

NORTHWEST SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

**Town of High Level Office
High Level, AB**

Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 1:00pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Minutes Page 3
4. Committee Member Updates: Round Table Discussion
5. BC and NWT Presentations: Discussion Page 9
6. Final Review of Final NWSAR Recommendations Report
- 7.
- 8.
9. Next Meeting Date(s)
10. Adjournment

Northwest Species at Risk Committee
Administrative Lead: Byron Peters, Mackenzie County

Northwest Species at Risk Committee

**Town of High Level Office
High Level, AB**

Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

- PRESENT:** Lisa Wardley Chair, Deputy Reeve, Mackenzie County
Crystal McAteer Vice Chair, Mayor, Town of High Level
Jacquie Bateman Councillor, Mackenzie County
Eric Jorgensen Councillor, Mackenzie County
Terry Ungarian Councillor, County of Northern Lights
Mike Morgan Councillor, Town of High Level
Miron Croy Councillor, Clear Hills County
Sunni-Jeanne Walker Mayor, Town of Manning
Peter Frixel Councillor, Clear Hills County
- REGRETS:** Linda Halabisky Councillor, County of Northern Lights
Michelle Farris Mayor, Town of Rainbow Lake
Chris Mitchell Councillor, Town of Rainbow Lake
Charlie Johnson Councillor, Clear Hills County
Brenda Kerr Councillor, Town of Manning
- ADMINISTRATION:** Dan Fletcher CAO, Town of High Level
Byron Peters Director of Planning and Development,
Mackenzie County
Hayley Gavin Planner/ Recording Secretary, Mackenzie
County
Allan Rowe CAO, Clear Hills County
- ALSO PRESENT:** Diana McQueen DMC Consulting
Chad Tullis Manager of Lands, Planning and
Development, MD of Opportunity

MOTION

1. Call to Order

Lisa Wardley called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

17-08-001

MOVED by Jacquie Bateman

That the agenda be adopted with the addition of:

3. Minister Phillips Meeting: Round table Discussion

CARRIED

3. Minister Phillips Meeting: Round Table Discussion

The GOA need range plans that will stand up to a challenge of Federal legislation in a Federal court of law.

Minister Phillips said there will be new conservation areas within caribou range planning, but the actual designations will not be determined within the draft range plans.

We also heard that industry could still be managed within these new conservation areas and the rest of the caribou ranges. There was also talk of obtaining permits to operate within range boundaries and new conservation areas, different to what we see now; so long as activities do not destroy critical habitat.

Minister Phillips made a lot of commitments in line with our recommendations, actions to follow through on. We can be more optimistic, but it still remains to be seen what happens when draft range plans are released.

Minister Phillips was clear on not providing designations for new conservation areas within draft range plans; that the Feds will make the determination through the legal course.

Minister Phillips stated that “environment does not trump economy” – there is optimism in this statement.

The knowledge consortium mentioned by Environment and Climate Change Canada representatives was also encouraging.

The diseased bison was accepted as a landscape-level issue.

The Federal Cabinet (Governor in Council) has the final say on socio-economics; we’ve only spoken to 2 out of 15 Federal Ministers. We need to engage more in this conversation.

The meeting began with very much a forestry focus, initially. But Minister Phillips did say that the meetings they’ve had over the last couple days with us, forestry and First Nations is the start of the multi-stakeholder consultations.

The local forestry industry, logging contractors and trappers thought they’d have an opportunity to participate in meetings with Minister Phillips, while she was in High Level. She only met with the larger

forestry industry (mills), the NWSAR and the First Nations meeting was this morning.

Minister Phillips stated that the regional planning process is to commence in the fall, 2017.

We need to undertake a cautious approach when negotiating for new conservation areas; the government are aiming to achieve 65% habitat protection – what if 65% is not enough to recover the caribou? They may keep on protecting more land until 100% of each caribou range is under protection – that is not what anyone wants.

We need to look at the natural resources available over a 50 year timeframe in each range – and look at areas that can be restored in the near future and show how these resources can be extracted over the 50 year timeframe, while achieving local caribou population recovery and habitat connectivity.

4. Adoption of Minutes

17-08-002

MOVED by Mike Morgan

That the minutes from the June 21, 2017 NWSAR Committee meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Lisa Wardley called a recess at 8:14 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

5. Administration Update on NWSAR Deliverables

Anything we can deliver to AEP by the end of August will be considered prior to the release of the draft range plans. Then we'll have to wait for the draft range plans to be released from the province, and provide a written response to them. Essentially, we have 21 days to influence the draft range plan development, before GOA will be finalizing them for release.

Communications documents: our website is now live – all municipalities need to link to this website and we've talked about putting together a blog on the website for people to leave comments.

We need to engage Silvacom to expand the assessment map to include assessment data for Northern Lights County and Clear Hills

County.

The NWSAR has had a lot of push back on the socio-economic scenario we've used in the draft report. Though people do not dispute the numbers we used, they do not like the scenario; as they say it's unrealistic. If we can provide some more context to support the scenario on all communications handouts it will benefit us, and help stakeholders to understand the scenario.

Allan Rowe left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Question: What is the impact to the oil and gas and agriculture sectors?

We've obtained the data from AER for active oil and gas fields, and we have other product reserve values – we're working on defining final values for use in the socio-economic scenario.

On the agricultural side – we could provide a per hectare/ quarter section value for farms that will derive the “on-farm” value, but determining the impact will be difficult without knowing the “off-farm” revenue.

Ag statistics do provide an “off-farm” revenue values, but to determine the “on-farm” impact, you'd need to know how much the annual revenue is for each farm or average income across northern farms and the average percentage of “off-farm” income to subtract from annual “on-farm” revenue.

Actions:

1. Local (northwestern) context on why the NWSAR and locals do not like parks – historic overview.
2. Re-create the oil and gas field data; to overlay onto product reserves (for internal use only) – determine whether we can strengthen our argument on future opportunities and prosperity.
3. Define the activities that we'd like to see within all caribou ranges and any new conservation areas – the input from stakeholders will be included here.

Jacquie Bateman left the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

4. Stakeholder Open Houses:

- Electronic layering exercise (mapping) to assist the public presentation explanations.

5. Final report:

- Identify where new development could/can occur (other resources: geothermal, lithium, etc.).
- Conducting somewhat of a cumulative effects model per caribou range (issues limiting recovery).
- Clearly define monitoring steps (socio-economic and caribou populations).
- Flush out/make clearer the relationships that we see on the landscape – how they impact caribou.
- Propose that boreal caribou could have a managed Indigenous hunt, similar to that of the Hay-Zama bison hunting regulations?
- Include a stat chart – similar to those of GOA's in the discussion documents they shared on May 17, 2017.
- Research the definition of moratoriums – what is their legal standing in court?
- Provide the socio-economic gaps (Oil and Gas and Agriculture sectors).

Sunni-Jeanne Walker left the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Miron Croy left the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

6. Next Meeting Date(s)

17-08-003

MOVED by Crystal McAteer

- ❖ Tuesday August 22, 2017: High Level Open House
Best Western Mirage @ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Northwest Species at Risk Committee
Administrative Lead: Byron Peters, Mackenzie County

- ❖ Wednesday August 23, 2017: Manning Open House
County of Northern Lights Office @ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- ❖ Tuesday August 29, 2017: Northwest Species at Risk
Committee Meeting in High Level @ 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

CARRIED

7. Adjournment

17-08-004

MOVED by Mike Morgan

That the Northwest Species at Risk Committee meeting be adjourned
at 10:15 p.m.

CARRIED

These minutes were adopted this 29th day of August, 2017.

Lisa Wardley, Chair

Scheduled Council Meetings

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (Fort Nelson)

September 11, 2017: 12:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m.

October 10, 2017 – would have to enquire for delegation time

October 23, 2017 – would have to enquire for delegation time

Peace River Regional District (Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge)

September 7, 2017: Commences at 10 a.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time (TR)

September 21, 2017: Commences at 10 a.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time (DC)

October 12, 2017: Commences at 10 a.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time (DC)

October 26, 2017: Commences at 10 a.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time (DC)

Northwest Territories Government (Yellowknife)

Schedule a meeting in September: Date and time to be confirmed

Town of Fort Smith (Fort Smith)

September 5, 2017: Commences at 7 p.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time

September 12, 2017: Commences at 7 p.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time

September 19, 2017: Commences at 7 p.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time

October 3, 2017: Commences at 7 p.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time

October 10, 2017: Commences at 7 p.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time

October 17, 2017: Commences at 7 p.m. – would have to enquire for delegation time

Town of Hay River (Hay River)

September 25, 2017: would have to enquire for delegation time

October 23, 2017: would have to enquire for delegation time

TERMS OF REFERENCE

NORTHWEST SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

Background:

The northwest region of Alberta encompasses high economic development value in a variety of natural resource sectors. Notwithstanding this, the region is requested to carry the highest burden of environmental protection of any other region within Alberta.

Current and proposed Provincial policy and strategies requires the Lower Peace Region to subsidize economic activity in other regions; to allow, both, the Federal and Provincial governments to achieve conservation targets for the natural environment. Cumulatively, multiple conservation initiatives and species at risk recovery strategies have the ability to negatively impact the rural communities of northwest Alberta.

We, the local tenants of this region have collaborated; in an attempt to secure smart economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and well-balanced environmental protection for our future generations. Through the use of optimal adaptive management, transparent stakeholder engagement, and effective environmental stewardship; we endeavour to achieve this purpose.

Purpose:

To collectively provide and share information, ideas and resources; relating to the continued and future prosperity of northwest Alberta. Instill effective regional adaptive management and transparency which allows all stakeholders to play a vital role in shaping our collective future. Develop tangible solutions founded upon an evidence-based approach, to ensure a balance of smart economic growth, a sustained quality of life, and an enhanced natural environment; for all of our businesses, communities and wildlife.

Responsibilities:

To ensure that any impending species recovery or conservation initiative, that has the ability to affect the smart growth of northwest Alberta; is prefaced with a thorough regional socio-economic impact analysis.

To proactively work with all other levels of government, including the First Nations; to create well-balanced working groups; with all key stakeholders relevant to impending conservation areas and species recovery.

Emphasizing that, northwest Alberta currently encompasses a vast amount of protected lands. Impending species recovery and conservation initiatives should aim to enhance the value of these areas for species at risk recovery and biodiversity, rather than seeking to protect unjustifiable additional areas of land.

Structure:

Northwest Species at Risk Committee
Administrative Lead: Byron Peters, Mackenzie County

Two councillors and an alternate appointed by each of the founding municipalities.

Alternates may attend all meetings.

Founding municipalities consist of:

- County of Northern Lights
- Mackenzie County
- Town of High Level
- Town of Rainbow Lake

Mackenzie County is the administrative lead for the committee, with administrative support from each of the founding municipalities.

The administrative lead will prepare and provide the agenda for all meetings.

Meetings are open to the public as per Section 197 and Section 198 of the Municipal Government Act.

Meetings may, in part, be closed to the public if matters to be addressed are recognized under; Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, and/or Division 2 – Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The committee shall pursue grant opportunities to fund any larger projects, with Mackenzie County as the grant sponsor and/or lead.

Quorum and Costs:

Decisions shall be reached by consensus, consisting of two appointed members from each of the founding municipalities. Alternates shall not be considered for consensus unless standing in for an appointed member.

Meetings shall be hosted by the Town of High Level, at the Town of High Level Office, and meeting costs will be shared by the founding municipalities.

Each Municipality and other delegates are expected to cover the costs of their members. Additional costs, such as those derived from committee motions, will be subject to additional discussion and approval from each of the founding municipalities.

All decisions reached by consensus; which are within the scope of the Terms of Reference, are binding upon all municipalities.

Communication:

An electronic data sharing forum will be created and maintained, with access for all of the committee members, and meetings will be scheduled quarterly, or as required by the Chair.