

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #18 Minutes

September 19 –21, 2022 In person and via Zoom

Attendees	
Council Members:	Staff:
<i>Simoogit 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
Adam Ford (online)	Morris Prosser, Wildlife Policy Analyst, Engagement and Shared Decision-Making, Together for Wildlife
Caylin Glasser (online)	Mariana Nagy-Reis, North Area Lead, Together for Wildlife
Megan Hanacek (online)	Kym Welstead, Coast Area Lead, Together for Wildlife
Doug Heard	Mary Toews, Coast Area Lead, Together for Wildlife
Shaun Hollingsworth (online)	Lisa Tedesco, South Area Lead, Together for Wildlife
Doug Janz (online)	
Jasper Lament	<i>MITACS Fellows</i>
Alyssa Lepka	Hasan Kettaneh
<i>Richard McLean (regrets)</i>	Meike Siegner
Naomi Owens-Beek	Anastasia Hervas (online)
Kari Stuart-Smith	
	Consultants:
	Derek Thompson
	Judith Cullington
Purpose of Meeting	<p>MWAC meetings were held in conjunction with the Together for Wildlife Workshop and Celebration. The workshop purpose and desired outcome were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ To strengthen relationships and build connections among participants ♦ To further progress on key Together for Wildlife initiatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees ○ Wildlife Act review ○ Indigenous Knowledge, Sheltering, Objectives-setting and Shared Decision-Making policies ♦ To acknowledge and celebrate the efforts and work achieved by the First Nation-BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum (FN Forum), MWAC and Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT) in support of Together for Wildlife

Action items (from September meeting)	Lead	Status
Council members will discuss priorities further at the October 5 th Objectives Working Group meeting.	Mike Demarchi, Kari-Stuart Smith	Complete
Review Council terms of reference.	Derek Thompson and Shaun Hollingsworth	For January meeting
Council to work with staff on the development of a communications strategy for MWAC.	Staff (potentially Human Dimensions specialist)	TBD
Let Judith Cullington know of ways to improve internal communications and use of MS Teams.	All	Ongoing
Explore options for business cards for Council members.	Judith Cullington	Complete
Staff to provide updated performance measures at a future Council (or Working Group) meeting.	TBD	TBD
Staff to check if Minister Osborne would be available for an in-person meeting in November.	Cheryl Rentz-Bennett	Complete

Minutes

1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members, including new members Alyssa Lepka and Naomi Owens-Beek. Jason Northcott will also be joining Council. ♦ A minute of silence was observed in memory of Queen Elizabeth.
2. Approval of meeting minutes (July, 2022)	<p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from the July 2022 MWAC meeting #17: no changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Moved Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Kari Stuart-Smith to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed.
3. MWAC Priorities	<p>Monday September 19th was a holiday for provincial employees, allowing Council members to have informal discussions about priorities and next steps.</p> <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Nancy Wilkin provided an overview of achievements to date and current priorities. Members identified ongoing priorities as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees ○ Reviewing and enacting updates to the Wildlife Act ○ Reviewing the updated Objectives policy, supporting engagement ○ Identifying T4W performance measures ○ Ensuring the Auditor General recommendations for Conservation Lands are implemented ○ Reviewing and making recommendations on the governance of funding ○ Supporting a strategic approach to reducing wildlife mortality on roads and railways

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparing recommendations coming out of ongoing consultant work (economics study and options analysis for the co-op research model) ○ Discussing/developing a broader vision for wildlife in BC ○ Following up on all recommendations already made to Ministers <p>◆ Derek Thompson outlined changes required to Council’s terms of reference.</p> <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council members will discuss priorities further at the October 5th Objectives Working Group meeting. ◆ Derek Thompson and Shaun Hollingsworth will lead a review of the terms of reference.
<p>3. Communica-tions</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council discussed the need for more public communications, raising the public profile of the Council. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More use of the website (reporting out) ○ Social media accounts, print media ○ Dialogues, speaking engagements, collaboration with others (e.g., BC Fish Wildlife and Habitat Coalition) <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Council to work with staff on the development of a communications strategy for MWAC. ➤ Council members to let Judith Cullington know of ways to improve internal communications and use of MS Teams. ➤ Judith Cullington to explore options for business cards for Council members.
<p>4. Shared Decision Making Charter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Morris Prosser (LWRS) provided an update on Shared Decision Making and Ethical Space. The aim is to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joint communication and extension materials to educate and inform British Columbians about the nature of Aboriginal rights and title, treaty rights set out in modern and historical treaties, Indigenous worldviews, and Indigenous use of wildlife and wildlife stewardship approaches ○ Tools and communication materials to support Provincial staff to engage all parties through the Ethical Space, and that stakeholders and local governments can use to engage Nations through the Ethical Space framework. ○ Enabling policy tools for Provincial and Indigenous governments to recognize, receive, and integrate Indigenous Knowledge in decisions. ◆ The draft policy is waiting for approval of the current draft before further internal engagement.

<p>5. T4W Performance Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tara Szkorupa provided an overview of draft T4W performance measures. ♦ Members reviewed and provided input on the draft list. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff to provide updated performance measures at a future Council (or Working Group) meeting.
<p>6. Wildlife Act Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Following an update from Dennis Paradine, Council members discussed the Wildlife Act review process. ♦ Risks and challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A major risk is the short time to implement legislative change within this election cycle. ○ Risk of failing to get broad support for the changes. ○ Need to engage Nations, not just the Forum. ♦ Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council stressed the need for early engagement with stakeholders, Nations and the public. ○ Essential to engage industry. ○ Need for sufficient resources for engagement (noting time is a challenge). ○ Multi-stage process: early information sharing; early/mid/late engagement building support. ○ Need to let participants know how their input was used. ♦ Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to consider feasible short term updates (detailed technical work) and the broader context of wildlife conservation legislation (strategic approach).
<p>7. Funding updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Doug Janz provided an overview of the work being undertaken on the economic (and cultural) values of wildlife in BC. ♦ Jen Psyllakis provided an update on negotiations with Canada on the Nature Agreement, noting there are significant short-term opportunities, but nothing is certain until the agreement is signed.
<p>8. Meeting debrief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council reflected on the workshop, including their meetings with the Ministers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members appreciated the opportunity for discussion without staff. ○ Discussions with the Ministers were very positive, including reference to ‘wildlife conservation’ legislation and a new vision for land management. Minister Osborne has expressed a desire to come to a Council meeting. ○ A desire for greater communication with the Forum and PHTAT. ○ Need to focus on a short list of priorities, including Wildlife Act review and Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees (RWACs).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Members thanked Tara Szkorupa for her hard work and support, noting that she will still be doing valuable T4W work in her new regional position. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff to check if Minister Osborne would be available for an in-person meeting in November.
<p>9. Closing, Next Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Next scheduled meeting November 9th, 2022 (date and format to be confirmed)