

Summary of Meeting with the Minister

July 18, 2016 at 13:15

In attendance:

- Scott Stephens, member TWS MB
 - Stephen Petersen, Past-president TWS MB
 - C-Jae Breiter, President TWS MB
 - Honourable Catherine Cox, Minister Sustainable Development
 - Bruce Gray, ADM Sustainable Development
 - Jocelyn Baker, ADM Sustainable Development
 - Bruce Verry, Special Assistant Sustainable Development
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- Began the meeting with an intro about TWS international and Manitoba Chapter. Who we are, what we do, who are our members
 - Scott discussed the importance of wetlands in terms of climate change and water storage. He had already met with the group representing DUC. Focused on the message that we hope to see legislation introduced in the fall session for Bill 5- THE SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ACT.
 - Stephen suggested the advancement of some specific wildlife management or action plans such as the beluga, polar bear, moose, and caribou. Suggested implementing timelines and more transparency. We discussed the possible role that Rick Wowchuk will have within the department and perhaps that we can use him as a contact going forward. He will most likely take on the wildlife-related issues as part of the departmental mandate.
 - We repeatedly mentioned how we would like to support the department in their efforts and we hope that they will come to us as a source. We will also be looking for progress on these issues.
 - We concluded the meeting by suggesting another meeting in the fall to discuss progress and other issues.

Summary of Follow-Up Meeting

July 22, 2016

In attendance (on phone):

- C-Jae Breiter, President TWS MB
 - Serge Scrafield, President-elect TWS MB
 - Bruce Gray, ADM Sustainable Development
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- Feedback from Bruce was that it was a good meeting. Nice tone compared to some other groups, because we were offering to help them. We have same interests and they are working on same issues as we are. They would like to tap into the expertise of members in the society. They may not move as quickly as many would want them to move.
 - We suggested that they could use the CAC as a source that would be more direct than tapping into the entire membership. We all agreed that it might be beneficial for someone to come and meet with the CAC at some point.
 - We were asked how we would like to structure our relationship with them?
 - We mentioned that we were non-governmental, as neutral as possible with broad agenda that can be tapped.
 - The three main working groups that will be focused on by this government are: co-management, safe hunting, and improved surveys. Others will be focused on but to a lesser extent.
 - We reiterated that it would be great to get some strategies moved along (even though not a priority).
 - Bruce will update Jim Duncan on our meetings and then we can meet with him.
 - We are not at a point where we can talk with Rick Wowchuk as the ground work is only being done now. He will take on the public engagement (not widely known though).
 - Bruce will let us know and let Rick know we should be on his list of public organizations.