Motus Wildlife Tracking System Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

February 2017

1. Mandate:
   The Motus Advisory Committee, hereafter the committee, provides recommendations, advice and information principally to BSC, as the operating hub of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) network, but also to all key partners on the operation and development of Motus. The committee helps ensure that Motus:
   1.1. Supports leading-edge wildlife research and conservation objectives;
   1.2. Provides tools and services required by users, the research community, funders and public audiences;
   1.3. Has projects and partnerships in place to ensure broad and strategic geographic coverage (e.g., key corridors, bottlenecks, and stopover areas) that helps to support current and future research and conservation priorities;
   1.4. Remains a relevant tool in the field of wildlife tracking, research and conservation, in the face of complementary tracking systems and emerging technology;
   1.5. Retains access to professional and scientific expertise relevant to Motus, including tracking technology, conservation biology, and a range of ecology disciplines (movement, population, and behaviour);
   1.6. Administers an equitable fee structure to the benefit of all parties involved;
   1.7. Is guided by a comprehensive collaboration and data sharing policy that is transparent and open, while accommodating users’ privacy and professional requirements;
   1.8. Coordinates and implements projects of importance to research, awareness and conservation goals;
   1.9. Identifies appropriate funding opportunities in order to meet these objectives.

2. Committee Structure:
   2.1. Composition – The committee will initially comprise 12 members, but may draw on expertise from outside the committee at any time. The committee will consist of a Chair, and up to 11 at-large committee members. The committee will review membership annually. When vacancies exist, new members will be nominated by members of the committee, and if accepted by the committee, invited by the Chair to join.
   2.2. Organizational Representation – The committee will comprise representatives from major contributors, developers, and users of Motus, including:
      • Environment and Climate Change Canada
      • US Department of the Interior
      • Bird Studies Canada
2.3. **Geographic representation** – The committee should strive to include representatives from the various geographic regions involved in Motus, as well as from the different user-group sectors (government, non-government, and academia).

2.4. **Governance** – BSC will nominate a Chair for the first 2 years after which the committee will nominate a Chair. All members will be asked to serve for 2-year renewable terms.

3. **Procedures**

3.1. The Chair will organize and lead meetings. BSC staff will record minutes of the key highlights of meetings, including formal recommendations to be communicated to BSC, or other partners as appropriate.

3.2. An agenda for each meeting will be developed by the Chair, based on recommendations from the members and the Motus community.

3.3. The committee will reach conclusions regarding recommendations through consensus, to the extent possible. When consensus cannot be reached, it would be useful for the committee to put forward its recommendations in a way that reflects the divergence of opinions.

4. **Meetings**

4.1. Committee meetings will be called by the Chair.

4.2. Meetings will take place at least twice per year and may be conducted by conference call or webinar. When possible, the committee is encouraged to hold in-person meetings in conjunction with other meetings or conferences.

4.3. The committee will encourage and support informal meetings of the broader community whenever opportunities arise.