

# Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

## Meeting #27 Minutes

January 10, 2024 12:30 – 3:30 pm

Via Zoom

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Council Members:</b>		<b>Staff:</b>
Simoogit Hleek ( <i>Chief Harry Nyce Sr.</i> ) ( <i>regrets</i> )		Jen Walker, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Nancy Wilkin		Avril Nagel, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation
Adam Ford ( <i>regrets</i> )		Michael Burwash, Associate Director Wildlife, Fish & Wildlife Brch
Alyssa Lepka ( <i>regrets</i> )		Jenn Meilleur, Manager – Partnerships and Engagement
Andrea Barnett		Gaby Marchese – Communications and Engagement Specialist
Cailyn Glasser		
Doug Heard		<b>Consultants:</b>
Jasper Lament		Derek Thompson
Jason Northcott		Judith Cullington
John Bergenske		
Kari Stuart-Smith		<b>Guests:</b>
Megan Hanacek		Brian Bawtinheimer, Executive Dir, Provincial Stewardship Strategies and Planning, WLRS
Mike Demarchi		
Naomi Owens-Beek		Rhonda Cage, Director Provincial Initiatives, Provincial Stewardship Strategies and Planning, WLRS
Shaun Hollingsworth ( <i>regrets</i> )		
		Hunter Lampreau, Forum Co-Chair
		Morris Prosser, Forum Co-Chair
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Discuss OECMs</li> <li>◆ Receive updates on T4W and working group activities</li> <li>◆ Discuss MWAC communications</li> </ul>	
<b>Action items (from January meeting)</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>
Remind members of the opportunity to submit names for the BC Parks Foundation <a href="#">Strategic Oversight Committee</a> .	Judith Cullington	Complete
Prepare and distribute the final Dialogues Report.	Judith Cullington	Complete
Share the OECM presentation (confidential) with Council.	Judith Cullington	Complete
Discuss and confirm how Council would like to further engage with OECMs.	Council	Complete
Finalize a draft report for Council review prior to the meeting (January 17th).	Kari-Stuart Smith/ Andrea Barnett	Complete
Incorporate edits and suggestions and prepare the final funding letters to Ministers.	Judith Cullington	Complete
Consider ways to amplify the MWAC “voice”, prepare key T4W messages for all advisory groups to share, and look for additional outreach opportunities.	Communications staff, Judith Cullington	Ongoing

<b>Minutes</b>	
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Nancy Wilkin welcomed members and staff.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Approval of October and November 2023 meeting minutes</b>	<p><b>DECISIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Action items from last meeting completed or in progress.</li> </ul> <p><i>Moved by Kari Stuart-Smith, seconded by Andrea Barnett to approve the revised October 2023 meeting minutes. Approved.</i></p> <p><i>Moved by Andrea Barnett, seconded by Mike Demarchi to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes. Approved.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The discussion on the role for MWAC in Tripartite Framework will be discussed at the next Funding Working Group meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Judith Cullington to remind members of the opportunity to submit names for the BC Parks Foundation <a href="#">Strategic Oversight Committee</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Co-chairs report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Nancy Wilkin reflected on the 2023 Dialogues. She noted the desire from non-consumptive groups to have representation similar to PHTAT as part of T4W.</li> <li>♦ Jason Northcott and John Bergenske will be the MWAC members on the Joint Working Group supporting the Wildlife Act Review process.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Judith Cullington to prepare and distribute the final Dialogues Report.</li> </ul>
<b>4. T4W updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Council reviewed the updated organization chart for WLRS. Work is ongoing to integrate the staff previously with Ministry of Forests.</li> <li>♦ Avril Nagel provided a verbal update of T4W actions by goal.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)</b>	<p>Brian Bawtinheimer, Executive Director and Rhonda Cage, Director of Provincial Initiatives (Provincial Stewardship Strategies and Planning, Land Use Policy, Planning, and Ecosystems Division), provided an overview of work to date towards defining OECMs and their role in achieving the 30x30 goal.</p> <p>Members asked questions and provided suggestions.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Judith Cullington to share the OECM presentation (confidential) with Council.</li> <li>♦ Council to discuss and confirm how they would like to further engage with OECMs.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Working Group Updates</b>	<p>Kari Stuart-Smith and Andrea Barnett provided an update on their upcoming presentation to members of the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The sub-group met with Doug Donaldson and Kevin Kriese with POLIS Project to share ideas on draft recommendations.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Council members supported the proposed recommendations as outlined. These will focus on concrete actions for 2024, as well as longer-term considerations.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Kari-Stuart Smith and Andrea Barnett to finalize a draft report for Council review prior to the meeting (January 17<sup>th</sup>).</li> </ul> <p>Jasper Lament reviewed the two draft letters to Ministers prepared by the Funding Working Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Suggestions included greater clarity around HCTF funding and how funding will increase First Nations involvement, and noting the current Utilities Commission request for increases to BC Hydro rates.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Judith Cullington to incorporate edits and suggestions and prepare the final funding letters to Ministers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. MWAC Communications</b></p>	<p>Avril Nagel, Jenn Meilleur and Gaby Marchese provided a proposed approach to MWAC communications.</p> <p>Focus will be on improving current communications tools, including the website.</p> <p>Comments from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ There needs to be clarity that MWAC is an independent voice for wildlife, representing diverse views and backgrounds.</li> <li>♦ Concern raised about the idea that MWAC “represents the public” versus expert advice. Council is not currently designed for broad public outreach.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Communications staff to consider ways to amplify the MWAC “voice”, prepare key T4W messages for MWAC members to use and share, and support strategic outreach opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Other Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ n/a</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Closing</b></p>	<p>Upcoming meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Council meeting March 13, 2024 via Zoom</li> <li>♦ Meeting with Minister – date TBD</li> <li>♦ Strategies WG January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3 pm</li> <li>♦ Research WG January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1 – 3 pm</li> <li>♦ Funding WG February 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 11:30 am</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Closed session</b></p>	<p>Council continued discussions in closed session.</p>