

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #12 Minutes Draft for approval

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

Attendees	
Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.)	
Nancy Wilkin	
<i>Andrea Barnett (regrets)</i>	<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, A/Manager of Policy and Legislation, T4W
Caylin Glasser	
Megan Hanacek	
Doug Heard	<i>Consultants:</i>
Shaun Hollingsworth	Derek Thompson
David Hooper	Judith Cullington
Doug Janz	
Jasper Lament	
Richard McLean	<i>Guest:</i>
<i>Muq'vas Glaw (Douglas Neasloss) (regrets)</i>	Hunter Lampreau, Co-Chair, FN-BC Wildlife & Habitat Forum
<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"> ◆ Finalize the letter to the Minister and prepare for meeting with her ◆ Review Year One Reflections ◆ Learn about Forum proposal for a Joint Working Group
Handouts provided for the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Minutes from September meeting ◆ Draft letter to Minister and attachments ◆ Summary of Year One Reflections

Action items (from November meeting)	Lead	Status
Review the revised language for the wildfire recommendations in Minister's letter	Jen Psyllakis and Kari-Stuart Smith	Complete
Revise the Minister's letter with Council comments.	Nancy Wilkin	Complete
Prepare a draft list of questions for the meeting with the Minister and set up a meeting to review and confirm these	Judith Cullington	Complete
Set up Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) discussion for December 1 Objectives Working Group	Judith Cullington	Requested
Set up presentations on the Blueberry River First Nations decision for the next MWAC meeting (January or February)	Jen Psyllakis	
Provide an email update on Chief Forester's Wildfire Salvage/Retention Guidance and opportunities to provide input	Tara Szkorupa	
Bring a more formal proposal for starting to move these items forward to the next MWAC meeting	Hunter Lampreau	
Minutes		
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members. She noted with regret the passing of Ray Demarchi, and congratulated member Andrea Barnett on her new baby. 	
2. Approval of meeting minutes (September 9, 2021)	<p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from the September MWAC meeting #11: no changes. ♦ <i>Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Dave Hooper to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed as shown in minutes. 	
3. Letter to Minister	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Proposed additions/changes to the draft letter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note meetings and collaboration with the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Group (PHTAT), Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and Old Growth teams ○ Note that Council is looking forward to ongoing discussion on these items ♦ Agreed that this letter should not be made public until after the November 23rd meeting with the Minister. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jen Psyllakis and Kari-Stuart Smith to review the revised language for the wildfire recommendations. ♦ Nancy Wilkin to revise the letter with Council comments. 	

<p>3. Meeting with Minister</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Agreed that this meeting (November 23rd) is part of ongoing discussions with the Minister, and an opportunity to explore how Council can best assist her and vice versa. ♦ Council provided several suggested questions to be posed at the meeting. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Judith Cullington to prepare a draft list of questions for the meeting with the Minister and set up a meeting with a smaller group to review and confirm these.
<p>4. Wildlife Dialogue</p>	<p>INFORMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Wildlife Dialogues will take place on November 26th (Indigenous) and December 1st (stakeholders). Minister Cullen will attend the first part of the Indigenous session; Minister Conroy will attend the first part of the stakeholder session. Invitations have been sent. ♦ Judith Cullington provided an update on registration numbers to date, and an overview of the roles the Council as facilitators for the breakout sessions. ♦ Council members should contact Judith Cullington if they have questions about the Wildlife Dialogues.
<p>5. Year One Reflections</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Derek Thompson provided a brief overview of the highlights from his discussions with all Council members and support team. ♦ The challenge ahead is how best to provide effective advice to the Minister during this time of transformative change. ♦ Expectations from First Nations have been high, and there is hope that future Ministry decisions will more fully reflect shared decision making—something the Council will continue to promote. ♦ Council has an important role on helping to raise the profile of wildlife – until this happens will affect funding, legislation, and more. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council expressed appreciation for Derek’s work and noted that this is a valuable exercise. ♦ It will be an ongoing challenge to balance the detailed discussions while avoiding “getting into the weeds”. ♦ This could be discussed further at the February 2022 in-person meeting.
<p>6. Co-Chairs Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The meeting with FRPA did not provide enough time to answer the many questions. There will be a follow up at the next Objectives Working Group meeting (December 1, 1 pm).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ MWAC and Forum Co-Chairs met with Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) Board and Executive Director. The information was well received, there will be a follow up meeting with HCTF on November 19th. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Judith Cullington to set up FRPA discussion for December 1 Objectives WG.
7. T4W updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In the Blueberry River First Nations decision, the court was critical of the Province’s stewardship tools to manage cumulative effects. The court has directed a six-month period for the Province with work with the First Nation. T4W goals should form part of the Province’s response. ♦ Together for Wildlife, MWAC, and wildlife concerns have been introduced to the Deputy Ministers’ Committee at the Minister’s request. ♦ Staff are working closely with the Chief Forester, including on a review of the 2017 post wildfire recovery retention guidance. This should include ensuring these policies align with wildlife and habitat objectives (e.g., retention of dead trees for wildlife). ♦ Work on the Canada Nature Agreement is progressing. ♦ There may be opportunities for presentations/discussions on all of these at a future MWAC meeting. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jen Psyllakis to set up presentations on the Blueberry River First Nations decision for a future MWAC meeting (January or February). ♦ Tara Szkorupa to provide an email update on Chief Forester's Wildfire Salvage/Retention Guidance and opportunities to provide input.
8. Forum update	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hunter Lampreau (First Nation-BC Wildlife and Habitat Forum Co-Chair) noted that it makes no sense to include Indigenous Knowledge in decision making unless Nations are also at the table as full decision makers. ♦ It will be important to ensure that the Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees are complementary to reconciliation, as well as ensuring wildlife-first principles. ♦ Hunter proposed establishing a Joint Working Group including representatives from the Forum, MWAC and PHTAT to develop principles and guidance on how the Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees could operate, as well as including policies for inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Shared Decision Making. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hunter Lampreau to bring a more formal proposal for starting to move these items forward to the next MWAC meeting (Jan 12).
9. Closing and Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next meeting January 12, 2022; ♦ In-person meeting scheduled for February 26-28, details to follow. ♦ Simoogit Hleek Harry Nyce closed with a blessing.