

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #14 Deep Dive Minutes

February 24–26, 2022 Via Zoom

Attendees		
<i>Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)</i>	<i>T4W Staff:</i>	
Nancy Wilkin	Tara Szkorupa, Manager of Provincial Operations and Implementation, Together for Wildlife	
Andrea Barnett	Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager, Together for Wildlife	
John Bergenske	Dennis Paradine, Manager of Policy and Legislation, T4W	
Mike Demarchi		
Luke Doxtator	Notetakers: Lisa Tedesco, Catherine Denny, Jared Davis, Taylor Jeffery, Raychl Lukie	
Adam Ford		
Caylin Glasser		
Megan Hanacek		
Doug Heard	<i>Consultants:</i>	
Shaun Hollingsworth	Derek Thompson	
David Hooper	Judith Cullington	
Doug Janz		
Jasper Lament		
Richard McLean		
<i>Malii (Glen Williams) (regrets)</i>		
Kari Stuart-Smith		
<i>Michael Burwash, A/Director, Wildlife & Habitat (regrets)</i>		
Purpose of Meeting	♦ To provide an opportunity for in-depth learning and discussions to support Council work.	
Action items (from Deep Dives)	Lead	Status
Once available, new organization charts should be circulated to Council.	Maryam Mofidpoor	
Co-Chairs to write to Ministers, proposing that they advise both Ministers Conroy and Osborne.	Co-Chairs	Complete
Create a session for MWAC to review and provide comment on the review of conservation lands (Actions 10 and 11).	Judith Cullington	Presentation at May meeting, in depth meeting to follow
Determine if cumulative effects should be a separate working group or part of the Objectives WG.	Objectives Working Group	

Working groups to confirm/adjust their priorities for the coming year.	All working groups	
Prepare a proposal for the March 9 th MWAC meeting, and then engage the Forum and PHTAT through a Joint working group (or workshop session).	Andrea Barnett and Cailyn Glasser	Proposal complete, joint session to be scheduled
Develop draft performance measures for Council review.	Objectives Working Group	

Minutes	
Deep Dive #1: Reconciliation	
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members. Derek Thompson noted that T4W now sits within the new Ministry of Lands, Water and Resource Stewardship; staff will be dealing with transition to the new Ministry. The aim of the deep dive sessions is to provide greater understanding of the practical priorities that government is focussing on.
2. Blueberry River/ Yahey decision	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brianna Meyer and Chris Robb, Legal Counsel with BC Ministry of Attorney General, provided an overview of the court decision between the Blueberry River First Nation (BRFN) and the Province of BC. The court found that BC had infringed the Treaty 8 rights of the BRFN, as the cumulative impacts of development in their traditional territory made it no longer possible to meaningfully exercise their Treaty 8 rights. Following the court decision on June 29th, 2021, the Province has been in negotiation with the BRFN. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRFN provided sufficient evidence of impacts for the court to determine that BRFN's Treaty 8 rights had been infringed by BC. The case does not provide clear guidelines for assessing cumulative effects and this work is ongoing with BRFN, Treaty 8 nations and BC. There were some negotiations prior to trial and decision, however that process was not successful. The finding of infringement is specific to BRFN. The court's interpretation of Treaty 8 rights applies to all Treaty 8 nations. Criticisms of BC's regulatory regimes, including the management of cumulative effects, is relevant across BC.

	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ David Skerik provided an update on negotiations specific to wildlife and proposed changes to hunting regulations. ♦ BC can no longer authorize activities that would breach the treaty. ♦ There are several proposed approaches to reducing or closing hunts in the NE—these are recommendations and are subject to an ongoing engagement process. ♦ The path forward is to bring people together (wildlife working group), will conduct post-season reviews to understand if this improved success for Treaty 8 hunting. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Evidence based decision making will be important; there will be concerns about impacts to hunting in NE. ♦ Reduction of hunting based on infringement of promised treaty rights; a complex decision.
<p>3. Declaration Act and Shared Decision Making</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Robert Leece, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, provided a presentation on the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)</i> Section 7 (shared decision making). (See PPT on Teams). ♦ Shared decision-making is a range of opportunities for Indigenous peoples and the Province to collaborate in decision-making processes ♦ To date, most shared decision-making has been in the area of collaboration and development of consensus recommendations to decision makers ♦ The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan outlines actions the Province will undertake in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples over the next five years. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ To enter a Section 7 agreement, the Minister responsible must seek a mandate from the Lieutenant Governor and Executive Council. ♦ Overlapping territories need to be considered. ♦ The new Secretariat will focus on the legal aspect of <i>Declaration Act</i> to align provincial laws with UNDRIP.
<p>4.</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Council discussed how this information would affect their work and added ideas to a whiteboard.</p>

Deep Dive #2: Council Priorities for 2022

<p>1. Impact of Ministry Reorganization</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>David Muter, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division, FLNR, provided an overview of the proposed new Ministry organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ MWAC noted desire to advise both Ministers, and to meet with Ministers. <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Once available, new organization charts should be circulated to Council.
<p>2. Council priorities for 2022</p>	<p>Council reflected on focus priorities for 2022, building on already-identified priorities.</p> <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Members suggesting waiting until the new ministry is established, to discuss with the new Minister, before establishing their priorities. ♦ The working groups should identify their 2022 priorities to inform Council priorities. ♦ Council would like to review and recommend policy as a priority for this year. ♦ Need to pivot and include the decision surrounding cumulative effects. There is an important role for Council to provide guidance on this subject, perhaps with a working group to address this issue. ♦ Need to address the large gaps of policy regarding wildlife and habitat, e.g., gaps between issues like habitat and populations, and links to cumulative effects. ♦ Priority suggestions were added to a whiteboard. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chairs to write to Ministers, proposing that they advise both Ministers Conroy and Osborne. ♦ Create a session for MWAC to review and provide comment on the review of conservation lands (Actions 10 and 11). ♦ Determine if cumulative effects should be a separate working group or part of the Objectives WG. ♦ Working groups to confirm/adjust their priorities for the coming year.

Deep Dive #3: Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees

<p>1. Land Use Planning in BC</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Tricia Morris, Manager, Land Use Planning, FLNR provided an overview of modernized land use planning in BC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Reconciliation will be central to this work, with ongoing engagement with First Nations throughout (at a project level). ♦ Nine pilot projects are advancing, ranging from comprehensive/large area to small areas with targeted values. Five projects are currently listed on the website. ♦ The process is complex, with overlapping initiatives and sometimes conflicting direction.
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	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ First Nations land use plans could be used in land use planning. ♦ FLNR is aiming to come out of silos to achieve this work, with wildlife as part of broader land use decisions. The end goal is to have an overarching strategic landscape level plan for each area. ♦ There are many regional groups being created, need to consider how to align or combine wildlife regional committees with existing work.
<p>2. Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Cailyn Glasser and Andrea Barnett sought Council input to development of regional wildlife committees. This is a priority for the Minister. ♦ Participants discussed in small groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What could be the purpose of Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees? ○ What problems could they solve? ○ How could these improve outcomes for wildlife and habitat? ○ What new opportunities could they create? <p>Advice included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ PHTAT and Forum need to be included in development. ♦ Use existing regions, but issues may need to be addressed at other scales. ♦ Nations’ territories may also help to define regions. ♦ Could have sub-regions depending on local needs. ♦ Capacity and funding will be key. ♦ Good facilitation, clear terms of reference. ♦ The more stakeholders at the table, the merrier. ♦ How will members be selected? ♦ Create a local vision for wildlife habitat and management ♦ Address wildlife objectives. ♦ Provide advice on regional issues, plus input to some provincial level concerns. ♦ Important to give committees access to the people and resources needed. ♦ Opportunity for input from outside the region to bring in other ideas and solutions. ♦ How to link groups to MWAC and the land use planning tables. ♦ Can help to build trust, find common ground. Could give voice to some groups not otherwise engaged. ♦ Oversight and follow through, goodwill to enhance cooperation and buy-in. ♦ Northern roundtable in Deas Lake – good example of creating consensus recommendations. ♦ All recommendations need to be consensus based; so important that decision-makers act on these to validate the input.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value of broad group providing consensus input – can't be ignored. <p>Notes from the small group sessions are on Teams.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea Barnett and Cailyn Glasser to prepare a proposal for the March 9th MWAC meeting, and then engage the Forum and PHTAT through a Joint working group (or workshop session).
<p>Deep Dive #4: T4W Budget and Funding</p>	
<p>1. T4W Budget 2022-23</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara Szkorupa outlined the proposed T4W budget for 2022-23 and invited MWAC input on strategic priorities (presentation on Teams). She noted that the requests for funding far exceed the available budget. The project funding cycle creates greater transparency and clarity of process. T4W is working with HCTF to support more Indigenous-led projects and to provide support in development of project applications. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Members expressed appreciation for the improved approach and sought clarification on several items.</p>
<p>2. Federal budget and initiatives</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dennis Paradine noted that the Province has received federal Nature Smart Climate Solutions funding for Conservation Lands, Coastal Douglas Fir Conservation, and development and pilot of a conservation tax incentive program. Other proposals have been submitted for purchase of conservation lands, wetland science, and grassland conservation.
<p>3. Increasing funding for T4W</p>	<p>Members discussed the opportunities for leveraging funds and new sources of dedicated funding in small groups. Notes from these are included on Teams.</p> <p>Advice included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting in with lottery corporation, regular lottery Corporate sponsorships Consider looking to international groups like World Wildlife Fund Biodiversity offsets with bigger development companies and industries (e.g., CN, CP) Crowdfunding, e.g., BC Parks Foundation has been very successful with this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of HCTF to be more active in crowdfunding Get land trusts working together better and take advantage of US funding License plate program for wildlife, e.g., through off-road vehicle licensing Legacy funds with planned giving With projects use T4W as the foundational fund to make other funds easier to leverage Property transfer tax or something similar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Addition to the provincial sales tax ◆ In leveraging, specialize so other existing funders are covering some parts and T4W funding others
Deep Dive #5: Regional Action Plans and Performance Measures	
1. Regional action plans (RAPs)	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lisa Tedesco provided an update on the development of regional action plans (presentation on Teams). These will support a shift to proactive management, improve collaboration and communications, support funding requests and improve effectiveness. They will be developed in collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders as well as internal partners. ◆ Council provided advice and feedback on this approach, including having a section on strategic priorities, and making the regional context and Gantt chart required (not optional) elements.
2. Measures of success	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tara Szkorupa provided an introduction to performance measures for T4W, which are essential for accountability and demonstrating what T4W is achieving. They will also help to influence management decisions, and help us to learn and improve (presentation on Teams). The next steps will be to narrow in on a suite of performance measures and determine baseline and targets. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Members discussed performance measures in smaller groups. Advice included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Need to be able to track things over time ◆ Setting objectives and then measuring and monitoring on-the-ground will be key, need to know what is actually happening ◆ In addition to ecological measures, use social measures e.g., access to a resource, user satisfaction, hunter success, meeting Indigenous needs, support for allocation decisions ◆ Measure population response (are we cultivating abundance?) ◆ Objectives set for species, stewardship plan supported by regional committee, #ha conserved or restored as wildlife habitat (e.g., Ministry of Forests Service Plan) ◆ Measures of success: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short term: #ha habitat enhanced and restored ○ Interim: wildlife stewardship goals and clear population objectives; # regional wildlife committees; sufficient funding to support the work ○ Ultimate measure: healthy wildlife populations (that meet objectives) ◆ Important to map out into the future, have a strategic planning session to determine strategic measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MWAC to track / hear report on measures at least quarterly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hire communications group to create more public awareness and buy-in for T4W <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Objectives Working Group to develop draft performance measures for Council review.
<p>3. Closing and Next Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Next regular MWAC meeting March 9, 2022