

Manitoba Chapter, The Wildlife Society – Conservation Affairs Committee

Meeting February 09 2017, MB Hydro Building, 820 Taylor Avenue, Winnipeg

Attendance

Co-chairs
1 members

Regrets

5 members

DRAFT Minutes

1. Approved Agenda (**Chair asks for approval**)
2. Approved Minutes of last meeting (**Chair asks for approval**)
3. Update from new co-chairs.
 - a. Discussed addition of 2 new members
 - b. Discussed the desire to make the CAC an adaptable rapidly responding group with the goal of garnering increasing respect from public, media, and government.
4. Update on any other action items from previous meetings:
 - a. State of Provincial Fisheries Management – **Manitoba Sustainable Development provided a response to our Fisheries Management letter. ACTION: All members to review the letter on our TWS Manitoba Chapter website.**
 - b. Surface Water Management legislation – **ACTION: Members advise CAC as to the status of any future surface water management legislation, and how /if we could respond.**
 - c. Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation/East Side Road Authority – Freedom Road Environmental Assessment has been submitted for public review. **ACTION: Members are encouraged to review and report back to CAC if there is an interest in providing a response by March 15th.**
 - d. MB – Minnesota Transmission Line. Public Hearing Scheduled for spring 2016. CAC provided a previous response to this project. **ACTION: Members are encouraged to review public hearing information and report back to CAC if there is an interest in providing a response.** 2 members recuse themselves from any involvement with this matter, but invite other CAC members to consider reviewing/participating.
 - e. Potential wildlife research projects for recommendation to Dr. Rick Baydack's wildlife class;
 - i. **Action: Each member suggests two project ideas by submit to chairs. Ideas to date: Analyze results of Elk collaring study in SE MB, identify current distribution of feral swine in MB, prevalence of trichinosis (in black bears in Manitoba, prevalence of brainworm (*P. tenuis*) in white-tailed deer in the City of Winnipeg.**
 - f. The status of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd including the updates from the bqmb. No action, tabled until more information becomes available after 2017 spring survey.

- g. Whitewater Lake drainage proposal. Currently being reviewed by Sustainable Development, waiting for more information from proponent. No updates posted on government website.
 - i. **ACTION: CAC members to continue following this proposal, and report back at next meeting.**

5. New items

- a. Discussion on wildlife feeding policy within the City of Winnipeg, as per recent communication between members. **ACTION: These three CAC members to review and develop a draft letter to the City of Winnipeg and or Sustainable Development for sharing with the group by March 15th, 2016.**
- b. Manitoba Hydro has release 1st round of public engagement material for a new transmission project near Birtle, Manitoba. **ACTION: Member to review this project and provide information to CAC regarding whether there is any value in engaging by March 15th.**
- c. Wapusk National Park – New park management plan to be released in March. **Action: Co-chair to circulate to CAC when it is released.**
- d. Status of Moose Conservation - General discussion on the lack of improvements in moose populations in Manitoba. Reports of further population collapses as identified by recent surveys. **ACTION: CAC may want to consider a 2nd letter to provincial government if evidence of improved management (and or development of a moose management plan) is not demonstrated in the coming months.**

6. Next meeting – Call of the chair. Likely early April 2017.