

## **NORTHWEST SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE**

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

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 4:30pm**

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Minutes Page 3
4. Administration Update on NWSAR Deliverables Page 9
5. First Nations and Metis Information Handout (for information)
6. Next Meeting Dates Page 15
7. 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, April 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Lisa Wardley Chair, Deputy Reeve, Mackenzie County  
Jacquie Bateman Councillor, Mackenzie County  
Eric Jorgensen Councillor, Mackenzie County  
Mike Morgan Councillor, Town of High Level  
Michelle Farris Mayor, Town of Rainbow Lake  
Terry Ungarian Councillor, County of Northern Lights

**REGRETS:** Crystal McAteer Vice Chair, Mayor, Town of High Level  
Linda Halabisky Councillor, County of Northern Lights  
Chris Mitchell Councillor, Town of Rainbow Lake

**ADMINISTRATION:** Dan Fletcher CAO, Town of High Level  
Ashleigh Bulmer Director of Development and IT Services,  
Town of High Level  
Hayley Gavin Planner/Recording Secretary, Mackenzie  
County  
Byron Peters Director of Planning and Development,  
Mackenzie County

**ALSO PRESENT:** Diana McQueen Owner, DMC Consulting

**MOTION**

**1. Call to Order**

Lisa Wardley called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**17-04-006**

**MOVED** by Jacquie Bateman

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

**17-04-007**

**MOVED** by Terry Ungarian

That the minutes be adopted with revisions made to the tone of

language used within the oil and gas delegation minutes;  
appropriate for public release.

**CARRIED**

4. **Information Sharing: Updates and Discussion**

17-04-008

**MOVED** by Eric Jorgenson

That the updates and information be accepted as presented and that the NWSAR committee also request meetings during FCM on the diseased bison and species recovery file.

**CARRIED**

5. **Delegation: Forestry & Logging Contractors at 7pm**

A discussion took place with no MOTIONS.

6. **Next Meeting Date**

17-04-009

**MOVED** by Lisa Wardley

❖ Friday April 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in High Level

**CARRIED**

7. **Adjournment**

17-04-010

**MOVED** by Mike Morgan

That the Northwest Species at Risk Committee meeting be adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

**CARRIED**

These minutes were adopted this 3rd day of May, 2017.

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Lisa Wardley

**Northwest Species at Risk Committee**

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

**Thursday, April 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

- PRESENT:**
- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Lisa Wardley    | Chair, Deputy Reeve, Mackenzie County   |
| Jacquie Bateman | Councillor, Mackenzie County  |
| Eric Jorgensen  | Councillor, Mackenzie County  |
| Mike Morgan     | Councillor, Town of High Level (left at 1:58p.m)                                |
| Crystal McAteer | Vice Chair, Mayor, Town of High Level (via<br>teleconference – left at 2:18p.m) |
| Terry Ungarian  | Councillor, County of Northern Lights (left at<br>3:00p.m)                      |
- REGRETS:**
- |                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Michelle Farris | Mayor, Town of Rainbow Lake           |
| Linda Halabisky | Councillor, County of Northern Lights |
| Chris Mitchell  | Councillor, Town of Rainbow Lake      |
- ADMINISTRATION:**
- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Dan Fletcher    | CAO, Town of High Level  |
| Ashleigh Bulmer | Director of Development and IT Services,<br>Town of High Level |
| Hayley Gavin    | Planner/Recording Secretary, Mackenzie<br>County               |
| Byron Peters    | Director of Planning and Development,<br>Mackenzie County      |
- ALSO PRESENT:**
- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Diana McQueen | Owner, DMC Consulting |
|---------------|-----------------------|

**MOTION**

**1. Call to Order**

Lisa Wardley called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**17-04-011**

**MOVED** by Mike Morgan

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Meeting Action Items**

Mike Morgan left the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Action List (points correlate to those of page 7 on the agenda):

- Legislation review and solutions:

Providing solutions – we have done this through our stakeholder engagement sessions and consultations; just need to provide lateral connections. We'd like the government to slow down and retell our story; the story that we provide with our plans. Is this 65% about CH protection about habitat or about the caribou? We would like a broader evaluation of legislation that protects/is beneficial to caribou recovery – the implications on the landscape need to be linked to some sort of policy/law/department. Legislation links to scientific data a lot – we agree newest data should be used.

- Socio-economic analysis:

Contact Silvacom to see if we can use their LuSEE project; contact Andrew. Dan can put specific questions together to send to them. We can facilitate an introduction with Dan and Silvacom. Contact higher level reps at Tolko and DMI – what do we need to do to get this information? Questionnaire – to all businesses to ask for information/data; we can use survey monkey. We can use the “twin-pillars” concept; find the spot in the middle where we can be ecologically and economy balanced.

- First Nations and Metis input:

Engage with MLA Debbie Jabour to help us with our First Nation and Metis engagement. Debbie already has a relationship with our local First Nations and Metis. Terry can speak with her tonight at Manning's trade show and Crystal will call her Monday to set up a meeting. Debbie and Crystal will both be attending the trade show in La Crete next Friday night. Committee councillors can contact local First Nation and Metis businesses for our next stakeholder delegation meeting.

- Who we're partnering with:

When working on the Chinchaga range document we should definitely be engaging Clear Hills County. Perhaps, we should send out an email to all Northern Elected Leaders municipalities with what we're planning to do ASAP; prepare them for attending our draft plan session. Also we should extend this email and invitation to the two regional municipalities of BC we've been working with; also Woodlands County and the Town of Whitecourt. Should follow up with CAPP Brad Herald and AFPA Paul Whittaker and also CPAC under CAPP. Connect with the mine that FPAC mentioned – the court case that BC has approved for mining in caribou country. The province will

look to the associations to provide feedback on our plans – we can meet with them in Calgary and/or Edmonton. Then any other associations that DMI and Tolko are a part of. Letters/emails.

- Budget discussion:

Our local capacity is somewhat limited. We will need external resources to complete our goals across the board.

Crystal McAteer left the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Terry Ungarian left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

#### 4. **WBNP review by IUCN for UNESCO**

17-04-012

**MOVED** by Eric Jorgensen

That the Northwest Species at Risk Committee accepts the responsibility of working with ABP and federal bison association to find solutions for the diseased bison in place of the northern municipalities, specifically in place of Mackenzie County.

**TABLED** for a future meeting date

#### 5. **Delegation: Dr. Tom Nudds and Dave West at 11am**

The Northwest Species at Risk Committee are welcome to reference the new scientific analysis and endorse the process and findings; if we agree with the new analysis.

Administration is able to share the reports and slide decks once Dr. Tom Nudds and Dave West have granted permission to Hayley Gavin to do so.

#### 6. **Next Meeting Date**

17-04-013

**MOVED** by Lisa Wardley

- ❖ Wednesday May 3, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in High Level
- ❖ Tuesday May 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in High Level
- ❖ Tuesday May 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in High Level

**CARRIED**

7. **Adjournment**

**17-04-014**

**MOVED** by Jacquie Bateman

That the Northwest Species at Risk Committee meeting be adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**CARRIED**

These minutes were adopted this 3rd day of May, 2017.

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Lisa Wardley, Chair



## **Administration Update on NWSAR Deliverables**

### **Table of Contents – we provided all parties with this draft version**

Document 1: Summary Document **Looking to engage a ‘wordsmith’ that can ensure tone, delivery, consistency, etc. is good.**

1. Overarching federal & provincial policy review, incorporating recommendations on better
  - a. **Looking to engage consultant to complete this component.**
  - b. Review SARA legislation and associated policies, provide high level comment regarding where flexibility is provided, and how by being flexible the socioeconomic impact can be reduced while still meeting requirements
  - c. Review/discuss policy silos, and how this creates operating challenges
    - i. Ie. AER vs AEP vs AgFor vs (fed pipeline) – they have conflicting requirements, lack of communication, complexity of transferring leases (eg. LOC to DLO)
2. Summarize cumulative impact of economic impact
  - a. **Looking to engage consultant to provide mapping and analysis of this component. Dan Fletcher will be the local lead on this component.**
  - b. Fairly self-explanatory... but more detail is provided further on.
3. Summarize cumulative impact of social impact
  - a. **Looking to engage consultant to provide mapping and analysis of this component. This component ties in directly with the previous.**
  - b. Talk about the total jobs impact, and try and see if this could impact critical mass for other social items, such as hospital services, school programming availability, etc.
4. Provide high level summary of the local solutions
  - a. **Create a draft in-house. Get all consultants to review and provide critical feedback.**
  - b. Tangible solutions to reducing/restoring the footprint in the northern context
5. Discuss why parks cannot be considered as part of range plans
  - a. **Looking to engage consultant to complete this component.**
  - b. Tie in diseased bison in WBNP
  - c. Are inappropriate for a one-species approach
  - d. Appropriate place with the proper tools to consider parks is the LUF – LPRP
6. Discuss the need to utilize the best available data
  - a. **Looking to engage consultant to complete this component. Hopefully the same consultant/firm can complete this along with another component.**
  - b. Specifically mention the Tolko research, and other genetic research being done
7. Highlight the engagement process that was completed, and the endorsements obtained for this deliverable
  - a. **This reporting will be completed internally/with already engaged consultant.**

We have engaged the following consultants to complete the report components as identified below:

1. Associated Environmental, Paragon Wildlife, DMC/RSG consulting
2. Silvacom? Dan Fletcher?
3. Silvacom? Dan Fletcher?
4. In house, AE, Paragon
5. AE, Paragon
6. AE
7. In house/DMC

Associated Environmental has committed a team comprised of the following personnel:

Julie Lefebvre, MEdes, P. Biol.; Judy Smith, M.Sc., P. Biol.; Barb Kissinger, B.Sc.; Sarina Loots, M.Sc., P.Biol.; Sean Nicoll, P.Eng.; Richard Simpson, M.Sc., RPF.

Paragon Wildlife Research is James (Jim) Rettie, Ph.D.

RSG Consulting is Riley Georgsen, former Chief of Staff for ESRD & Energy

DMC Consulting is Diana McQueen

Byron is the project manager for the project, and will be assisted by Hayley. In addition to the above, Diana will assist with overall direction and messaging, as well as arranging/attending meetings at the provincial level, and other miscellaneous duties. Also, Riley will provide a thorough review of the document, ensuring the messaging is consistent and concise, and that we strike the correct tone.

Project timeline highlights in regards to deliverables:

May 18<sup>th</sup> – drafts provided to Mackenzie County

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mackenzie County draft complete, and public engagement open house

May 29<sup>th</sup> – final drafts provided to Mackenzie County

May 31<sup>st</sup> – final draft complete – to be used/presented in meetings during FCM

June 16<sup>th</sup> – final (draft?) report complete – including background report, etc.

### Project Cost:

Associated Environmental	\$40,500
Paragon Wildlife Research	\$ 6,000
RSG Consulting	\$ 7,350
DMC Consulting	\$__(currently on retainer, only pay for extra)
Socioeconomic – # 2 & 3	\$(proving difficult to nail down this component)
<b>Total =</b>	<b>\$_____</b>

### Socio-Economic Update

- Cleanup of Mackenzie County Linear Assessment Electronic Inventory **is done**.
- Breakdown of linear assessment by township located in Mackenzie County in each range **is done**.
- List of Fur Management Areas with subsequent value in Mackenzie County in each range **is done**.
- Count of Oil and Gas wells that fall within each range within Mackenzie County **is almost done**, 30min left for data validation.
- High Level Annual Business Revenue Model **is done**. \$523,720,040.00 if you're wondering.
- High Level Annual Business Employment Model **is done**. 2912.13 employees if you're wondering.

### PLAN B

- Contact Ag and Forestry to get Wildfire Management data for Lower Peace Region to identify timber types within Caribou Range, **is underway**.
- Determine values for different local timber types by cube and multiply by values provided by Ag and Forestry to determine timber values in ranges, **is underway**.
- Determine (Timber Cube = ??? Jobs) formula for Forestry Employment Model, **is underway**.
- Determine average production per oil and gas well in Alberta and multiply by number of wells in Mackenzie County. Did this and I hit a roadblock I am trying to navigate right now. While I have a total number of wells for each range (447 in Chinchaga in Mackenzie County portion for example) I have no way as of yet to determine whether any given well is active or not. I have total provincial production values which I can divide by the total number of active wells to get the average production value for an active well but without knowing if we even have any active wells in the ranges it has no value. I think AER has that data and I am working on this while waiting to see what forestry provides for Timber stands. **Is underway**.

- Environmental data on average cleanup cost for a well and potentially pipeline in Northern Alberta. **Haven't even looked at this yet.**
- Amount and type of linear disturbance in ranges and their approximate value for restoration. **Haven't even looked at this yet.**
- Oil and gas employment model based on current and future oil and gas production values. **Haven't even looked at this yet.**

### Stakeholder Focus Group Sessions

- Hayley has sent out a “final call” email this afternoon (May, 3) to all stakeholders.
  - Some trappers, outfitters and forestry reps have previously responded wishing to be involved; we'll see if we can get some more.
  - No reps from oil and gas have responded – we have sent some individual emails to these reps hoping for a better response.
  - Sessions will commence next week – we're working on a meeting schedule; some people may be met with individually depending upon their availability and location.
- ❖ “Final call” email asked stakeholder input to identify:
1. All activities related to the industry's ‘disturbance’ (whether it be oil and gas, forestry, trapping, etc.);
  2. The potential implications of such activities on caribou recovery (habitat loss, fragmentation, increased predation);
  3. Any practical solutions that could work locally to mitigate these potential impacts above;
  4. And to speak to any current regulations/policy that may make these solutions difficult to implement.

April 27, 2017

**RE: THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA'S RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR  
WOODLAND CARIBOU**

The Northwest Species at Risk Committee; comprising of councillors from Mackenzie County, County of Northern Lights, Town of High Level and Town of Rainbow Lake, would like to invite all local First Nation and Metis peoples and business owners to our next committee informal :

Town of High Level office at 7:30pm on Tuesday May 9, 2017

The Government of Alberta (GOA) initiated their caribou recovery planning initiative last June, 2016 with their provincial Action Plan and Denhoff's recommendations report. Since then, a number of alliances have been formed, with a view to ensuring that our local voices are heard.

In late November, 2016 the Town of High Level, Town of Rainbow Lake, the County of Northern Lights and Mackenzie County formed an alliance through a new committee; the Northwest Species at Risk Committee (NWSAR). In early April, 2017 we learned that we have significantly less time, than originally thought, to provide meaningful input into provincial plans.

With this in mind, our committee has decided to utilize the information we've gathered from scientific professionals and previous stakeholder engagement sessions we've held, to date, to help inform a suite of draft documents, which are locally specific to each herd; identifying key concerns of a broad brush approach to species recovery, identifying regulatory issues which hinder effective habitat restoration and providing practical solutions (developed by local stakeholders) for the benefit of caribou recovery and our economic future.

We are working on, rather, an aggressive timeline; hoping to have substantially complete drafts towards the end of May, 2017. By which time we will have sent out an invitation to all stakeholders to attend an open house all day session; where we hope to receive valuable input from all attendees, ready for amendments to be made prior to hand-delivering the draft documents at the provincial and federal levels during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities national conference in June, 2017.

We hope that you will all be supportive of our endeavor and if you would like any additional information please do not hesitate to contact any one of the NWSAR Committee members.

April 27, 2017

**NORTHWEST SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name	Position	Municipality	E-mail	Phone
Lisa Wardley	Chair	Mackenzie County	<a href="mailto:lisa@mackenziecounty.com">lisa@mackenziecounty.com</a>	780-841-5799
Crystal McAteer	Vice Chair	Town of High Level	<a href="mailto:cmcateer@highlevel.ca">cmcateer@highlevel.ca</a>	780-841-5729
Mike Morgan	Member	Town of High Level	<a href="mailto:mmorgan@highlevel.ca">mmorgan@highlevel.ca</a>	780-841-7669
Eric Jorgensen	Member	Mackenzie County	<a href="mailto:eric@mackenziecounty.com">eric@mackenziecounty.com</a>	780-926-9605
Terry Ungarian	Member	County of Northern Lights	<a href="mailto:ungariant@countyofnorthernlights.com">ungariant@countyofnorthernlights.com</a>	780-836-5264
Jacque Bateman	Member	Mackenzie County	<a href="mailto:jacque@mackenziecounty.com">jacque@mackenziecounty.com</a>	780-926-6526
Linda Halabisky	Member	County of Northern Lights	<a href="mailto:halabiskyl@countyofnorthernlights.com">halabiskyl@countyofnorthernlights.com</a>	780-836-0652
Michelle Farris	Member	Town of Rainbow Lake	<a href="mailto:for-sure1@hotmail.com">for-sure1@hotmail.com</a>	780-956-4420
Chris Mitchell	Member	Town of Rainbow Lake	<a href="mailto:brentmo3@telus.net">brentmo3@telus.net</a>	780-956-5160
Byron Peters	Lead Admin	Mackenzie County	<a href="mailto:bpeters@mackenziecounty.com">bpeters@mackenziecounty.com</a>	780-928-3983
Dan Fletcher	Admin	Town of High Level	<a href="mailto:dfletcher@highlevel.ca">dfletcher@highlevel.ca</a>	780-926-2201
Susie Dziwenka	Admin	Town of Rainbow Lake	<a href="mailto:sdziwenka@rainbowlake.ca">sdziwenka@rainbowlake.ca</a>	780-956-3934
Ashleigh Bulmer	Admin	Town of High Level	<a href="mailto:abulmer@highlevel.ca">abulmer@highlevel.ca</a>	780-821-4022
Theresa Van Oort	Admin	County of Northern Lights	<a href="mailto:cao@countyofnorthernlights.com">cao@countyofnorthernlights.com</a>	780-836-3348
Hayley Gavin	Admin	Mackenzie County	<a href="mailto:hgavin@mackenziecounty.com">hgavin@mackenziecounty.com</a>	780-928-3983

### **NEXT MEETING DATES**

- ❖ (Today) Wednesday May 3, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in High Level: 1 Hour update meeting prior to Tri-Council meeting
- ❖ Tuesday May 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in High Level: First Nations and Metis peoples and business owners stakeholder delegation session (to commence at 7:30 p.m.)
- ❖ Tuesday May 16, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in High Level: GOA Range Planner's NW planning process and disturbance modelling presentation to date, also with a mapping exercise via Skype. At 6:00 p.m. committee members will review (hopefully) components of NWSAR draft range specific documents to date.
- ❖ Thursday May 18, 2017 at 1:00 – 10:00 p.m. (date and location to be confirmed): Stakeholder Open House: to review all draft documents and to provide additional input and feedback. **This date needs to be revised – May 23 or 26, 2017 is preferred. Also please determine location and Open House times.**
- ❖ Wednesday May 31, 2017: Fly out to Ottawa. **Please confirm which members will be attending FCM.**
- ❖ Thursday June 1, 2017: First meeting confirmed with Parliamentary Secretary Jonathan Wilkinson at 10 a.m.
- ❖ June 1 – 4, 2017: Also the Office of the Leader of Opposition to Minister for ECCC (Critic), Gurpreet Vinning (in place of Minister Sohi) and FPAC have replied with interest to meet – we're awaiting date and time confirmations.

## 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:**

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.