

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #20 Minutes

January 11, 2023
via Zoom

Attendees	
Council Members:	Staff:
<i>Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)</i>	Jennifer Psyllakis, Executive Director, WLRS
Nancy Wilkin	Logan Wenham, A/Director of Fish and Wildlife, MOF
Adam Ford	Avril Nagel, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation
<i>Alyssa Lepka (regrets)</i>	Danica Crystal, Wildlife Policy Specialist, MOF
Andrea Barnett	Mariana Nagy-Reis, North Area Lead, Together for Wildlife
Caylin Glasser	
Doug Heard	<i>MITACS Fellows</i>
Jasper Lament	Hasan Kettaneh
Jason Northcott	
John Bergenske	<i>Guests</i>
Kari Stuart-Smith	Gail Wallin, Management Plus Communications Ltd
<i>Megan Hanacek (regrets)</i>	Steve Gordon, A/ Director, Strategic Initiatives Omineca, WLRS
Mike Demarchi	
Naomi Owens-Beek	<i>Consultants:</i>
Shaun Hollingsworth	Derek Thompson
	Judith Cullington

Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Meet with Deputy Ministers to discuss priorities ◆ Confirm/adjust advice to Ministers on RWACs, based on input from Dialogues ◆ Review recommendations on Governance of Funding ◆ Receive updates on the Conservation Lands and Guidelines for Adventure Tourism/ Backcountry Recreation and Wildlife ◆ Review draft January letter with recommendations to Ministers
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Action items (from January meeting)	Lead	Status
Arrange for Council to meet with Deputy Ministers in February.	Jennifer Psyllakis and Logan Wenham	n/a
Share a link to the international and federal standards for "effective" protection and conservation.	Jennifer Psyllakis	Complete
Provide comments on the draft plan to Gail Wallin by January 20 th . A working group meeting to review could be set up if desired.	Council members	Complete

Provide an updated draft of the Conservation Lands Strategic Plan when ready.	Gail Wallin	In progress
Set up a Working Group meeting to develop recommendations on helicopter adventure tourism to Ministers, starting with mountain goat and caribou.	Steve Gordon and Judith Cullington	Pending
Send a final draft of the letter to Ministers for Council review prior to sending to Ministers.	Judith Cullington	Complete
Confirm if Ministers would be available for an in-person meeting with Council on March 8 th .	Jennifer Psyllakis and Logan Wenham	Complete

Minutes		
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Nancy Wilkin welcomed members. ♦ Jen Psyllakis introduced Avril Nagel, the new Manager for Together for Wildlife Implementation. 	
2. Approval of meeting minutes (November 2022)	<p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Minutes from the November 2022 MWAC meeting #19: no changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Moved by Andrea Barnett, seconded by Shaun Hollingsworth to approve meeting minutes. Approved.</i> ♦ Action items from last meeting completed or in progress. 	
3. Ministers' Priorities and Updates	<p>PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jennifer Psyllakis sent regrets from David Muter who had planned to attend. He would like to arrange for Council to meet with the Deputies prior to the planned March meeting with Ministers. ♦ Transition and onboarding for Ministers Cullen and Ralston is in progress, including information about T4W and MWAC. ♦ B.C. is part of the federal commitment to “30x30” (30% of Canada in protected status by 2030). There is an ongoing process to define what qualifies as “effective protection”, and this may result in some legislative changes. ♦ The Conservation Lands program and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) will important contributions to meeting the target. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A “deeper dive” discussion on IPCAs and their contribution to 30X30 was suggested. ♦ Work on the Nature Agreement is in process, with communications materials in preparation. ♦ Some provinces and states include lands under a conservation covenant in their 30x30 targets. ♦ Habitat connectivity is essential; B.C. will be working with partners for wildlife and cultural corridors, including wildlife crossings on highways. ♦ There is minimal information on the proposed conservation funding mechanism at this time. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Logan Wenham noted that the new mandate letters to Ministers build on existing work, so wildlife very much part of Minister Ralston’s mandate. ♦ Engagement on the <i>Wildlife Act</i> review is expected soon, if final approval is provided. Logan Wenham and Jennifer Psyllakis are co-leading the <i>Wildlife Act</i> review. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jennifer Psyllakis and Logan Wenham to arrange for Council to meet with Deputy Ministers in February. ♦ Jennifer Psyllakis will share a link to the international and federal standards for “effective” protection and conservation.
<p>4. RWACs</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Kari Stuart-Smith reviewed the discussion from the Objectives Working Group, including comments raised from the two Dialogues sessions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government and staff at provincial and regional levels need to be fully committed ○ RWACs need to be able to make real on-the-ground change happen ○ Education on working in Ethical Space will be essential ○ RWACs should be able to direct funding to priority projects ♦ Council reviewed Recommendation #20 in the draft letter to the Ministers and made several adjustments to the wording.
<p>5. Governance of Funding</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hasan Kettaneh introduced proposed (revised) wording to include in the Ministers’ letter. ♦ Council reviewed Recommendation #21 in the draft letter to the Ministers and made several adjustments to the wording.
<p>6. Conservation Lands</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Gail Wallin (one of the consultants preparing the draft Conservation Lands Strategic Plan) provided a presentation on the draft goals, objectives and targets. ♦ Three of the Auditor-General’s report recommendations (#2, 4, 11) relate directly to the Strategic Plan. ♦ The intent is to provide a revised draft by late January, with additional input from MWAC, Forum and others during February, and a final plan for sign off in March. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Members provided numerous comments including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is good to see the prominence of Indigenous involvement in this draft ○ Include habitat as a key objective in addition to wildlife ○ Include a gap analysis

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is need for greater clarity around what “conservation lands” includes, how these can be increased, and ensuring that they meet the 30x30 definitions. ○ Strategic guidance on use of conservation lands should be added, e.g., some Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) not appropriate for recreational use, impact of marine harvesting in WMAs. ○ Focus on reducing unauthorised use is good. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council members to provide comments on the draft plan to Gail Wallin by January 20th. A working group meeting to review could be set up if desired. ◆ Gail Wallin to provide an updated draft of the Conservation Lands Strategic Plan when ready.
<p>7. Modernization of Guidelines for Adventure Tourism/ Backcountry Recreation and Wildlife in B.C.</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Steve Gordon provided a presentation on the use of helicopter flight data to reduce impacts to wildlife (notably mountain goats and caribou). ◆ Identifying key habitats and mapping flight paths helps to raise awareness of the issue. The original 2006 provincial guidelines are being updated. ◆ An information brochure on <i>the Management of Helicopter-supported Adventure Tourism in B.C.</i> has been developed as part of working with tourism operators to enhance management of the impacts of adventure tourism on wildlife to meet legal and societal obligations. This was developed for use by Transport Canada Aviation inspectors to discuss with all helicopter operators in the province and raise awareness of the guidelines. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This work should include helicopter activity in relation to mining and other activities; all part of a cumulative effect on wildlife. ◆ Regulatory support for this work is weak at present. ◆ There is a need to ensure that habitat mapping is accurate, and that the effects on wildlife populations have been demonstrated. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Targeted stakeholder and public engagement is pending. This will be posted on the Engage BC website in February, 2023. ◆ Steve Gordon and Judith Cullington to set up a Working Group meeting to develop recommendations to Ministers, starting with mountain goat and caribou.
<p>8. Review of draft January 2023 letter to Ministers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Members reviewed the letter and suggested edits. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Judith Cullington to send a final draft of the letter to Ministers for Council review prior to sending to Ministers.
<p>9. Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Next scheduled meeting March 8, 2023

	<p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Jennifer Psyllakis and Logan Wenham to confirm if Ministers would be available for an in-person meeting with Council on March 8th.
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