explored.
- ♦ Future Directors Reports should report on progress towards new sources of dedicated funding.
- ♦ Letter to Minister needs to be clear that these changes are not all Council will be recommending.
- ♦ Wildlife Act requires fees / royalties for opportunity and/or killing of wildlife. Discussion of rail companies and permit requirements. Railroads have to report wildlife kills as a permit condition. Improving information and reporting is being explored.

ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS

- ♦ Funding WG to consider increases to tag licences/royalties and court awards.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Dennis Paradine to confirm the impact of the recommended changes on revenue to HCTF. ♦ Dennis Paradine/Jasper Lament to invite TB representative to brief Funding WG on their processes. ♦ Co-Chairs to write to BCWF and CoS to note that we are supporting their proposals.
<p>5. Wildlife Dialogues</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Nancy Wilkin presented the proposed approach to the two Wildlife Dialogues (Indigenous dialogues and stakeholder dialogues). ♦ Council members will help with facilitation of breakout groups. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Agenda items should be reversed (1. How can we support the paradigm shift to “wildlife first”; 2. How can the Province and Indigenous Nations expand partnerships to deliver wildlife stewardship.) ♦ Language for questions needs to be refined; needs to avoid repeating what has already been achieved and inform about what has already been recommended. ♦ Invitees should be sent the background information (T4W Strategy, Director’s Report, summary of Council actions to date). Consider additional background documents (e.g., Old growth strategic review recommendations; FRPA Intentions paper) ♦ Important to ask how we can bring wildlife forward as a priority. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Luke Doxtator to provide updated language and input for the second question. ♦ Judith Cullington to send out a “save the date” notice to Council members and invitees. ♦ Nancy Wilkin and Judith Cullington to prepare an updated agenda for the dialogues.
<p>6. Wildlife Act Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Dennis Paradine noted that the Ministry has initiated a process to review the Wildlife Act. This will consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The scope of review, how to reflect impacts of Blueberry River First Nation (Yahey) decision, shared decision making and co-management, etc. ○ Addressing gaps in the current legislation, e.g., having wildlife objectives. ♦ Anticipated timeline of policy review during 2021-22, with legislation in 2023. ♦ Ministry will be seeking input and advice from MWAC

	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Wildlife Act is fundamental to the paradigm shift. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Dennis Paradine to provide more information on the Wildlife Act review and implications of the Blueberry River First Nations (Yahey) decision at a future meeting.
7. Wildlife recovery following wildfires	<p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jen Psyllakis will provide Council members with an update on wildlife recovery via email.
8. Letter to Minister	<p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tara Szkorupa to draft a letter to the Minister for Council review. ♦ Kari Stuart-Smith and John Bergenske to provide input on road rehabilitation.
9. In person MWAC meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council expressed a preference for deferring a longer in-person until the new year.
10. Year One reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Derek Thompson proposed that Council members be provided an opportunity to reflect on the first year of the Council. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Derek Thompson to seek input on the questions to be asked in the Year One reflection.
11. Closing and Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next meeting November 10, 2021: Agenda items to include updates on Wildlife Dialogues, Wildlife Act review, Ministry structure.