

**Dawson Regional Planning Conference
Defining a Workable Balance Workshop
February 18 & 19 , 2012**

Defining a Workable Balance

- Find balance in plan
- Find social license – what it takes is communication both ways
- Democratic process
 - ‘Let’s vote on it Yukoners’
 - problem with a yes/no decision
 - process should allow change in trade-offs
- Social license important beyond regulatory permission
- hold further development so “trade-offs” are known, not changing as planning moves forward
- Issues focus when issues may change over time
- Cabinet and First Nation provide guidance on land use planning
- Take the time to build knowledge of resources/values
- Engagement is important – local view is important
- Identify common benefits + synergies
- take politics out; commission is independent
- Process used to find issues
 - How you make decisions
- Spend time on scenarios stage – explore, not fixed on one issue
- Decision making methods used are “upfront”
- How can plans change over time i.e. plan review
- transparency
- “beyond the boom” must consider long-term
- differences in planning when high level of LU pressures vs not -> “step outside the boom box”
- Need to reflect social values & themes
- Leads to reduction of conflict
- Need for long term plans / new issues identified
- Seen as “iterative decision-making”
- Iterative process requires time
- Develop vision for landscape and determine parameters (community focus)
- Need to consider balance of planning to involve larger community (territory wide)
- Regional planning to occur within policy framework
- Appreciate reference/use to land areas zoned for different uses with regard to sensitivities
- Framework for LUP discussions
- Favoured social license overview
- Is LUP adding another layer to overall regulatory process?
- Importance of transparent process
 - Balance and trade-off

- Measurable trade-offs, implementation + monitoring
- Social license – important – not just licenses and regulations
- Flexibility ie if minerals found in 20 years
- Balanced view
- Back to original principles – Agreement in Final Agreement
 - Sustainable development + sustainable environment
- Plan must incorporate mesh with other chapters of U.F.A.
- Flexibility in timing of development
 - During time frame of plan
 - Need to be adaptive in plan and with plan
 - Evaluation and review of plan
- Integration with other existing plans
- Need all stakeholders to input
- Mining is a necessity
- referendum
- consensus based approach
- Surveys
- Mapping interviews
- ensure the “right people” are involved (key stakeholders and technical experts)
- decision makers should focus on what’s best for the Dawson region vs Yukon as a whole
- Familiarize with Land Claim Agreement considerations
- Regard for existing land uses in the Dawson Planning Region
- Need guiding principles for trade-off analysis and decision making – associated methodology
- Existing precedence set by permitting regime
- Have your cake and eat it to if agreed upon
- Beware of the Win/Win (approach carefully)
- Look for harmonious land uses
- Recognizing uncertainty with climate change, economic plans
- Living within limits

Cumulative Effects Management

- Indicators to measure acceptable disturbance (species & physical / landscape)
- Focus on measureable thresholds
- Cumulative effects – visual on landscape
- Example of tools in use (North Yukon)
- Zoning allows multiple approaches – important
 - visual helps to show
 - policy decision but see where & how applied in zones
- spatial scope for tradeoffs
- Time of year, length of use and actual physical footprint
- Need to consider socio-economic factors e.g. different population level scenarios
- Have more quantifiable assessment than qualitative
- Cumulative effects and environmental + SE (after the boom)

- BMPs are inadequate management tool on their own
- LUP can recommend changes to existing regulatory regimes & policies (e.g. access rds. Not automatically becoming public roads)
- Justification of models/scenarios/tools and methods used in terms of value/interests
- Hard to quantify everything
- Numbers/measurements help improve clarity/certainty
- Little or lack of reference to Land Claims Agreement (ie UFA)
- Concept of thresholds – good
- Sustainable development -> workable balance / trade-offs
- Possible Thresholds and Goals
 - Economic |
 - Ecological | how to measure, which to choose to measure
 - Social |
 - Cultural |
- Subsistence lifestyle – surviving on land -> also economic system

Trade-offs

- trade-off decisions made by land-users – determine what a trade-off is
- Understanding trade-offs and processing measuring a trade-off (everything is a trade-off)
- Focus on interest – Getting to YES
- Terminology is important – “trade-off” ay have a negative connotation
- explicit/quantitative models
- Overlay of key values
- *Importance of fully informed Commission to enable good decision making
- trade-offs in process concentrate efforts on key issues vs exhaustive
- understand areas of overlapping land use /land use conflicts
- management mechanisms which address multiple issues
- Trade-off require history, culture lifestyle understanding
- Look at landscapes and cumulative effects
- Consider aspirations/values within Trade-Off positions
- Uniqueness of each case/positions prior to agreement
- Decisions important because it may be irrevocable
- Capture socio-economic environmental aspects of project
- Incorporate human values for human habitation needs
- Acceptance that trade-offs will be required (compromise and finding common interests)
 - Phased development
 - Seasonal

Key Messages

- Engagement with the Approval Bodies
- Use several indicators and planning tools during planning process that fit the Yukon landscape/context
- Collect foundational resource assessment info and issues and interests at the start of the planning process
- Allow for evolution and iterative development of a plan that is proactive
- Ask the right people for info/input, ask the right questions
- Be explicit and transparent about values, tools, and implications of decisions
- Clearly define spatial and temporal parameters for scenarios
- Accept that trade-offs will be required – find compromise and common interests
- Flexibility if new minerals found
- Need guidance but must be simple
- Measurable indicators needed
- Iterative decision making needed
- Recognize uncertainty about the future
- Live within limits
- Recognize when you are making irrevocable changes (think hard about the consequences)
- Transparent process
- Flexibility in time and space
- Incorporate thresholds
- Sustainability rather than trade-offs