

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #38 Minutes

November 12, 2025, 12:30 – 3:00 pm

Via Zoom

Attendees		
<i>Council Members:</i>		<i>Staff:</i>
Simoojit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)		Pam Doerksen, Director, WLRS
Nancy Wilkin		Stephen MacIver, Manager, Legislation and Policy Section
Shaun Hollingsworth (regrets)		Diana McNeill, Bus. Operations and Engagement Coordinator, WLRS
John Bergenske (regrets)		Avril Nagel, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation, WLRS (regrets)
Alyssa Lepka (regrets)		
Naomi Owens-Beek		
Cailyn Glasser		
Jason Northcott		
Kari Stuart-Smith		
Megan Hanacek (regrets)		<i>Consultants:</i>
Andrea Barnett		Derek Thompson
		<i>Guests</i>
		N/A
Purpose of Meeting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Co-chair update – Debrief of Minister Neill meeting and Wildlife Dialogues update ♦ Update on Notice of Positions for MWAC Members from Pam Doerksen ♦ Update on the Wildlife Act Review from Pam Doerksen ♦ Conservation Surcharge Update from Pam Doerksen ♦ Discussion of PFAC Interim Report – All ♦ Strategies Working Group Update from Kari Stuart-Smith 		
Action from September Council Meeting and Previous Actions		Lead
Schedule biannual meetings with the Minister and MWAC, with one meeting to occur prior to the Wildlife Dialogues		Diana McNeill and Avril Nagel
Connect with those from the Northwest Strategy and provide info about the Sunshine Coast Strategy		Diana McNeill/Avril Nagel
Coordinate an invitation for MWAC members to be participants in presenting to the Expert Panel on Human Wildlife Conflict (WLRS/COS/GBF partnership)		Logan Wenham
		Status
		In progress
		In Progress

PFAC to meet with MWAC one or two more times once a direction is determined		
New Actions Items (November meeting)		
Seek clarification about the "Water Funding Model"	Purnima Govindarajulu	
Distribute a letter to Council from the Okanagan Nation Alliance to the Honourable Lana Popham regarding a "Call for Provincial Legislation to Separate Wild and Domestic Sheep and Goats to Prevent Further Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae".	Diana McNeill	
Draft a letter to the Provincial Forest Advisory Council (PFAC) regarding their Interim Report and cc Minister Neill and Minister Parmar. Complete prior to the Strategies Working Group Meeting on November 19, 2025.	Nancy Wilkin/Kari Stuart-Smith	

Minutes	
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were welcomed and Stephen MacIver was introduced to Council members as the new representative for the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team. There were no additions to the agenda.
2. Approval of September 10, 2025, meeting minutes	<p>Actions from last meeting completed or in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Andrea Barnett, seconded by Kari Stuart Smith, to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes. Approved.
3. Co-chair update	<p>De-brief of Minister Neill meeting (Nancy Wilkin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister advised that MWAC should provide briefings to both herself, and the Minister of Forests, Ravi Parmar. Council members agreed that they should also be briefing the Environmental Land Use Committee (ELUC). The Minister was briefed on the role of the Regional Wildlife Advisory Committees. The Minister is keen for new Council members regarding the recent intake for Notices of Positions. Minister is working on a water funding model. MWAC would like more details/information on this model. <p>ACTION:</p> <p>Seek clarification about the "Water Funding Model".</p> <p>Wildlife Dialogues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be two dialogues sessions at the end of January 2026. One Indigenous Dialogue Session and a Stakeholder Dialogue Session. A meeting with the Minister prior to the dialogues will be coordinated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking at a possible contract to help with the Wildlife Dialogues. A survey will be developed and sent to participants prior to the Wildlife Dialogues. This will help determine priorities of discussions. <p>Other discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not enough support for the Forestry Guidelines to move forward but the Strategic Working Group will continue with their work on roads. The First Nations-B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum may or may not proceed with the Forestry Guidelines. There is concern of racism regarding some recent decisions in the province. Might be a good topic to raise at the next Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team (PHTAT). <p>ACTION:</p> <p>Distribute a letter to Council from the Okanagan Nation Alliance to the Honourable Lana Popham regarding a "Call for Provincial Legislation to Separate Wild and Domestic Sheep and Goats to Prevent Further Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae".</p>
4. Update on Notice of Positions for MWAC Members	<p>Update on Notice of Positions (NOP's) for MWAC Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications have been received and are now closed for NOP's for MWAC. Applications are currently being reviewed, and Derek Thompson will be consulted on the intake process and included in next steps. If Council members have a recommendation on a potential Co-chair, please come forward.
5. Wildlife Act Review	<p>Wildlife Act Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Premier sent a letter to Nations informing them that there would be an upcoming engagement regarding the Wildlife Act. Due to recent job action the Wildlife Act will not be going forward in the Fall. Minister Neill has reiterated that the Wildlife Act is important and going forward. We are hoping to reestablish the Joint Advisory Team.
6. Surcharge Update	<p>Surcharge Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be launching internal engagement soon regarding the Surcharge. The proposed increase to surcharge will not go to general revenue; it will go directly to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF).
7. Provincial Forest Advisory Council interim report	<p>Provincial Forest Advisory Council interim report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final report is scheduled for public release in mid February 2026, 45 days after it is submitted to government.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Report identifies nine core barriers. Notably, government ministries are not aligned and often compete for resources as well as lack of coordinated approach to fire management, especially in a rural/urban interface. ♦ Council will engage with the Provincial Forest Advisory Council (PFAC) regarding the Interim Report. <p>ACTION</p> <p>Draft a letter to the Provincial Forest Advisory Council (PFAC) regarding their Interim Report and cc Minister Neill and Minister Parmar. Complete prior to the Strategies Working Group Meeting on November 19, 2025.</p>
8. Strategies Working Group Update	<p>Strategies Working Group Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Last meeting was on October 15, 2025. Agenda topics were the WLRS re-organization, Wildlife Dialogues, Nancy Wilkin's meeting with the Minister and a decision support tool for determining 'which roads to restore'.
9. Council only time	<p>The Council continued discussions in closed session.</p>
10. Closing	<p>Upcoming meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next Strategies Working Group Meeting – November 19, 2025 ♦ Next Secretariat meeting – November 27, 2025 ♦ Next T4W Co-chair meeting – December 2, 2025 ♦ Next MWAC meeting – January 14, 2026