

# Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

## Meeting #19 Minutes

November 9, 2022

In person (2975 Jutland Road, Victoria) and via Skype

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Council Members:</b>		<b>Staff:</b>
<i>Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)</i>		Lisa Tedesco, South Area Lead, Together for Wildlife (online)
Nancy Wilkin		Mary Toews, Coast Area Lead, Together for Wildlife (online)
Adam Ford (online)		Morris Prosser, Wildlife Policy Analyst, Engagement and Shared Decision-Making, Together for Wildlife (online)
Alyssa Lepka (online)		
Andrea Barnett (online)		Dennis Paradine, MoF Manager of Policy and Legislation (online)
Caylin Glasser (online)		Gavin Newall, Indigenous intern
Doug Heard		Cheryl-Rentz-Bennett, LWRS (online)
Jasper Lament (online)		Catherine Denny, LWRS (online)
Jason Northcott (online)		
John Bergenske		<b>Guests</b>
Kari Stuart-Smith		Céline Davis, Executive Director, Ecosystems Branch, LWRS
Megan Hanacek		Rhonda Cage (online)
Mike Demarchi		Karyn Stefanyk, LWRS (online)
Naomi Owens-Beek (online)		Sarah Jean Dixon, LWRS (online)
Shaun Hollingsworth		David Muter, ADM, Land Use Policy Planning & Ecosystems
		Daniel Wolfish, Environment and Climate Change Canada
<b>MITACS Fellows</b>		Blair Hammond, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Hasan Kettaneh (online)		
Anastasia Hervas (online)		<b>Consultants:</b>
		Derek Thompson
		Judith Cullington
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Prepare recommendations to Ministers re RWACs, Governance of Funding</li> <li>♦ Discuss a broader vision for wildlife conservation legislation, building on the Nature Agreement and Biodiversity Declaration</li> <li>♦ Prepare for the December Wildlife Dialogues (December 2nd 9-11 am and December 6th 6-8 pm)</li> <li>♦ Confirm MWAC priorities for the next two years</li> </ul>	
<b>Action items (from November meeting)</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>
Policy options paper to be forwarded to the Ministers, together with MWAC recommendation to include education, timeline/capacity, enabling funding decision making role, and clarity around reporting structure.	Staff	Complete

Draft a paragraph to include in next letter to Minister addressing MWAC's recommendations regarding RWACs.	Andrea Barnett	Complete
Add the dashboard link to the MWAC website.	Gavin Newall	Complete
Bring the Ethical Space Guidance and draft Shared Decision-making Policy to MWAC when ready.	Morris Prosser	In progress
Further refine funding model review, and prepare a recommendation to include in the letter to the Ministers (together with the Funding Principles).	Hasan Kettaneh and Jasper Lament	Complete
Share the Indigenous Knowledge and Sheltering policies, as well as summary of outcomes from the September joint workshop, with MWAC	Dennis Paradine	Complete
Follow up with Morris Prosser on inclusion of Ethical Space.	Karyn Stefanyk and Sarah Jean Dixon	
Share the draft Biodiversity Declaration document with MWAC when ready.	Céline Davis	In progress
Confirm the key questions for the Dialogues with the Forum Secretariat.	Morris Prosser and Cheryl Rentz-Bennett	Complete
Prepare and send out invitations to the Dialogues.	Judith Cullington	
Develop some pre-reading materials for Dialogues participants.	Judith Cullington and Lisa Tedesco	
Invite regional BC staff to participate in the Dialogues.	Lisa Tedesco	Complete
Draft a November letter to the Ministers	Judith Cullington and Nancy Wilkin	Complete
Ask all Council members which working groups/task forces they would like to be part of	Judith Cullington	Complete

## Minutes

<b>1. Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members, including new member Jason Northcott.</li> <li>♦ Members and participants introduced themselves.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Approval of meeting minutes (September 2022)</b>	<p><b>DECISIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Minutes from the September 2022 MWAC meeting #18: no changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Moved Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Kari Stuart-Smith to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ Action items from last meeting completed or in progress.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees</b>	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Andrea Barnett, Cailyn Glasser and Lisa Tedesco provided an overview of the updated Regional Wildlife Advisory Committee (RWAC) policy paper, based on input from the joint September meeting and Objectives Working Group discussions.</li> <li>♦ Council was asked for their recommendations to the Minister.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Representative vs non-representative participation: important that selection be perceived as fair and inclusive. Members need to be accountable to principles and wildlife above the needs of their organization.</li> <li>♦ Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Should include ability to direct funds locally—request that this be moved back in scope.</li> <li>○ Statutory decision making is out of scope</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ There is need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Guidance on when a region is “ready” to establish an RWAC; there will be a need to balance desires of groups who are anxious to move ahead with First Nations who may need additional time and capacity. Timelines will vary by region.</li> <li>○ Guidance on interim approaches where RWACs are not being immediately established.</li> <li>○ Public education to ensure people understand that shared decision-making is an act of reconciliation.</li> <li>○ Clarity around who the RWACs report to in regions (FOR, LWRS or both?)</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ A (future) operational procedures document could address items such as defining consensus.</li> <li>♦ There will be considerable flexibility for regions to determine definition of region, size of committees, etc.</li> <li>♦ It was noted that Kootenay-Boundary and Thompson-Okanagan regions are working with a contract team (Fraser Basin Council) to explore options for establishing RWACs, including engaging with First Nations and stakeholders.</li> <li>♦ Council members confirmed their support for moving RWACs forward as quickly as possible, while continuing to address outstanding items.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Policy options paper to be forwarded to the Ministers, together with MWAC recommendation to include education, timeline/capacity, enabling funding decision making role, and clarity around reporting structure.</li> <li>♦ Andrea Barnett to draft a paragraph to include in next letter to Minister addressing MWAC’s recommendations regarding RWACs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. T4W Updates</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Lisa Tedesco provided <a href="#">updates</a> on T4W staffing. Work is proceeding on filling vacancies.</li> <li>♦ A T4W “<a href="#">dashboard</a>” is now live, providing an “at-a-glance” look at projects and expenditures. This will be linked from the both the T4W and MWAC websites.</li> <li>♦ Updates on the various actions are available in the <a href="#">presentation</a>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Morris Prosser provided an update on the Ethical Space and Non-statutory Decision-making Policy. Ethical Space will be developed as a guidance document, and the policy is being drafted. Once the draft guidance and policy have been endorsed by the Forum, these documents will be shared with MWAC (likely Spring 2023).</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Gavin Newall to add the dashboard link to the MWAC website.</li> <li>♦ Morris Prosser to bring the Ethical Space Guidance and draft Shared Decision-making Policy to MWAC when ready.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Governance of Funding</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Hasan Kettaneh provided an overview of his work with Jasper Lament to <a href="#">compare financial governance models</a>. This included Coast Funds, HCTF, the New Zealand Waikato River Authority and the Conservation Federation of Missouri.</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Characteristics of good funding models</a> include: inclusive governance (co-governance/co-management); sustainable finance; non-for-profit (arms length from government); cross-functional committee structure; blended fund; forever fund; permanent funding; outcome-based; responsible investing (ESG); impact investing; and transparency &amp; public accountability.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Members discussed some of the pros and cons of the models presented, and the need for permanent funding sources in addition to possible funding through the federal Nature Agreement.</li> <li>♦ A preferred model would blend the best characteristics of these models.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Hasan Kettaneh and Jasper Lament will further refine funding model review, and prepare a recommendation to include in the letter to the Ministers (together with the Funding Principles).</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Legislation updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Dennis Paradine provided an update on legislation. Members discussed how MWAC (and Forum) should be involved in the review and development of an intentions paper.</li> <li>♦ The Indigenous Knowledge and Sheltering policies have been released for formal consultation with First Nations.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Dennis Paradine to share the Indigenous Knowledge and Sheltering policies, as well as summary of outcomes from the September joint workshop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Biodiversity Declaration</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Céline Davis provided <a href="#">a presentation</a> on the proposed Biodiversity Declaration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) recommendation to “prioritize ecosystem health” will align with other provincial actions including T4W.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This integrated approach includes shared desired outcomes of: healthy ecosystems; reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; climate change resiliency; sustainable economies; and biodiversity (including wildlife and species at risk).</li> <li>○ The Biodiversity Declaration will be a powerful catalyst for a shift in thinking and creates a vision and the conditions for change. It will be co-developed with Indigenous Governments (now to Spring 2023), with targeted engagement to follow.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ This is part of the paradigm shift MWAC is championing.</li> <li>◆ Implementation of the OGSR and Biodiversity Declaration will require updates to legislation, but staff are also looking at “quick wins” such as updating species lists under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> and <i>Oil and Gas Activities Act</i>.</li> <li>◆ Ethical Space will be used in developing the Declaration, and for legislative changes required.</li> <li>◆ The Declaration applies to all ecosystem types. This provides an opportunity to promote restoration activities such as cultural burning of grasslands.</li> <li>◆ There is potential for backlash from economic interests. Clear messaging will be needed to demonstrate that economic growth is dependent on healthy ecosystems, and that benefits go far beyond just “big trees” or species protection. Early engagement with industry will be critical. Needs clear messaging around what is broken/needs fixing, that this needs to be taken seriously.</li> <li>◆ A draft document will be shared with MWAC early next year for feedback.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Karyn Stefanyk and Sarah Jean Dixon to follow up with Morris Prosser on inclusion of Ethical Space.</li> <li>◆ Céline Davis to share the draft document with MWAC when ready.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Wildlife Dialogues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Two Wildlife Dialogues are planned (December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9–11 am with Indigenous; December 6<sup>th</sup> 6–8 pm with stakeholders).</li> <li>◆ Members discussed the key questions and determined that discussion should focus on input to development of RWACs, especially topics still under discussion.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Morris Prosser and Cheryl Rentz-Bennett to confirm the key questions with the Forum Secretariat.</li> <li>◆ Judith Cullington to prepare and send out invitations to the Dialogues.</li> <li>◆ Judith Cullington and Lisa Tedesco to prepare some pre-reading materials for Dialogues participants.</li> <li>◆ Lisa Tedesco to invite regional BC staff to participate in the Dialogues.</li> </ul>

<p><b>9. Council Priorities</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Kari Stuart-Smith and Mike Demarchi presented their analysis of highest priorities for MWAC, based on discussions with the Objectives Working Group.</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>Through discussion, MWAC determined that highest priority actions for 2022-2024 would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Advising Ministry work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wildlife Act review</li> <li>○ RWAC implementation and monitoring (through the RWAC Working Group, leads Mike Demarchi, Kari Stuart-Smith, Andrea Barnett, Cailyn Glasser)</li> <li>○ Engagement on Objective Setting Policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ Leading work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Models for governance of funding and dedicated funding (through the Funding Task Force, lead Jasper Lament with support from Hasan Kettaneh)</li> <li>○ A Science Advisory and Research model (through the Research Working Group, lead Adam Ford)</li> <li>○ MWAC communications and outreach (lead Megan Hanacek working with staff/consultants)</li> <li>○ Wildlife corridors and crossings (pending input from response to recommendation 18 to Ministers).</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ There is a need for a broader highly integrated discussion on how wildlife is managed in B.C., and how to better integrate Indigenous ways of thinking. This could be linked to the Biodiversity Declaration work and include discussions with all of Caucus, not just the FOR and LWRS Ministers.</li> <li>♦ Council will continue to push for responses and action on the recommendations already submitted, and to provide input to other initiatives (such as the shared decision-making policy).</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Judith Cullington and Nancy Wilkin will coordinate the development of a November letter to the Ministers, seeking follow up on existing recommendations; providing new recommendations on implementation of RWACs, governance of funding, and a broader vision for wildlife management in B.C.; and advising on MWAC priorities for the next two years.</li> <li>♦ Judith Cullington to ask all Council members which working groups/task forces they would like to be part of.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Closing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Next scheduled meeting January 11, 2023</li> </ul>