

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #15 Minutes

March 9, 2022 | 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Via Zoom

Attendees	
<i>Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)</i>	
Nancy Wilkin	
Andrea Barnett	<i>Staff:</i>
John Bergenske	Tara Szkorupa, Manager of Provincial Operations and Implementation, Together for Wildlife
Mike Demarchi	Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager, Together for Wildlife
Luke Doxtator	Dennis Paradine, A/Manager of Policy and Legislation, T4W
Adam Ford	
Caylin Glasser	
Megan Hanacek	
Doug Heard	<i>Consultants:</i>
Shaun Hollingsworth	Derek Thompson
David Hooper	Judith Cullington
Doug Janz	
<i>Jasper Lament (regrets)</i>	
Richard McLean	
<i>Malii (Glen Williams) (regrets)</i>	
Kari Stuart-Smith	
Michael Burwash, A/Director, Wildlife & Habitat	

Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Review proposed approach for regional wildlife committees ♦ Information and discussion on the Old Growth Strategy recommendation for prioritizing ecosystem health and resilience ♦ Learn about Indigenous T4W intern experiences
Handouts provided for the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from January 2022 MWAC meeting ♦ Draft submission to Watershed Security Strategy and Fund ♦ Briefing note on regional committees ♦ Link to Old Growth Strategy report: A New Future for Old Forests

Action items (from March meeting)	Lead	Status
Prepare regional advisory committees communication materials for Council and staff	Andrea Barnett, Cailyn Glaser and Tara Szkorupa	Complete
Request a presentation on the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund at the next Council meeting.	Tara Szkorupa	Complete
Minutes		
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members. ♦ She reminded members about the process for the Control of Species policy, with technical review by the PHTAT and Forum before it comes to Council. 	
2. Approval of meeting minutes (January 9, 2022)	<p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from the January 2022 MWAC meeting #13: no changes. ♦ <i>Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Cailyn Glasser to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed as shown in minutes. 	
3. Regional Wildlife Committees	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Andrea Barnett and Cailyn Glaser presented their proposed approach to further developing this concept, including planning and hosting a workshop session that would lead to a recommendation to the Minister in the fall. While this work is closely related to the shared decision making work of the Forum, it has been separated for now to reduce complexity. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council members were very supportive of the proposed approach. Ideas for consideration included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participation at the workshop (just Forum/PHTAT/Council or broader?) ○ Importance of including regional staff, and asking them to talk beforehand to existing regional bodies for input. Also need to recognize workload and challenges of reorganization for staff. ○ Sign off of draft recommendations by FN Forum/PHTAT/Council before being presented as a recommendation to the Minister. ○ Adding membership to the workshop discussion topics. ○ Preparing communications materials that can be used by Council and staff for engagement in regions. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Dave Hooper will join the planning group, others interested should contact Tara Szkorupa. ♦ Andrea, Cailyn and Tara to prepare communication materials for Council and staff (e.g., “backgrounder on Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees”). 	

<p>3. Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tara Szkorupa provided updates from the HCTF. HCTF has set up a special account for their T4W funding to ensure that funds are primarily allocated to Indigenous-led projects and support enhancing First Nation capacity to apply for funding. HCTF is looking at creating a new Indigenous Advisory position, and providing cultural training for staff and Board. ♦ Mike Demarchi noted concerns raised about the lack of profile for wildlife in the Ministry reorganization. A draft statement for inclusion in the next letter to the Minister is on Teams for Council to comment on. ♦ Doug Janz noted that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has released a discussion paper (Watershed-Security-Strategy-Discussion-Paper_04.pdf (gov.bc.ca)) with the goal of “working together in partnership with Indigenous peoples to develop the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund”. Council supported the recommendation to request a presentation on the program to the next Council meeting. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tara Szkorupa to ask for a presentation on the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund at the next Council meeting.
<p>4. T4W Indigenous Intern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jared Davies provided an overview of his experiences as a T4W Indigenous intern. ♦ A copy of his presentation is available on Teams.
<p>5. Discussion with Garry Merkel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Garry Merkel is a co-author of the Old Growth Strategy report: A New Future for Old Forests. ♦ He shared his experiences and approaches to creating the paradigm shift from “timber first” to ecosystem integrity. It means “thinking like an ecosystem” and finding a solution together.
<p>6. Closing & Next Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next regular meeting May 11, 2022