

## NORTHEAST ROUNDTABLE HYBRID – MEETING NOTES

**Date:** March 22, 2023  
**Time:** 09:00 -15:00  
**Location:** Pomeroy Hotel and Conference  
Virtual MS Teams

### Attendees:

#### Government:

- Jason Lawson (WLRS)
- Shayla Blue (WLRS)
- Melissa Stewart (WLRS)
- Kelly Cook (WLRS)
- Aviva Jones (WLRS)
- Joelle Ward (WLRS)
- Dale Morgan (IRR)
- Chris Pasztor (EMLI)
- Ali Seyed (WLRS)
- Anna Regnier (WLRS)
- Garth Thoroughgood (OGC)
- Naomi Saukila (IRR)
- Penny Vanderwekken-Dunn (IRR)
- Michael Huck (WLRS)
- Morgan Kennah (WLRS)
- James Cuell (WLRS)
- Susan Campbell (IRR)
- Mathew Ocholi (WLRS)
- Sanjay Tewari (WLRS)
- Daryl Struthers (ENV)
- Adrienne Pierre (FOR)
- Darius Low (FOR)
- Lyle Goldie (FOR)
- Ken Dobb (WLRS)
- Chris David (WLRS)
- Rhonda Cage (WLRS)
- Lisa Brock (WLRS)
- Marianne Johnson (FOR)

#### Municipal:

- Kathleen Connolly (DC Chamber of Commerce)
- Bev Vandersteen (FN Chamber of Commerce)
- Dan Rose (PRRD)
- Dave Heiberg (Mayor of Hudson Hope)

- Leonard Hiebert (PRRD)
- Lilia Hansen (Mayor of FSJ)
- Steve McLain (District of Chetwynd)

**First Nations:**

- Jim Webb (WMFN)
- Nathan Prince (MLIB)
- Tom Aird (Saulteau)

**Stakeholders:**

- Jim Little (NE Stakeholders)
- Sarah Curtis (LP)
- Athena Andritz (LP)
- Mark Phinney (Canfor)
- Elizabeth Abbs (Summit Lake Resident)
- Johnny Mikes (MKAB / CPAWS)
- Helen Gilbert (School District 60)
- Julie Bourdon (Petronas)
- Katie Mitchell (Duck Unlimited)
- Peter Andreasen (Mining)
- Andrew Tyrrell (Canfor)
- Nicolisa Blatchford (Y2Y)
- David Luff (MKAB)
- Kristine Bock (Canfor)
- Brent Goertzen (ConocoPhillips)
- Lauren Whyte (Arbutus Consulting)
- Angela London (Ovintiv Surface Land)
- Krista Phillips (CAPP)
- Stephanie Killam (MKAB)
- Scott Fraser (Dawson Road)
- Matthias Loesken (Legacy Site Restoration Program)
- Darryl Kroeker (FSJ Trappers Assoc)
- Ray Ensz (FSJ Trappers Assoc)
- Gerry Paille (BC Wildlife Federation)

## Welcome, Agenda, Minutes

- Jason Lawson as facilitator welcomed, territorial acknowledgement and agenda review.
- Meeting minutes from the last meeting have been posted online. Feedback and response to minutes is also posted. Questions/comments from last meeting?
  - Comment: No comments on minutes from last meeting.
- Shayla Blue conducted introductions (in person and virtual).

## 1. Agreements with Treaty 8 First Nations

- Presenter: Dale Morgan – New agreements overview BC & Blueberry River First Nations and BC & four Nations: Halfway River, Doig River, Saulteau, Fort Nelson
- [Agreements with Treaty 8 Presentation](#)
- Agreement available here: [First Nations A-Z Listing - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- Recommend the following book: Where Happiness Dwells: A History of Dane-zaa First Nations by Robin Ridington and Jillian Ridington [and BRFN Website Where Happiness Dwells - the webpage: [Treaty Case - Blueberry River First Nations \(blueberryfn.com\)](#)]
- Blueberry Implementation Agreement result is from a of a couple years of negotiation stemming from the Yahey Decision.
  - Q: When can we expect to see 'Official' linkwork/boundaries for the various zones described in the Blueberry Agreement?
    - R: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/first-nations-a-z-listing>
  - Q: Is the linework final or interim?
    - R: This linework is what is referenced in the agreements posted with Blueberry River, Saulteau, Doig River, Halfway River and Fort Nelson First Nations. This linework is final, to initiate implementation. As implementation continues, there could be variations and will be further details, that will be made public. Such as through the detailed land use planning Dale referred to.
  - Q: Can we get digital files for the link work on the maps to make it easier to better analyze the various polygons in the Agreement?
    - R: BC has posted spatial information in different formats for people to access on a provincial FTP site.

[ftp://ftp.geobc.gov.bc.ca/publish/Regional/Northeast/First Nations Agreements](ftp://ftp.geobc.gov.bc.ca/publish/Regional/Northeast/First_Nations_Agreements)

- [Directions to access the ftp site](#)
- Q: Dale: your "Expected and Anticipated Outcome" slide mentions Land Use Plans (plural) in the BBRFN Claim Area. Can you speak to there maybe being more than one LUP coming?
  - R: Yes, the agreements speak to multiple land use plans. Slides 11-15 speak in more detail to Land Use Planning.
- Q: I don't see anything that includes the public with these maps going forward? Where does the public fit into this regarding input?
  - R: It's about land use planning a big part is understanding the interests of what the public is and then resetting the balance to what works for everyone. Resetting the balance and bringing it back to a place where we respect the treaty and uphold both sides.
- Q: Concerned about consistency, as well as capacity and resourcing on government and nations side. Concerned about what this does on our rural community and the pressures it will cause them.
  - R: Government locally needs capacity, it has been recognized and we will be realigning and putting more resources into this. Blueberry has a lot to ramp up as well. We have a lot of work to do.
- Comment: BCWF takes exception to the press release around the BRFN agreement, as the inference in the release that licensed hunting activity correlates to the populations decline.
  - R: The moose management is something we are putting resources into, lots of work is being done around moose inventories. This is a commitment moving forward as it is allowing us to have a better understanding of wildlife and ecosystems.

## 2. BC Energy Regulator and Ministry of Forests Permitting

- Presenter: Garth Throughgood and Marianne Johnson
- Update on the status on permitting processes.
- Permitting number comparison is not necessarily a good metric as there was an increase in permit decisions that we directly linked to the negotiated agreement.
- Q: Is there a Hold on issuing permits? Is this correct? 90-day delay – 15-month review on the high value areas.
  - R: There has been no hold on making permit decisions. Decisions were being made during negotiations.
  - R: 90 day is in the Blueberry River agreement. 60 days to getting it to Blueberry River for review and 90 days to negotiating the process. We are working through, and it depends on where it is on the land base.
- There are new PNG measures included in the agreement that include planning areas and other restrictions.
- Permitting decision process will be a new normal.
- Relationship with T8 FN's is positive as we move to the new normal.
- Pre-engagement with T8 FN's is essential, and we have new guidelines posted on the BCER website for applicants.
- Comment: Thank you for stating that resource based decisions are not centric around the Blueberry decision, but that yes, we are all other Nations, Stakeholders and Province working in the same northeast area.

## 3. Together for Wildlife

- Presenter: Aviva Jones
- Update on Together for Wildlife in the Northeast & Treaty 8 Wildlife working group.
- Q: Are the inventories and the RICS standards? Will they be peer reviewed?
  - R: These inventories were conducted by professional Biologists contracted by First Nations.
- Q: Culture burns is the process different from an ordinary range burn? Will this speed it up?
  - R: We completed 13 prescribed fires last year, more approvals coming. The nations said these prescriptions don't encompass the cultural values. BC government is open to pilot a different way.
- Q: Moose planning and climate change there is a massive tick issue.
  - R: Wildlife health, CWD, bison samplings. We don't have access to the same equipment as other parts of the country we are looking into it.

- Wildlife health is a priority for the T8WW group we will add ticks to the next agenda.
- What are you doing to look at protecting wildlife killed on the road?
  - R: Bringing forward removing food from the ditches to keep moose from the roads.
- Q: Species at risk have you done anything around porcupine?
  - R: Yes, we have been talking about it in the T8WWG
  - Comments: Suggest we invite Caeley Thacker, provincial veterinarian, to a future NE Roundtable to speak to provincial wildlife health initiatives (ticks, CWD, etc.).

#### **4. Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and BC's Commitment to Protect 30 % of the province by 2030**

- Presenter: Rhonda Cage
- [Overview of provincial planning related to IPCA's and 30x30](#)
- Publication: We Rise Together  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2018/pc/R62-548-2018-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/pc/R62-548-2018-eng.pdf)
- Comment: I think this needs to be redefined... if First Nations have a cultural use area, it should be what defines an Indigenous Protected area... not what was just defined - it doesn't capture our First Nation definition of cultural or protected areas of interest...it seems too "Province definition" that I don't think we were consulted on?
- Q: Would it be possible to get a copy of the Canada B.C Natural Agreement?
  - R: I believe it is currently still under negotiation with Canada. I will follow up with one of our negotiators for a timeline. I haven't heard anything since late November.
- Q: We have 3 areas of critical importance and I keep being sent to a website.
  - R: We can connect offline about this.
- Q: seems like early days, but for example, would the High Value Areas identified in the Blueberry area be considered as IPCAs?
  - R: It is very early days, and we don't know exactly what that looks like. It's really up to Blueberry to determine if it's an IPCA.
- Comment: If BC was willing to consider reallocation of sufficient timber rights surrounding some of the existing Caribou Protection Areas, FNs could create a large NBS Carbon project as an OECM.
- Comment: It will be helpful if you can parse out stakeholder vs public engagement.

- Q: Earlier this year, there was a posting by MoWLRS for an Indigenous Led Stewardship Policy Advisor; was that position filled and is there anything to follow or learn about this position in respects to IPCAs for meeting 30x30 objectives?
  - R: We are working on policy, and we did post for Indigenous Advisor, we got 3 advisors. They are on until the end of this month, developing a flexible process to be used across the province, to better meet our Indigenous partners where they are at.
- Comment: If BC was willing to consider reallocation of sufficient timber rights surrounding some of the existing Caribou Protection Areas, FNs could create a large NBS Carbon project as a OECM
  - Comments: [Rhonda.Cage@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rhonda.Cage@gov.bc.ca) - for anyone who is interested in following up with additional questions.

## Kaska Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

- Presenter: Chris David
- [Overview of the Kaska IPCA](#)

## 5. Treaty Land Entitlement

- Presenter: Dale Morgan
- Overview on TLE Settlement and Lands Agreements
- Land selections have been made publicly available and can be accessed on <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/land-transfers-in-northeast-british-columbia/#Treaty>
- The process is now moving into implementation phase.
- This summer, planning to have a few parcels surveyed this summer.
- There will be some major announcements coming out shortly; Saulteau First Nations is progressing well. Initial processes have been concluded.
- Prophet River First Nation does not have a shortfall allotment for TLE. For TLA, there is opportunity to select fee simple lands to be converted to reserve.
  - Q: What is the status of Site C lands.
    - R: Doig River First Nation and Saulteau First Nations are in the process of identifying Site C lands on agreed TLA quanta. Once that is complete, it will be brought to this forum. West Moberly First Nations also has some TLA allotment they are working on.
  - The Province is ensuring that access continues to land beyond parcels, including maintaining public roads and provincial recreation trails that cross through lands proposed for transfer
  - Q: Maps on the govtogether website don't have the sizes (hectares) on it.
    - R: MIRR noted this and will work on it.

- Comments: For any specific comments or questions, please email Dale Morgan, MIRR Regional Executive Director at :[Dale.Morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dale.Morgan@gov.bc.ca).

## 6. Boreal Caribou Protection

- Presenter: Michael Huck
- [Presentation about the Boreal Caribou Protection and Recovery Plan \(BCPRP\)](#).
- What We Heard report from September 2022: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/caribou/boreal-caribou/>
  - Q: Dene Tha – Draft report about Caribou, have you been in contact with them?
    - R: Dene Tha have been engaged or provided an opportunity to engage several times on boreal caribou recovery in BC and are consulted on relevant permit applications. On the most recent BCPRP engagement, Dene Tha did not provide written comment. The primary focus of their caribou work has been on advancing an IPCA in the Bistcho range in Alberta.
  - Q: National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium, BCPRP Table and Canada Boreal Discussion table and the Moberly caribou management plan, do all tables reach a consensus?
    - R: The NBCKC was launched in 2018 under Canada’s federal action plan for boreal caribou – is a forum for knowledge sharing, generation and mobilization. It does not directly influence recovery planning in BC. For the BCPRP and P/A tables, they are set up to advance consensus-based recommendations to the provincial government for decision.
  - Q: Were any changes made to draft plan, based on 'what you heard'? When would that revision be available to view?
    - R: Yes, there has been some changes mostly spatial, informed through engagement with the oil and gas sector and overlap with active and existing tenures. The final draft will not be released until an endorsement decision has been made. Additionally, the phased implementation of the plan will need to align with future land-use planning processes and that could be affected (e.g. developing conditional forest harvest guidance).
  - Q: Are the forestry operating measures / 'ground rules' for Conditional Development zones available for review?
  - Q: Is there predator reduction control?
    - R: No provincial predator reduction is taking place in the Fort Nelson area. This winter we collaborated with Fort Nelson First Nation on predator monitoring which will inform predator management planning for the four BCPRP herds, provided the BCPRP is endorsed. Within the Northeast Region



as whole, we have an on-going predator management program for the Chinchaga, Pink Mountain, Graham, and Central Group herds.

## 7. BC Wildlife Federation

- Presenter Gerry Paille
- [Highlights of BCWF Activities](#)
  - Q: Are you sitting at other tables?
    - R: We sit on the Provincial Hunting and Trapping Advisory Team and the Provincial Angling Advisory Team, as well as numerous other initiatives involving water and salmon.
  - Comments: June 3<sup>rd</sup> is National Range Day, bring your families you can try out a bunch of shooting events, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

## 8. Legacy Site Restoration Program

- Presenter Matthias Loeseken
- [Community-led restorations projects focused on restoring legacy petroleum and natural gas disturbances.](#)
  - Comment: Challenges the committee has around labor, capacity etc. These are the same problems the Provincial Caribou Recovery program has. We are putting on a workshop tentatively in Fall 2023 and will be discussing the same issues and hopefully we will be able to put together some solutions. **Action:** Update at next NE Roundtable of the status of the workshop planning.
    - R: FSJ Chamber of Commerce is putting on an energy conference in mid September, maybe Mike and Matthias can connect with Kathleen about the conference.
  - Q: There needs to be more signage for these projects
    - R: LSRP-funded projects installed signage based on input from the Restoration Management Committee as well as Provincial and Federal identify program representatives. WLRS has approved signage to be made at the end of March and to be put out in summer.
  - Q: Could BC Energy Regulator create a publicly available GIS layer showing areas (lines, roads) that have been restored? To avoid reclaimed areas from being re-opened and a lot of money & time wasted.
    - R: The long-term protection of restored features and areas, whether they've been treated for the benefit of a specific species or not, is a known challenge that LWRS is actively working on. A GIS-based database and interface for caribou habitat restoration areas is in a beta version right now, awaiting some fixes, and this tracker is likely going to be picked up by Morgan Kennah's team to expand to all types of restoration. The tracker provides the ability to add shapefiles. It is being developed by Knowledge Management Branch of WLRS.

## Meeting Closure

- Saulteau Calendar Legacy Project. Raised \$7000 for West Moberly Women's Shelter.
- Pushing back the June meeting to **June 14<sup>th</sup>** due to scheduling conflicts.