

NORTHEAST ROUNDTABLE SESSION 12– MEETING NOTES

Date: March 10th, 2021
Time: 9:00 AM – 3:40 PM
Location: Virtual MS Teams

Meeting Reference Materials Available Online at [NE Roundtable website](#):

- Fishery Management and Recovery Planning
- Caribou Presentation
- LRMP Presentation
- Treaty Land Entitlement Update
- Resource Stewardship Team Update

Welcome, Agenda, Minutes

- Jason Lawson as facilitator welcomed, territorial acknowledgement, and MS Teams info
- No requested revisions to the agenda; no comments on previous meeting notes
- Materials provided on website for review by roundtable members

1. Northeast Roundtable Participant Introductions

Attendees:

FLNRORD:

- Jason Lawson
- Shayla Blue
- Tyler Annand
- Inge-Jean Hansen
- Anna Regnier
- Joelle Scheck
- Darin Hancock
- Gerad Hales
- Cathy Scott-May (Consultant)
- Shane Ford
- Ian Curtis
- Scott Yaeger
- Katie Connah
- Carmela Arevelo
- Naomi Saukila

- Aviva Jones

Other Government:

- Jocelyn Paul (BC Hydro)
- Dale Morgan (MIRR)
- Tara Forest (MIRR)

Municipal:

- Rob Fraser (Mayor of Taylor)
- Brad (PRRD)
- Dan Rose (PRRD)
- Tyla Pennell (District of Taylor – tpennell@districtoftaylor.com)
- Jennifer Decker (City of FSJ)

First Nations:

- Ryan McKay (SFN)
- Jim Webb (WMFN)
- Kara Green (HRFN)
- Naomi Owens-Beek (SFN)

Stakeholders (Industry, Environment, Recreation, Public):

- Andy Ackerman (NE Stakeholders - ackerman@telus.net)
- Gary Paille (BC Wildlife)
- Mark Phinney
- Darrell Regimbald (Canfor)
- Scott Fraser
- Andrew Tyrrell (Canfor)
- Jim Little (NE Stakeholders)
- Chris Montgomery (EPAC)
- Tanya Goertzen
- Lynda Neufeld (ConocoPhillips Canada)
- Mark Phinney (Canfor)
- Clinton Gould (Louisiana Pacific)
- Darryl Kroeker (Fort St. John Trappers Association – dkroeker@pris.ca)
- Karen
- Ray Ensz (FSJ Trappers)
- Stephanie Killam (Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board)
- Kathleen Connolly (Concerned Citizens for Caribou Recovery and Dawson Creek Chamber of Commerce)
- Korey Green (WSSBC)
- Justin Keutzer (High Prairie Outfitters)

- Leonard Hiebert
- Derry Sorgen (Louisiana Pacific)
- Tim Burkhart
- Sonja Leverkus
- Donegal Wilson (BCSF)
- Guy Lahaye
- Wagner (Aeolis)
- Jennifer Blaney (Ovintiv)
- Cheryl
- Moira Green
- Josh Hamilton
- Robin Routledge (WSSBC)

2. Fishery Management and Recovery Planning

- Gerad Hales, Inge-Jean Hansen, and Cathy Scott-May delivered three presentations about Fishers which are uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Question: Are the fisher exclusion boxes applicable in NE BC?
 - Answer: Discussion is currently ongoing, but the exclusion boxes are voluntary
- Question: Why is the Province focusing on trappers as opposed to further development? Trapping has the least effect on the environment.
 - Answer: The Province considers this to be an ongoing discussion and agrees that certainly a broader approach is needed to address the issue. Due to the red listing, they are wanting to handle trapping as it is additive but are working on landscape level models to inform decision makers
 -
- Question: Is the intention to put the proposal on the hunting and angling website?
 - It has not yet been decided as this is an off-cycle regulation change, but they will take that to appropriate staff for consideration
- Question: Has any mapping been done to see how much habitat is left in those areas?
 - Answer: The Province is working on modelling at the landscape level and already has a fisher habitat extension tool that helps licencees at the stand level. The intention is to move towards a landscape level. Open Areas analysis has also been done. The Province is looking to present research and information later.
- Comment: Trappers think the Province is going backwards, and that they are choosing an easier target. The approach seems to be a band aid on a large wound. Trappers are concerned about the Province’s lack of commitment to a larger habitat issue. It does not seem like a comprehensive response to a complex issue. Is there a mechanism for interim habitat measures, so before we start revisiting regulations, is there a way to put a pause on the destruction of habitat?
 - Answer: The Province is unsure if there are mechanisms to pause this at a higher, strategic level. The representatives are recording these comments to bring back to management.

- Comment: The Province hasn't figured out how to eject the martin/wildlife from the trapping boxes.
 - Response: The boxes being used can have modifications, but more modifications is a higher expense
- Question: In the new regulations, are all trappers required to go to the restricted holes? As it stands, trappers will be asked to go to the new box areas which is an added expense. The group feels that the Province is targeting individual trappers, and not dealing with the larger issue.
 - Answer: It is currently voluntary. The fishers in the northeast are still blue listed fishers, Looking to co-manage the class 2 furbearers. Would be great to have dialogue. It is a tool in the toolbox. The trappers are stewards of the land and the Province is helping with the expense by providing some boxes for free via Together for Wildlife initiative. It is trial and volunteer effort to see how it may work out. Management planning is the blue listed; the recovery planning is for the rest listed in the interior.
- Comment: Provincial forest regulations don't apply to private land. When the harvest windows on crown land close, proponents tend to move to private land - this needs to be addressed.
- Comment: There is a similar initiative in Fort Nelson District, where there is stakeholder and FN renewed interest in logging. Is this same initiative being discussed with these groups?
 - Answer: There is a mechanism called the Northern Rockies Roundtable, which is discussing the initiative. The Roundtable is led by Chris Cooper.
- Comment: Canfor is co-managing the FSJ Pilot Project public advisory group that may be interested in supporting this initiative.
 - For Action: Canfor will reach out to Cathy to discuss opportunities
- Comment: For the South Peace area, industry gets their information from the Peace District steering committee. Through that group they can invite trappers to discuss trapping and work together with trappers and other stakeholders
- Comment: The Public advisory group is currently on hold because FLNRORD does not have a designated engagement person yet. For wildlife there will be a group established for the NE, but the Province is unaware of that status of that group.
- Question from Presenter: What info would you like to hear from in the future?
 - Answer: Looking for more updates regarding fisher recovery (positive feedback)

3. Caribou Recovery Update

- Joelle Scheck presented on Caribou Recovery. Presentation uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Question: How many development permits have been approved by the CRC?
 - Answer – The CRC has approved 18 permits from various business lines
- Question: What is the status of a new socio-economic impact assessment once the permit has been approved?
 - To properly answer we need clarification on this question. If this was raised by yourself please contact Joelle Scheck or Shayla Blue for more discussion.
- Question: What is happening with wolf control and caribou collaring?

- There was a late start with both due to a regulatory glitch in the permit regulation of the wildlife act. This was resolved about a month ago now. Collaring for Caribou and wolf culling have now commenced around the Province in support of Caribou recovery. To date, the Province has removed 22 wolves in the South peace, 22 in the Pink Mountain area, and 10 others in various areas. To support the initiative, a trapping program has been developed in collaboration with SFN, DRFN, and WMFN as well. Unfortunately, the Province won't be able to put in a fulsome season this year as we lost about 6 weeks
- Question: What is the status of the Herman Mine?
 - The Herman mine received EA certification, and operation will be moving to permitting
- Question: What is Zone B5 of the Caribou Partnership Agreement?
 - This is a potential West Moberly First Nations woodlands licence area
- Question: Acknowledging that ground trapping engagement has taken place with First Nations, is there any engagement planned for non-indigenous trappers?
 - Answer: As it stands, there is no trapping engagement planned with non-indigenous partners for reasons that were outlined previously. The identified work with FNs has been going on since 2015. The Province views this as a collaborative project with the First Nations. The Province recognizes that all trappers are wanting to be engaged, and that there is a request to develop a plan to engage all trappers.

4. Fort St John Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Update

- Ian Curtis and Shayla Blue provided an update about the Land and Resource Management Plan Update project. Presentation uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Question: Groups party to the NE Roundtable want to see strong wildlife values presented in the plan.
 - Response: One of the 1st steps in the Planning Process is to collect information to support an update to the land use plan, it anticipated that wildlife will be a key value in the scope of the update.
- Question: How do you register for LRMP input sessions?
 - Link will be shared – no registration is required.

5. MIRR Treaty Land Entitlement Update

- Tara Forest provided an update on TLE negotiations. Presentation uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Question: Considering BRFN's recent challenges, are the proposed TLEs selections up in the air? Moving towards the ratification process seems to be problematic. The member is concerned that the Province is moving too quickly if there is significant opposition to the current TLE selections.
 - Answer: We must recognize that's one FN out of 5 that are engaged. There may be some delay with BRFN while we figure out these concerns, but the province has other FNs that they can move forward with
- Comment: Is DRFN is tied to BRFN's recent challenges?

- Answer: The current challenges can potentially be a barrier for DRFN finalizing their agreement. Canada has an important role to play. If BRFN can't sort out the noted issues, they may need to work separately from DRFN. This is a responsibility is Canada's, not BC
- Question: Where are all captured concerns and comments located?
 - Answer: There is a website (.gov), and records that can be made available. For specific things information has been posted.
- Question: Can FOIPPA be used to view all comments and material?
 - Answer: FOIPPA is a tool that anyone can use. Policies are in place to outline what can and can't be shared. Materials would then be released to the part who requested the information
- Comment: It would be helpful to have a place where someone can access clear information because there is a shared sense of confusion and information overload.
 - Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. MIRR Team will discuss how to make information more easily accessible and understanding
- Comment: There isn't enough on the available maps to show where the parcels are and what might be affected
 - Answer: MIRR will take this away and consider how to improve information sharing and improve mapping
- Question: Are there any ICPAs relating to TLE, or any updates relating to ICPAs?
 - There are no ICPAs relating to TLE
- Comment: KMZ files are useful if you're familiar with google earth, rather than PDF files. The datasets on the provincial websites are outdated when compared to what's currently happening on the ground.
 - Response: MIRR thanks the comment.

6. Open Discussion:

- Jason Lawson introduced a few concerns that were shared by a Roundtable Committee member
- There is some concern regarding a limestone quarry and its proximity to Hole in the Wall park
 - WMFN Comment: WMFN wanted a parcel of land that is created with the expectation that it would be respected and treated as a highly significant spiritual site that can promote peaceful enjoyment
 - There is mutual concern amongst members of the committee for WMFN's ability to enjoy the parcel. 150m from the feature itself does not give WMFN or NE Roundtable members confidence that the nation can enjoy the parcel of land as intended.
- Application for Frac Sand in the Groundbirch Community Pasture
 - Response: Does the province have any concern for this operation?
 - Province Answer: The area has been flagged and the company will have to show how their work will allow for compatible use for the community pasture, especially given that there is a Sec 17 for the Grazing Reserve
 - PRRD Response: The application has not come to PRRD, and the information on Front Counter BC does not match the information in the referral from the company. It's important to remember that grazing has precedence over everything else in this area
 - NE Roundtable Response: Both management plans will have to meet Ministry of Mines standards etc, which have the strongest legislation covering this type of use.

- WMFN Response: When SFN and WMFN consulted with the proponent in 2017, it was proposed that this area would need an environmental assessment. This isn't mining, this is for surface quarrying. It is over a large area, and the FN's concerns are relating to how this would impact their way of life. FNs have a shared interest with stakeholders (Grazing leases and owners of community pastures) here.

Question: The group would like to see more information and an update on this topic and suggest that we have a special presentation at the next meeting regarding the limestone quarry and the sand quarry

- Response: The Province will take these suggestions back and consider speaking to it further

7. Resource Stewardship Team Update

- Aviva Jones provided some information regarding her Resource Stewardship Team. Presentation uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#)
- Question from Aviva: Has anyone heard of Together for Wildlife?
 - Takeaway: This seems to be a familiar term
- WMFN Comment: Under the program there is an indigenous component where a number of First Nations are focused on identifying changes to legislation and regulation to allow us to move towards reconciliation in terms of government to government wildlife management and addressing the need for food security in their communities
- Comment: This sounds like the cumulative impact studies that always ended up being set aside when we were on the verge of getting something done. Member does not want to be negative, but they think many have been here and tried to do what this team is trying to accomplish
 - Response: Can understand that frustration, the Province is optimistic that things can get done
- Comment: It would be helpful to make the goals regionally specific
- WMFN Comment: This is a collaborative wildlife focused initiative that will result in government with government collaboration and engagement
- Comment: There are concerns that the resources are not there to fulfill the goals outlined. There must be a shift in terms of being all in for wildlife. If government wants to retain control for these objectives, the Province must do what's best for wildlife
- Comment: There needs to be more of a reliance on the people who are on the ground
 - Response: This is the Province's goal; there is a lot of expertise to draw upon
- Comment: Some fire applications have been waiting for a long time, what do we need to do to get these done?
 - Chris Cooper is the lead, and it's important to note that there are no 4-year-old applications sitting. The applications mentioned were decided on and were denied. The rest of the applications have been amended and resubmitted
- Comment: HCTS money is sitting and we need to start looking at other options outside of prescribed fire. If we are going to manage for Caribou, then the other species don't stand a chance.

- Response: There are a lot of decision objectives and performance measures to identify and address. Caribou is not the only factor to consider
- Question: Wildlife values and land management issues are moving much more quickly than the Province can manage. How do you intend to create more timely decisions around use and management?
 - Response: The Province is trying to develop a plan that isn't a reactionary, and one that's effective
- Comment: This team should be reporting to the roundtable. With fire, there needs to be a designated, specialized team. There is a need to update Provincial competencies and learn from experienced individuals regarding wildlife burning
- Question: Will there be any burn approvals for 2021?
 - Response: Probably yes, but the Province is unsure if burns can happen this year
- Comment: This feels like a broken record, and it's frustrating to not have any action done
- Question: Can the committee assume that "Wildlife" in "Together for Wildlife" is primarily a focus on the animals that people want to hunt and trap, or is it more comprehensive and include things like birds, amphibians, etc.?
 - Response: The list is quite comprehensive and not just wildlife for consumption, but we need to be more comprehensive. However, it doesn't include fish as there are other protective measures being done for fish.

8. Other Business/Suggested Topics

- Future meetings dates: **May 5, June 23**

9. Next Meeting

- Next meeting: **May 5, 2021**