

MEMO: Briefing Note to Chair  
TO: Scott Cassleman, Chair, DRPC  
FROM: Jeff Hamm, Senior Planner  
DATE: November 13, 2012

Re: Items for discussion tomorrow

ITEM 1.

**Request for direction from Parties regarding timeline for production of Recommended Plan.**

Circumstances are considerably different now than they were when the Terms of reference were drafted for the Dawson Regional Planning Commission. Unexpected levels of staking activity occurred before the Commission had even begun its work and like many agencies of Yukon Government and TH, the Commission is struggling to catch up.

It is still anticipated that public review of a Draft Plan will occur in Oct/Nov, 2013. The Commission must then prepare and submit the Recommended Plan by December 2013. This leaves minimal opportunity to incorporate changes based on public, first nation and government feedback (in December). Commission's term and staff contracts end in December 2013.

Notwithstanding timeframes that are established in the Terms of Reference, the Workplan and Budget should be extended to at least the end of the fiscal year to facilitate production of a Recommended Plan by March 2014.

Item 2. Workplan Detail

**Request for clarification from YLUPC of level of detail required for project management of Regional Plan production.**

The DRPC Terms of Reference require submission of a Workplan and budget to Council, who then submit budgets for all regional land use planning in Yukon. The YG have indicated that a more precise Workplan is required to be submitted, however no indication has been given by YLUPC of a change in approach/format. Incorporating additional levels of detail into the annual budget approval process will require more emphasis on project management, at the expense of focus on production of the regional plan.

In previous years, the Workplan was described in broad terms with, at best, quarterly precision of timing for consultation events. Greater *implied* precision today around dates, methods or process steps isn't likely to improve the Commission's chances for achieving a December 2013 completion date.

Item 3.

**Request clarification of Broad Plan Principles reflecting the well-being of Yukoners from the SLC.**

It is desirable that SLC come together before December 2013 to clarify high-level principles to be promoted in the regional land use plan. Recent statements of principle regarding the Peel Watershed Region are not clearly intended to provide direction to the DRPC; at the same time neither do these statements appear to reflect the recommendations of the Peel Commission, or public opinion. If Commission's are expected to produce statements of principle, it requires clearer direction from the Parties early in the process.

It would be advisable that SLC be asked to provide clearer direction on how the "well-being" of Yukoners is to be determined from government policy & promoted in the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan. Ideally, such Principles would be consistent from region to region, and be recognized within the context of a common land use planning process. Former statements of planning principle, such as the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy, are no longer valid, although they formed the core of the Parks and Lands Certainty Act that still represents government conservation policy.

It should be noted that TH have provided a more succinct statement regarding the "well-being" of Yukon First Nations for a regional plan in the description of a cultural landscape and traditional economic model, contained in their Resource Report submission.

Item 4.

**Staffing**

It is expected that new staff will commence in January. Currently, resources needed for basic bookkeeping are being provided by YLUPC (low level of support required).

Tasks requiring support in 2013 will include bookkeeping, coordination of community engagement and document editing. These tasks will not be combined into a single position; rather a combination of staff/contract resources will be used.