

Ministers' Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #23 Minutes

July 12, 2023 12:30 – 3:15 pm
via Zoom

Attendees		
Council Members:		Staff:
Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.)		Avril Nagel, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation
Nancy Wilkin		Michael Burwash, Chair PHTAT
Adam Ford		Pam Doerksen, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Wildlife Act Review
Alyssa Lepka		Jenn Meilleur, Manager, Partnerships and Engagement, T4W
Andrea Barnett		Jen Walker, Director, Strategic Initiatives
<i>Caylin Glasser (regrets)</i>		Lisa Tedesco, South Area Lead, T4W
Doug Heard		
Jasper Lament		Guests
Jason Northcott		Colin Ward, ADM, Reconciliation & Natural Resource Policy, WLRS
John Bergenske		
Kari Stuart-Smith		Consultants:
Megan Hanacek		Derek Thompson (online)
Mike Demarchi		Judith Cullington
Naomi Owens-Beek		
Shaun Hollingsworth		
Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Provide advice on the approach to access management / roads ♦ Learn about conservation financing and the T4W health check ♦ Learn about work to date on the proposed co-op model, and opportunity to participate in workshop to discuss further ♦ Review July 2023 letter to the Ministers and advice on proposed Office of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health ♦ Discuss and (potentially) approve move to biennial T4W reporting 	
Action items (from July meeting)	Lead	Status
Adjust the May minutes and circulate by email for approval.	Judith Cullington	Complete
Send calendar invitations to the October meetings and Dialogues	Judith Cullington	Complete
Revise the draft Roads note to present the larger issue, with specific actions where progress can be demonstrated; and re-send to Council for comment.	Kari Stuart-Smith and Avril Nagel	Complete

Send information on Missouri model to Colin Ward, and have follow-up discussion.	Jasper Lament	Complete
Let Lisa Tedesco know if interested in participating in one of the workshops, and/or have advice on individuals to participate in Indigenous small group discussions.	Council members	Complete
Revise the draft advisory note on Office of Biodiversity and recirculate to Council for comment.	Adam Ford and Nancy Wilkin	Complete
Review Derek Thompson's report.	Jenn Meilleur	
Include an informal discussion on Council function at the October in-person meeting.	Judith Cullington	On agenda
Prepare a video summary of the T4W updates for sharing with Council.	Avril Nagel	On Sept agenda
Discuss Grizzly Bear as a pilot project for co-governance/stewardship.	T4W co-chairs	Complete
Discuss the Wild IT system.	Alyssa Lepka and Michael Burwash	Complete
Provide updated wording for the roads recommendation in letter.	Kari Stuart-Smith	Complete
Provide revised wording for the name of the 'framework'.	Mike Demarchi	Complete
Add language to Ministers letter to address the need for improved reconciliation efforts by stakeholder groups and their members.	Nancy Wilkin	Complete

Minutes

1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-Chair Chief Harry Nyce opening the meeting with a welcome prayer.
2. Approval of meeting minutes (May 2023)	<p>DECISIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sections of the draft May minutes need to be edited for confidentiality. ♦ Action items from last meeting completed or in progress. ♦ Michael Burwash reported that some fisher sessions will occur in August. First Nations participating in the BC Trappers Association will be included; MWAC members will be invited. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Judith Cullington will adjust the May minutes and circulate by email for approval. <p>Note: Minutes approved via email.</p> <p><i>Moved by Shaun Hollingsworth, seconded by Alyssa Lepka to approve May 2023 meeting minutes. Approved</i></p>
3. Co-Chairs Report	Nancy Wilkin provided an update on the T4W Co-Chairs meeting. These meetings are now taking place monthly and include MWAC co-chairs Harry Nyce and Nancy Wilkin, Forum co-chairs Hunter Lampreau and Morris Prosser, and PHTAT Chair Michael Burwash.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ A joint Forum/MWAC/PHTAT meeting is being planned for Oct 12th, with individual group meetings on Oct 11th. This will take place in Victoria to facilitate participation in the Stewards of Splendour book launch and potentially for Executive and Ministers to attend. The focus will be on the Wildlife Act review. ♦ The Forum has been working on the shared decision making policy, and hopes to bring this for Council review in September. ♦ Concerns were raised about the lack of meaningful response to racist behaviour at the recent Wild Sheep Society (WSS) meeting. The MWAC letter to Ministers will address the WSS meeting. ♦ Wildlife Dialogues will take place Dec 1, 9 – 11 am (Indigenous), December 5, 6 – 8 pm (stakeholder); topics TBD. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Judith Cullington will send calendar invitations to the October meetings and Dialogues.
<p>4. Access Management / Roads Meeting with Minister Ralston</p>	<p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Kari Stuart-Smith reported on the collaborative work to create a briefing note on roads and access for Minister Ralston. This information was requested by Minister Ralston at the March meeting with Council. ♦ The scope has been broadened to a more holistic road management strategy, integrated into Forest Landscape Planning, Ungulate Winter range measures, and more. ♦ The draft briefing note and recommendation to include in the letter to the Ministers has been circulated to Council. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The note should recognise that this is a long-standing, challenging issue. ♦ The recommendation could include assigning a senior member of staff to develop and come back with an effective action plan (by fall 2024). ♦ There is a need to focus on getting immediate action, e.g., restoration of unused forestry roads. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Kari Stuart-Smith and Avril Nagel to revise the draft Roads note to present the larger issue, with specific actions where progress can be demonstrated; and re-send to Council for comment.
<p>5. Conservation financing</p>	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Colin Ward, ADM, Reconciliation and Natural Resource Policy, WLRS provided an update on work towards conservation financing mechanisms. This stems from the Minister’s mandate letter, directing the development of conservation financing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Conservation financing is an enabler of policy outcomes. This includes associated outcomes such as low carbon economic opportunities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to First Nations leadership and First Nation-led initiatives will be a crucial part of this (upholding DRIPA). Colin presented some of the ideas under consideration. These were built with consideration of the funding principles prepared by Council and Hasan Kettaneh. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Funding WG reviewed “best in class” models and recommends the Missouri Model. Missouri created a sales tax (1/8 of 1%) that is dedicated to wildlife stewardship, generating \$148M U.S. annually. This is based on the ‘everyone pays’ principle. Council offered that specific ideas and advice could be discussed at the Strategies WG. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jasper Lament to send information on Missouri model to Colin Ward, and have follow-up discussion.
<p>6. Co-op Model for Research</p>	<p>Lisa Tedesco reported on work towards a Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This builds on the high-level recommendations in the Starzomski Report. Lee Foote has been working to build more detailed recommendation for a made-in-BC solution, including through interviews, research and three workshops planned for this fall (Kelowna, Vancouver, Prince George). Lee Foote’s presentation to the Research WG is available on Teams. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council members to let Lisa Tedesco know if they are interested in participating in one of the workshops, and/or they have advice on individuals to participate in Indigenous small group discussions.
<p>7. Proposed Office of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised that having such an office would add to bureaucracy and complexity of dealing with government. The problem lies in current legislation; how would the Office solve this? Letter should recognise those challenges, including other similar proposals for chief ecologist or other. Proposal should be adjusted to take an interest-based approach—these are the outcomes we are wanting, these are our cautions, this is what we advise as a way forward. Role of the Office would be to make sure others are doing the job (accountability). Proposal should address the role of professional governance (foresters, applied biologists) <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam Ford and Nancy Wilkin to revise the draft advisory note on Office of Biodiversity and recirculate to Council for comment.

<p>8. T4W Health Check</p>	<p>Jenn Meilleur, Manager, Partnerships and Engagement, T4W, outlined her group’s proposed approach to a T4W health check and invited MWAC to comment on how they would like to provide input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council noted that similar discussions had taken place with Derek Thompson last year. They already have very busy schedules and would look to a very simple approach to providing comment. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jenn Meilleur to review Derek Thompson’s report. ♦ Judith Cullington to include an informal discussion on Council function at the October in-person meeting agenda. Council would also like time in October to meet without government staff present.
<p>9. T4W Updates</p>	<p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Avril Nagel will prepare a video summary of the T4W updates for sharing with Council.
<p>10. Wildlife Stewardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Alyssa Lepka shared concerns relating to the wolf management plan, Grizzly Bear, and the Wild IT system. ♦ Michael Burwash noted the Grizzly Bear engagement is now up on Engage BC. This will be followed with a report on ‘what we heard’, that can be reviewed by Council. ♦ There need to be regional stewardship plans for key wildlife (e.g., wolves), with objectives co-developed with nations. ♦ The Wild IT system is being modernised, with an aim to improve the hunter survey system. There will be opportunity for Council to learn and get involved. <p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ T4W co-chairs to discuss Grizzly Bear as a pilot project for co-governance/stewardship. ♦ Alyssa Lepka and Michael Burwash to discuss the Wild IT system.
<p>11. Letter to Ministers</p>	<p>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Kari Stuart-Smith to provide updated wording for the roads recommendation. ♦ Mike Demarchi to provide revised wording for the name of the ‘framework’. ♦ Nancy Wilkin to add language to address the need for improved reconciliation efforts by stakeholder groups and their members.
<p>12. Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council members are encouraged to contact Judith Cullington if they have items that they wish to see discussed at Council.
<p>13. Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next scheduled meeting September 13, 2023 via Zoom ♦ In person meeting (and via Zoom) October 11 – 12, 2023 in Victoria