

Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council

Meeting #40 Minutes

March 11, 2026, 12:30 – 3:00 pm

Via Zoom

Attendees		
Council Members:		Staff:
Simoogit Hleek (Chief Harry Nyce Sr.) (regrets)		Pam Doerksen, Director, WLRS
Nancy Wilkin		Stephen MacIver, Manager, Legislation and Policy Section. WLRS
Andrea Barnett		Jennifer Psyllakis, Assistant Deputy Minister. WLRS
Shaun Hollingsworth (regrets)		Diana McNeill, Bus. Operations and Engagement Coordinator, WLRS
John Bergenske		Avril Nagel, Manager, Together for Wildlife Implementation, WLRS
Alyssa Lepka (regrets)		
Naomi Owens-Beek (regrets)		Consultants:
Cailyn Glasser (regrets)		Derek Thompson
Jason Northcott		
Kari Stuart-Smith		Guests
Megan Hanacek		Bettina Johnson, Fraser Basin Council
		Corey Erwin, Director, Ecosystem Information, WLRS
		Laura Patterson, Fish & Wildlife Information Section Head, WLRS
		Norah White, Deputy Chief Forester, Office of the Chief Forester
		Cory Kielbiski, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Chief Forester
Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strategies Working Group - Update ◆ Wildlife Dialogues Report - Opportunity to provide guidance to FBC on report ◆ Species and Ecosystem Data and Information Security Policy update ◆ Updates: New Council Members and Budget ◆ PFAC Report/MWAC input ◆ Nancy - Recognition 	
Action from January 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	Completed
Connect with those from the Northwest Strategy and provide info about the Sunshine Coast Strategy	Diana McNeill/Avril Nagel	Completed
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	In Progress

PFAC to meet with MWAC one or two more times once a direction is determined. MWAC has sent a letter requesting to meet.	Diana McNeill	Completed
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	Completed
Identify who the contact is in the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship for the Biodiversity Framework and share with Council.	Pam Doerksen	Completed
Circulate the Intentions Paper to Council	Pam Doerksen/Diana McNeill	In Progress
New Actions Items (March 11, 2026, meeting)		
Schedule a meeting regarding the Wildlife Dialogue report to discuss guidance, formatting, and content	Avril Nagel and Bettina Johnson (FBC)	Completed
Circulate the Species and Ecosystem Data and Information Security Policy Presentation to Council	Diana McNeill	Completed

Minutes	
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Members were welcomed ♦ Confirmed meeting agenda
2. Approval of January 2026, meeting minutes	<p>Actions from last meeting completed or in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Moved by Andrea Barnett, seconded by John Bergenske, to approve the January 2026 meeting minutes. Approved.
3. Strategies Working Group Update	<p>Strategies Working Group Update (Kari Stuart Smith)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ SWG met with Casandra Zerebeski, Policy Director at the Tourism Industry Association of BC, to explore whether Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) funding could support wildlife and habitat conservation. While MRDT funds are largely restricted to tourism marketing and offer limited opportunities for wildlife and habitat projects, we believe there is still might be potential to explore other funding opportunities related to tourism in the future.
4. Wildlife Dialogues de-brief and Report Structure	<p>Wildlife Dialogues de-brief (All) and report structure (Bettina Johnson - FBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Wildlife Dialogues were successful this year with a high number of participants at the Indigenous session and the Stakeholder session. The break-out sessions worked very well. ♦ The summary and recommendations of the Wildlife Dialogue Report need to be clear and emphasized. Comments listed under headings are still useful. Need to capture all

	<p>the ideas that have been put forward by participants. May need to add an Executive summary for a short read upfront and a linkage between the main ideas that people expressed and what we are doing.</p> <p>Action: Avril Nagel and Bettina Johnson (FBC) to schedule a meeting regarding the Wildlife Dialogue report to discuss guidance, formatting, and content.</p>
<p>5. Species and Ecosystem Data and Information Security Policy</p>	<p>Species and Ecosystem Data and Information Security Policy, SEDIS (Corey Erwin and Laura Patterson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The new policy aligns with Indigenous data rights, enhancing species and ecosystem data security. ♦ There are new categories for securing data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To provide more options and reduce barriers to collaborative data sharing and data management with First Nations ○ To securely manage First Nations information that is shared with the province ○ To align SEDIS policy with FOIPPA and data security policies in other jurisdictions ○ To improve SEDIS processes and procedures ♦ Communications and next steps will follow from Spring 2026 to Spring 2027 <p>Action: Diana McNeill to circulate the Species and Ecosystem Data and Information Security Policy Presentation to Council.</p>
<p>6. Presentation, Norah White</p>	<p>PFAC Report/MWAC input (Norah White)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Norah discussed the outcome of the PFAC report with Council and current work being undertaken by Ministry of Forests
<p>7. Nancy Recognition</p>	<p>Nancy Recognition (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Council members recognized Nancy Wilkin for her leadership and dedication as the MWAC Co-chair for six years.
<p>8. Closing</p>	<p>Upcoming meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Next Strategies Working Group Meeting – March 18, 2026 ♦ Next Secretariat meeting – March 26, 2026 ♦ Next T4W Co-chair meeting – April 7, 2026 ♦ Next MWAC meeting – TBC