

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #39 Minutes

January 14, 2026, 12:30 – 3:00 pm

Via Zoom

Attendees	
<i>Council Members:</i>	<i>Staff:</i>
Simoogit 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	Avril Nagel, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation, WLRS (regrets)
Alyssa Lepka (regrets)	
Naomi Owens-Beek	<i>Consultants:</i>
Cailyn Glasser	Derek Thompson
Jason Northcott	
Kari Stuart-Smith (regrets)	<i>Guests</i>
Megan Hanacek	Rodrigo Solis Sosa
Andrea Barnett	

Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Co-chair update ◆ T4W (HCTF) Scholarship Committee – call for volunteers ◆ Update on the Wildlife Dialogue Surveys and Dialogue Dates ◆ Update on the Wildlife Act Review ◆ Update on the Regulation Changes ◆ New Council Members - where we are in the process
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Action from September Council Meeting and Previous Actions	Lead	Status
Schedule biannual meetings with the Minister and MWAC, with one meeting to occur prior to the Wildlife Dialogues	Diana McNeill and Avril Nagel	In progress
Connect with those from the Northwest Strategy and provide info about the Sunshine Coast Strategy *Update – Jan 14* Follow up with government staff if there is a governance model in place for the Northwest Strategy.	Diana McNeill/Avril Nagel	In Progress
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	
PFAC to meet with MWAC one or two more times once a direction is determined. MWAC has sent a letter requesting to meet.		In Progress

New Actions Items (January 14, 2026, meeting)		
Council members are asked to inform Pam Doerksen if they are interested in serving on the HCTF T4W Scholarship Steering Committee, the Review Committee, or both and Diana to follow up with an email to all of Council members requesting participation.	Council Members/Diana McNeill	In Progress
Identify who the contact is in the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship for the Biodiversity Framework and share with Council.	Pam Doerksen	In Progress
Circulate the Intentions Paper to Council	Pam Doerksen/Diana McNeill	

Minutes	
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were welcomed. “Proposed Regulations” was added to the agenda.
2. Approval of November 2025, meeting minutes	<p>Actions from last meeting completed or in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by John Bergenske, seconded by Jason Northcott, to approve the November 2025 meeting minutes. Approved.
3. Co-chair update	<p>Co-chair update (Nancy Wilkin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T4W Co-chairs met and discussed the Wildlife Dialogue survey. Reviewed results and we are working on questions in preparation of the Wildlife Dialogues.
4. T4W Scholarships	<p>T4W scholarships (Pam Doerksen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships are administered by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. Two committees oversee the scholarship program: (1) the Steering Committee, which provides strategic direction and governance, and (2) the Review Committee, which evaluates applications and makes award recommendations. We are looking for Council members to sit on both or either committee. The Steering Committee is less of a workload than the Review Committee and the Steering Committee work will be starting soon. <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council members are asked to inform Pam Doerksen if they are interested in serving on the HCTF T4W Scholarship Steering Committee, the Review Committee, or both and Diana to follow up with an email to all of Council members requesting participation
5. Dialogue Surveys and Dialogue Dates	<p>Dialogue Surveys and Dialogue Dates (Pam Doerksen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rodrigo Solis Sosa reviewed the results of the Wildlife Dialogue Survey results.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ There were different priorities this year from last year. Ecosystem Health and Habitat Restoration were the top two priorities. ♦ The Indigenous Wildlife Dialogue session has been confirmed for February 3rd, 2026. We are waiting for a date for the Stakeholder session. <p>ACTION</p> <p>Identify who the contact is in the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship for the Biodiversity Framework and share with Council.</p>
<p>6. Wildlife Act Review</p>	<p>Wildlife Act Review (Pam Doerksen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We are waiting for approval for engagement. ♦ We are aware of the 2028 election and are trying to avoid an interregnum period that would slow this work down. ♦ Our preferred method for engagement is to connect with the Joint Advisory Team. ♦ It was discussed that the dialogue outcome from the Intentions Paper could help shape the Wildlife Act review engagement. <p>ACTION</p> <p>Circulate the Intentions Paper to Council</p>
<p>7. Regulation Changes</p>	<p>Regulation Changes (Pam Doerksen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Communications/letters were sent out at the end of 2025. ♦ When changing fees or fines, Treasury Board must be consulted. ♦ As per Council members, the feed back on Regulation Changes was positive.
<p>8. New Council Members</p>	<p>New Council Members (Pam Doerksen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We have provided guidance and recommendations and are still reviewing. ♦ It was confirmed that the Council Chair is not involved in the process.
<p>9. Proposed Regulations</p>	<p>Proposed Regulations (Steve MacIver)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Proposed regulation changes are online until February 13, 2026. <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/ahte</p>
<p>10. Council only time</p>	<p>The Council continued discussions in closed session.</p>
<p>11. Closing</p>	<p>Upcoming meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next Secretariat meeting – January 22, 2026 ♦ Next Strategies Working Group Meeting – January 28, 2026 ♦ Next T4W Co-chair meeting – February 3, 2026 ♦ Next MWAC meeting – March 11, 2026

