

Dawson Region Draft Plan Public Engagement Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Event October 20, 2021 – TH Hall

On October 20, the Commission and staff were invited to attend a community event at TH Hall to engage directly with TH citizens. This was an opportunity for citizens to speak directly to the Commission to outline their thoughts, concerns and ideas surrounding the Draft Plan.

Conservation Areas

- SMA2 should have more protection because climate is changing and don't know what the future holds
- Increase SMA2 areas to SMA1s.
- Need to seek more permanent protected areas.
- Does have conservation areas but strongly recommend to speak out to stress out that more conservation areas should be turned into protected areas as they are sacred to TH, sacred to Elders and Heritage and Culture.
- Need to ensure we leave a good legacy for future generations, 3.8% isn't enough when dealing with declining salmon (need to protect Yukon River permanently) and Klondike River (permanently protected) and Fortymile caribou (protect) and Hart River. Ancestors have relied on for generations but not able to do that now because of the decline. Used to be in 500k but now 80k. Need citizens to use their voice.
- So many different people coming to set up placer mines, would be nice if family placer miners did it over Albertans and BC people. When we support placer mining, we need to support the people who live here year round. Newcomers steal. 60% of map is for industry. Just want more permanent protection for citizens where their ancestors lived and walked. How can we ensure food resources and values are here for future generations?
- Who is going to travel here to look at a wasteland? Most people travel up here to enjoy nature, the culture, clean water and environment that we have intact.
- SMA 2 - Dawson City to Alaskan Border, great chunk that's recommended to permanently taken away from staking. Truly believe vast amount of minerals, would Commission would take into consideration the value of resources that they're going to take off the map. How many km. sq. are we taking away from Category A land? How many Category A land are we losing?

Water

- Concerned about water sources and keeping clean, spring waters in North / up that way (Dempster?), need to really protect this from mining.

- Water is the world, it's everything. We have to try and protect it, no matter how you look at it, it's the first thing we should be thinking about.
- Best key you can have is water.
- Need to consider local food sources
- Can't drink the water at Moosehide. Have to think about all these things have been put forward.
- If they can pump water from Little 12 Mile, then something wrong. We fought for Peel River Watershed. Needs to be brought to Elders council and have more input.
 - What's going to happen to Clinton Creek? Hard rock, asbestos mine in Hard Rock. Everyone I know who worked there are all gone.

Collaboration

- Land claims took over 20 years.
- We have to think about everyone.
- We should meet with placer miners and talk to them.
- Everyone has to work together, doesn't matter who you are.
- Everyone is a land user. And even if you don't get out on the land, you rely or know someone who goes out.

Mining

- All we have is gravel and rock, not fair to people of Dawson.
- Not against mining, you see different things. What it is like when you see berries grow.
- Placer miners have to make a living too. Got to work together, no matter what.
- Lots of members in NWT and Old Crow and Alaska.
- When you take away access to minerals, government can't support itself on grant money forever. We have to protect everything, but includes minerals.
- Have always supported mining, but there is a lot more going on than there was, there's a lot more disturbance to the land, more equipment, not everybody is ensuring good reclamation and not everyone can do reclamation.
- More and more placer miners are reclaiming, and also know quartz mining is a different kind of mining. Also know many placer miners with big operations.
- Biggest disappointment is royalties, TH being deprived of an honest resource royalty. All TH citizens should be millionaires from gold extracted. Even TH placer miners aren't millionaires.
- Lots of applications coming in for Quartz mining. Takes a lot of effort and time to look at all of the values and respond to applications.
- If a claim is viable, no reason why a big company can't go in and extract the resources and do a bunch of reclamation. There are claims in these areas.

- How much does Commission use from past? Pretty tough to get mining. Have they looked at what has been previously done with KPMA and Salmon Sub Committee to get as clean as possible for? Have they spoken to lots of different groups? Have they looked at the past? Commission should know, years ago money talks. First Nation won't have much to say. When Tintina Trench when reversing water of Yukon River was talked about.
- Not opposed to mining, and respect for anyone who works to take care of their family. We're able to learn and do other things, and innovate and take skills we already hold and apply them in our territory. Could we see Bonanza Creek return to something like a proper valley, like to see the dredge tailings returned and made to look nice, why do we have to sit on damage.
- Great to see TH involved more in environmental monitoring and ensuring that things are done in a responsible way. Business opportunities that attached to our land use, not just ch. 11 but also ch. 22. Want it to stay a good area for everyone, and youth. There is balance possible.

Mother Earth

- Need to look after mother earth.
- Want to make sure that everything works well for young people. All have to work together.
- When you take something from the earth, you always have to put something back and say thank you. e.g. thank you for this animal for feeding us.
- Used to have a fishery. We have little cultural connection to the land.

Plan Implementation and Amendment

- We should be very careful what we sign away. We should review every 5 years and look at some of the conditions or terms that are agreed upon.
- Need flexibility. Cannot predict what children's values will be. Who will take this plan on and look after it? Who will implement it?
- Current legislation doesn't support a sound plan. There will be barriers when it comes to implementation. Want to protect water and riparian areas, but if laws don't change, then we can't do that despite what a plan says. Can't be implemented or enforced. In reality how doable is this plan. Gotta find balance. Plans aren't drafted in stone. If unemployment rates go up and need to stimulate, can amend the plan, can open up, can close areas. Not the last kick at the can.
- Have to leave room for change. We have to have something like this, need rules and guidelines.
- This is a pretty good place to live and people down south are going to see that. We could have a big influx of people, if we don't have guidelines and rules. Thinks plan is well drafted up. It's a place to start

- People are building houses on trapline and government regulations stated that you can't shoot within 1 mile of their dwelling. Forest fires. Climate change is really important.

Economy

- Our way of life costs money, which is hard to make.
- When you sign away money and access, you take it away from our future generations.
- Who's going to pay for government in future?
- Money is in trust, but doesn't go to citizens.
- Need to make sure what happens today is sustainable. Gotta find balance.

Protecting Resources

- One of the things we have to consider the importance of our resources, our land, water, animals, air we breathe, but we have to worry about future generations.
- We have to protect our base of minerals, water, air, people. Our **livelihood** has to be protected.
- Need to protect land from development, a lot of it is focused on making money and we are obsessed with making money. Land provides food and water and much more for everyone, not just first nations. Can't physically eat or drink money, and that's why it's important to protect the land
- Would like to see protection in different areas. There are people who mine with protection in mind. Would like to see flexibility of the Plan,
- Mining is not sustainable.

Our Environment

- Fish and berries taste different, lots of pollution has come here from around the world. Pollution attracted to snow.
- What are we going to protect, and how can we mitigate all this factors? Will take a lot of work and thinking.

Hunting

- Live on Dempster. Counted 50 skidoos going up the Dempster during hunting season, and flying up and down mountains, destroying vegetation. Once destroyed, takes years and years to grow back. Equivalent to 20 pounds of pollution.
- Put some control on hunting, have to hunt but do we need 50 skidoos? People are abusing hunting or just going up there for sport hunting and not using all parts of the animal. Need to stop overhunting and over harvesting.
- Citizens no longer feel comfortable hunting in many areas because being displaced.

Rights and Titles

- Lot of merits around land use planning, and comes from Final Agreements and one avenue that rights, titles and interests are taken into consideration in TT.
- There are certain objectives that need to be met as outlined in Ch. 11.
- Can't accommodate those that have the most money or influence. If we don't meet objectives, don't have a plan that is reflective of constitutional obligations and not be influenced by external factors or organizations with more money.

Precautionary Approach

- Land use planning is also not set in stone. Need to take a precautionary approach, if don't take into consideration rights titles and interest and put all eggs in resource extraction, with the absence of sound legislation that take into consideration ecology, heritage etc. worried about what economy we have in the future that will sustain the community and individuals.

Traditional Knowledge

- Have to emphasize traditional knowledge - have to incorporate this into plan to protect the land. We speak differently than western society.
- Need to keep clean water air. TK time immemorial, ancestors kept land clean for us, and now we are destroying the land.
- We have to emphasize traditional knowledge vs. western science / knowledge with data and technical. We have to say things a different way. What we say is just as important.

Subregional Planning

- Understand Klondike Valley and Yukon River were recommended for sub-regional planning, given importance, probably most valuable resources.
- If these two areas are excluded and contemplated about sub-regional - what recommendations are Commission making to implement interim measures?
- If there are no interim measures, by time you get to Planning, everything could be destroyed and makes sub-regional process meaningless.