

# Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

## Meeting #13 Minutes

January 12, 2022 | 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Via Zoom

<b>Attendees</b>	
<i>Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)</i>	
Nancy Wilkin	
Andrea Barnett	<i>Staff:</i>
John Bergenske	<i>Tara Szkorupa, Manager of Provincial Operations and Implementation, Together for Wildlife (regrets)</i>
Mike Demarchi	
Luke Doxtator	Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager, Together for Wildlife
Adam Ford	Dennis Paradine, A/Manager of Policy and Legislation, T4W
<i>Caylin Glasser (regrets)</i>	
Megan Hanacek	
Doug Heard	<i>Consultants:</i>
<i>Shaun Hollingsworth (regrets)</i>	Derek Thompson
David Hooper	Judith Cullington
Doug Janz	
Jasper Lament	
Richard McLean	
<i>Malii (Glen Williams) (regrets)</i>	
Kari Stuart-Smith	
Jen Psyllakis, Director, Wildlife and Habitat, T4W	
Michael Burwash, A/Director, Wildlife & Habitat	
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify lessons learned from the Wildlife Dialogues</li> <li>Reflections from meeting with Minister</li> <li>Preparation for Deep Dive meetings (Feb-March)</li> <li>Review and discuss Forum recommendation for a Joint Working Group to develop Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees</li> <li>Confirm proposed approach for transfer of 2021-22 funds from T4W to HCTF</li> </ul>
<b>Handouts provided for the Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from November 2021 MWAC meeting</li> <li>Summary of input from Wildlife Dialogues</li> <li>Notes from meeting with Minister</li> <li>Potential topics for a series of “deep dive” online meetings</li> <li>Forum recommendation for Joint Working Group</li> <li>Transfer of funds to HCTF – proposed approach</li> </ul>

Action items (from January meeting)	Lead	Status
Foundations Working Group to review and update MWAC terms of reference.	Shaun Hollingsworth and Rick McLean	For Deep Dives
Follow up discussion on input from Wildlife Dialogues to take place at one of “deep dive” sessions	MWAC Secretariat	For Deep Dives
Propose “Deep Dive” dates and topics for Council’s consideration	MWAC Secretariat	In progress
Inform Hunter Lampreau of Council’s decision on the proposed Joint Working Group	Nancy Wilkin	Completed
Determine next steps for the Joint Working Group, including engaging with the Forum and PHTAT, and report back to the next Council meeting.	Derek Thompson, Cailyn Glasser, Andrea Barnett	Ongoing
Follow up with Dan Buffet, HCTF re setting up a special purpose account, and report back to Council.	Tara Szkorupa	In progress
Arrange for the transfer of funds to HCTF per Council direction.	Maryam Mofidpoor	In progress
Continue to work with HCTF to support reconciliation and address barriers faced by Indigenous applicants.	MWAC and Forum Co-Chairs	Ongoing

## Minutes

<b>1. Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members. She noted a successful end to the last year with the Dialogues and meeting with Minister.</li> <li>Jennifer Psyllakis noted with regret that Doug Nealoss has resigned from Council due to competing priorities.</li> <li>Jennifer Psyllakis noted that they are working with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to support First Nations capacity funding where desired. Her team are exploring support for non-Indigenous Council members; this may or may not be possible. This action requires an update to the MWAC terms of reference.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundations Working Group (through co-leads Shaun Hollingsworth and Rick McLean) to review and update terms of reference.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Approval of meeting minutes (November 10, 2021)</b>	<p><b>DECISIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from the November 2021 MWAC meeting #12: no changes.</li> <li><i>Moved by Kari Stuart-Smith, seconded by Dave Hooper to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i></li> <li>Action items from last meeting completed as shown in minutes.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Wildlife Dialogues</b>	<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council members noted key ideas that they heard from the Dialogues sessions: including need for immediate action, tangible on-the-ground results, being strategic and focused, importance of paradigm shifts.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific proposed actions aligned with MWAC’s priorities: legislated objectives, funding, accessible data backed up by research, working collaboratively (including with industry), creation of regional committees.</li> <li>• Summary report has been mailed to Ministers, Forum, PHTAT, and participants, and will be posted on website. There is a commitment to hold these Dialogues annually.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up discussion on input from Wildlife Dialogues to take place at one of “deep dive” sessions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Meeting with Minister</b></p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council members noted they appreciated the openness and advice from Minister Conroy at the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 meeting.</li> <li>• The Minister encouraged Council to provide examples of success stories, to ensure there is a strong business case for a request to Treasury Board, to provide advice on leveraging opportunities, and to work with the Old Growth and FRPA initiatives. She is looking for advice on establishment of regional committees in relation to Goal 5 and shared decision-making.</li> <li>• While flooding, fires etc. have put considerable strain of the provincial budgets, there is an opportunity to show how nature-based solutions can provide a win-win for addressing these issues and for wildlife.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Deep Dive Meetings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planned in-person meeting of Council has been cancelled due to COVID. This will be replaced (at least in part) with a series of “deep dive” virtual meetings in late February to explore topics in detail.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MWAC Secretariat will propose “Deep Dive” dates and topics for Council’s consideration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Joint Working Group on Regional Committees</b></p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Forum had submitted a recommendation for a Joint (Forum/PHTAT/MWAC) Working Group to deliver principles &amp; guidance on how the regional advisory committees should operate.</li> <li>• Establishing regional committees is a priority for the Minister, and needs to take a broad brush approach to include forestry, mining etc. as well as wildlife.</li> <li>• There will be numerous challenges, such as defining ‘regions’, working with multiple First Nations in any one region, and several existing multi-party committees. It may be helpful to have ‘sub-regions’.</li> <li>• The regional committees do not all have to be the same, and there are opportunities to move quickly to get at least some of these established. We will learn as we go.</li> <li>• Ministry staff have been gathering some background information.</li> </ul> <p><b>COUNCIL DECISION</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That Council:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Affirms that providing advice to the Minister on establishing regional advisory committees and shared decision making is a priority for Council</i></li> <li>○ <i>Requests the co-leads of the MWAC Governance Working Group to work jointly with the Forum and PHTAT to bring forward a proposal to the next Council meeting on how the Council will deliver on the Minister’s request for advice on this topic.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Wilkin will inform Hunter Lampreau of Council’s decision on the proposed Joint Working Group</li> <li>• Derek Thompson will work with Cailyn Glasser and Andrea Barnett (co-leads of the Governance Working Group) to determine next steps, including engaging with the Forum and PHTAT, and report back to the next Council meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Transfer of funds to HCTF</b></p>	<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sub-group of MWAC met to draft a proposal for transferring unused year-end funds to HCTF that would support on-the-ground projects, with a focus on funding Indigenous-led projects.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised about the challenges faced by First Nations when applying to HCTF funding. HCTF is working to improve the process, but remains a challenge for now.</li> <li>• It was proposed that HCTF could set up a special account for Indigenous-led projects as an interim step. This information should be included in application forms.</li> <li>• Another option for a future year would be to direct funds through a group such as the Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC (SERN BC) who already work closely with local nations.</li> <li>• Council supported the transfer of money (\$500,000) to HCTF this year, with 50% going to Indigenous-led projects through a special account if feasible to establish this year.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tara Szkorupa will follow up with Dan Buffet, HCTF re setting up a special purpose account, and report back to Council.</li> <li>• Maryam Mofidpoor will arrange for the transfer of funds to HCTF per Council direction.</li> <li>• MWAC and Forum Co-Chairs will continue to work with HCTF to support reconciliation and address barriers faced by Indigenous applicants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Closing and Next Meetings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next regular meeting March 9, 2022</li> <li>• Series of deep dive meetings to be schedule for February 24-28, dates to follow.</li> </ul>