

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #17 Minutes

July 13, 2022 | 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Via Zoom

| Attendees | |
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| Council Members: | Staff: |
| <i>Simoojit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)</i> | Tara Szkorupa, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation |
| Nancy Wilkin | |
| Andrea Barnett | Maryam Mofidpoor, Project Manager, Together for Wildlife |
| John Bergenske | Dennis Paradine, Manager of Policy and Legislation |
| Mike Demarchi | Jen Psyllakis, Executive Director, |
| <i>Luke Doxtator (regrets)</i> | Wildlife, Habitat and Species at Risk |
| <i>Adam Ford (regrets)</i> | Morris Prosser, Wildlife Policy Analyst, Engagement and Shared Decision-Making |
| Caylin Glasser | Mariana Nagy-Reis, North Area Lead, Together for Wildlife |
| Megan Hanacek | |
| Doug Heard | |
| Shaun Hollingsworth | |
| Doug Janz | |
| Jasper Lament | Consultants: |
| <i>Richard McLean (regrets)</i> | Derek Thompson |
| Kari Stuart-Smith | Judith Cullington |
| Michael Burwash, A/Director, Wildlife & Habitat | |
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| Purpose of Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Provide Council with information on the Forum's process to draft a Shared Decision Making Policy ♦ Debrief from the Regional Wildlife Advisory Committee workshop and confirm next steps ♦ Provide Council with information updates on progress on T4W ♦ Discuss and confirm items for inclusion in the next MWAC letter to Ministers ♦ Seek Council input on agenda items for the fall in person meeting |
| Handouts provided for the Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from May 2022 MWAC meeting ♦ Summary from RWAC Workshop ♦ Draft July letter to Ministers ♦ Principles for Policy Development ♦ "Good news" wildlife stories ♦ Draft Shared Decision Making Policy |

| Action items (from July meeting) | Lead | Status |
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| Prepare a draft policy options paper for RWACs; circulate a draft to MWAC/Forum/PHTAT by early September. | Mariana Nagy-Reis | In progress |
| Revise the July 2022 draft letter to Ministers and provide an updated draft to MWAC. | Judith Cullington | Complete |
| Provide input on the September meeting framework and topics on Teams. | MWAC | Ongoing |
| Minutes | | |
| 1. Welcome | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members. | |
| 2. Approval of meeting minutes (May, 2022) | <p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from the May 2022 MWAC meeting #16: no changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Moved Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Cailyn Glasser to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed; there will be an update on Conservation Lands at future meeting. | |
| 3. Shared Decision Making Policy | <p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Morris Prosser (Wildlife Policy Analyst, Engagement and Shared Decision-Making, LWRS) provided an overview of the First Nations – B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum (Forum) work to draft a Shared Decision Making Policy. This supports Goal 5 Action 18 of T4W. (PPT on Teams). ♦ A copy of the draft policy had been circulated to Council members for their review. ♦ This work focuses on non-statutory decisions, such as setting objectives. It lays the path to true co-management. ♦ The creation of Ethical Space is essential to this work, as a pathway of interaction between Indigenous and Western systems. ♦ The draft policy establishes Indigenous Knowledge as co-equal to science, both providing different lines of evidence. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ It would be helpful to have examples of the scope of the policy, how it might be used. ♦ The role of Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees should be specifically included. ♦ MWAC could play a role in raising this policy with the Ministers. ♦ This policy could be further reviewed, together with work on Ethical Space, at the September meeting. | |
| 3. Regional Wildlife Advisory Committee | <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Notes have been circulated from the workshop. These will be posted on the website soon. | |

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| <p>(RWAC) workshop</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The discussion on representative vs non-representative members was inconclusive. Non-representative participation is challenging for First Nations. ♦ Conservation lands should be clearly identified as “in scope”. ♦ Work in the Northeast to create a regional advisory table could provide a focused pilot for RWACs. ♦ Need to ensure RWACs can play a meaningful role in decisions, but starting point is to build trust and relationships. ♦ Mariana Nagy-Reis is preparing a policy analysis paper showing areas of agreement / differing opinions; where there should be provincial level strategy and where there should be regional flexibility. This will also include a template for terms of reference. Staff will also be engaging with First Nations and stakeholders in regions. ♦ Facilitators for the RWACs need to be well-versed in ethical space. Selection of facilitators should be a shared process (Province/First Nations). <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mariana Nagy-Reis to prepare a draft policy options paper for RWACs and circulate a draft to MWAC/First Nation Forum/Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT) by early September. |
| <p>4. Together for Wildlife Updates</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The MWAC Co-Chairs met with Minister Osborne. RWACs are a priority for both Ministers. ♦ Tara Szkorupa reported on the meeting between the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Coalition and Minister Osborne. ♦ Jennifer Psyllakis provided Executive updates, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Negotiations between BC and Canada on a Nature Agreement are underway. ○ There is approval to develop an engagement plan for the Wildlife Act review. ○ MWAC input is influencing staff discussions and decisions. ♦ Maryam Mofidpoor noted that work is proceeding to appoint six new members to MWAC, hopefully in time for the September meeting. |
| <p>5. July 2022 letter to Ministers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Members reviewed the draft letter and made several suggestions for changes. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Judith Cullington to revise the July 2022 draft letter to Ministers and provide an updated draft to MWAC. |
| <p>6. September joint meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Maryam Mofidpoor outlined the framework for the September in-person meeting. The intent is to include some time that is joint with Forum members to cover topics of shared interest. Ministers will be invited to a joint session. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Members to provide input on the September meeting framework and topics on Teams. |
| 7. Closing, Next Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Next meeting September 19-21, 2022 (in-person in Richmond, also virtual option) |