



Dawson Regional Planning Commission

On The Land We Walk Together • Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl

Oct 26, 2021

Dawson Regional Planning Commission Commission Meeting #12 Minutes Dawson City and Videoconference

Acronyms: TWG – Technical Working Group
SLC – Senior Liaison Committee
YG – Yukon Government
EMR – Energy, Mines and Resources
ENV – Environment & Parks

First Nations: FNNND – First Nation of Na- Cho Nyäk Dun
TH – Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
VGFN – Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

Planning: DRPC – Dawson Regional Planning Commission
CLUPP – Common Land Use Planning Process
THFA - TR'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement

Action Items: Status indicated is as of next meeting date

Meeting called to order at 9:05

Agenda Item 1: Review Agenda (Tab 1)	Action Items
Comments	
<p><u>Opening Prayer</u></p> <p>Opening Prayer by John Glynn-Morris</p> <p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p><u>Agenda Review</u></p> <p>Motion #1: To accept Commission Meeting #12 agenda as presented</p>	

Moved: Jesse Cooke	2nd Debbie Nagano	Passed by consensus	
Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Delegations (Tab 2)			Action Items
Comments			
<p><u>Minutes Commission Meeting #11 (JULY 30, 2021 2021)</u></p> <p>Motion #2: To approve the Minutes of Commission Meeting #11 July 30, 2021 with no amendments. (One typo identified: fix spelling of Alice McCulley's name)</p> <p>Moved: Jesse Cooke</p> <p>2nd Dan Reynolds</p> <p>Passed by consensus</p>			
Agenda Item 3: Delegations			Action Items
Comments			
Agenda Item 4: Report from the Chair and Senior Planner (Tab 3)			Action Items
Comments			
<p><u>Senior Planner's Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission and Staff have had a very busy few months which has included meetings with the Parties, Stakeholders, and the Public, which has included a lot of travel. • The goal has been to get as much feedback on the Draft Plan as possible. 			

Motion #5: To approve flexibility in the agenda to consider time constraints

Moved: Debbie Nagano

2nd Alice McCulley

Passed by Consensus

General Update Commission Staff

SUMMER ENGAGEMENT

- The Draft Plan was launched on June 15.
- The Commission and staff have undertaken a significant amount of work to communicate the Draft Plan and obtain feedback from a broad range of stakeholders and perspectives.
- Over 20 meetings were held during the summer period with Plan Partners and key stakeholder groups.
- The summer also saw 5 public workshops, 3 held in person on Front Street in the Artists' Market and 2 online via Zoom. These were focused around 3 topics:

Online

Wetlands
Conservation Zones (SMA 2 areas)

In Person

Wetlands
Conservation Zones (SMA 2 areas)
Future Planning Areas

FALL ENGAGEMENT

September 3: KPMA AGM
September 14: Elder's Council
September 17: Minister Clarke, ENV
September 28-29: Cumulative Effects Workshop (Whitehorse)
October 12-13: Dawson Community Conversations
October 14: Mayo Community Conversations
October 15: NND Chief, Council, and staff meeting
October 19: Whitehorse Community Conversations
October 20: Land of Plenty TH event
October 22: VGFN Chief & Council (Zoom)
October 25: Public Engagement event
October 26: Commission Meeting #12 Public Session
October 27: Wetlands Workshop

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission thanked the staff and public, and Parties for all their hard work in creating the Draft Plan and their continuing work. • Commission was happy with the great conversations at the engagements during the planning process. • The Chair mentioned it was great to hear the perspective from the other communities, as they have different concerns than the Dawson region, and that they are eager to start their planning but are not sure if they are prepared to start the planning process. • Notes and summaries are being posted on the website as they becomes available 	
Agenda Item 6: Presentation- (Tab 6) Screenings in the Dawson Region- YESAB	
Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YESAB presented an update on the projects they have /or are assessing. • The assessment process can take up to a year with YESAB. • The Commission wants to assurance YESAB is fully reviewing the projects and conducting the proper research. • Another concern was that the same process is used for all projects to maintain objectivity. • YESAB seeks information on the Draft Plan, the Draft Plan was reviewed very carefully with a valued based assessment. • YESAB looked at the recommendations of the Draft Plan to make sure they are similar to YESAB values. • YESAB stole a few graphics from the Draft Plan maps as they were quite helpful. • The Draft Plan had a lot of utility. • Cumulative Effects of the Draft Plan are one the major concerns for YESAB, especially on access roads. • The Senior Land Use Planner mentioned the DRPC will be doing a workshop with YESAB to ensure the Recommended Plan will provide utility for future YESAB processes. 	
Agenda Item 8: Presentation- (Tab 6) Conservation, Priorities and Recommendations- CPAWS	
Comments:	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CPAWS presented on Caribou Management and industry guidelines, and the effects of mining disturbances on the habitat</u></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission is inquiring on how effective Co Management is and how it works. • CPAWS indicated that some people feel that decisions and feelings are not heard enough in Co Management; designating more areas as indigenous may alleviate some of the issues, sometimes Co Managements can feel less welcoming. • Inquiry on what is happening on the other side of the Canadian/Alaskan border with respect to Caribou Management, CPAWS indicated they have had direct experience with the issues, and they use a different approach than Canada, as a result Canada support the Caribou as best they can. • Fortymile Caribou herd does have international management; Alaska focuses more on harvest than Canada. The Plan cannot focus on what happens in Alaska, it can only provide the best possible conditions in Canada. Try to provide the conditions for the best growth of the herd to include in the Dawson Plan. 	
Agenda Item 9: Presentation- (Tab 6) Cumulative Effects Research and Climate Change Adaptation	
Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon feels the effects the Climate change 2- 3 times higher than the rest of Canada. • Paved and unpaved roads have a different effect on the surface disturbance/ sediment due to water runoff. • Cumulative Effective based thresholds should be based traditional knowledge. 	
Agenda Item 10: Presentation- (Tab 6) ATAC Resources- Connaught Property Impacts	
Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATAC is a publicly traded exploration company. • A large area of land is needed to explore the land but only a small amount of area is needed to mine (Hard Rock Mine). • ATAC would like to know what areas they can work in, not what they can't work in, the water is murky with the clarity at the current time. • LMU23, language around caribou and the definition of an ISA, needs to be clarified to anticipate where to work. • LMU23 maybe consider if it can be split or merged with other zones. 	

Agenda Item 11: Presentation- (Tab 6) Climate Change Northern First Nations Youth- TH	
Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change should be at the forefront of the plan. • It is linked to Chapter 11 (sustainable development) • The plan should assist residents to cope with climate change • . • • Promote First Nation ways of being • The regional plan needs to conserve nature as the environment is our ally. For example, it stores carbon in peatlands. • Climate change contributes to cumulative effects (e.g. slumping, wildfires, transportation, communications) – monitoring is needed. • More self-sufficiency is needed because of risks to transportation. Need to be able to harvest and need farming land (e.g. Sunnydale) • We wish for a shared and respectful future. <p>The regional plan needs to be adaptive over time.</p>	
Agenda Item 11: Presentation- Tab 6) Heritage Values –Yukon	
Comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dawson Regional Planning area is a critical space of archeology, the ice age and Beringia landscape acted as a funnel for plant and animals. • Paleontology’s most important areas are located in the Dawson region. • There have been very important fossil discoveries in the Dawson Planning area. • Currently no specific paleontology guidelines exist with Yukon. However, heritage resources are part of YESAB reviews. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dawson Region is also a vast archeological site, and has maintained a unique history with over 500 known sites. • The Historical sites are subject to decline without proper care. • Historic resources, archeological resources and paleontological are the 3 main Yukon Heritage Resource categories, but are all managed differently. • The Dawson regional planning area is also rich with historic place names. • Heritage routes are also on the Dawson planning area, but are very difficult to locate, manage and protect, therefore they should be an important factor in the land use plan. • The Heritage in Dawson is unique in the world and is significant on a global scale. • There is protection for known heritage resources, it falls short for heritage sites that have not been discovered yet. • Yukon does not have a comprehensive data set for the Yukon region, some areas have no heritage resource data, which makes land use planning difficult. <p>A question was asked about whether the dredge tailings are protected heritage values and how we could go about changing that. The answer was that the first step would be to get perspectives on these as a heritage value before undertaking any review.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 12: Presentation - (Tab 6) Steven Montgomery- Placer Mining , Lonesome Dove Drilling, Upper Indian River</p>	
<p>Comments:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMU19 is the main location of Lonesome Dove Drilling. • Annual Value of Placer Mining in the Yukon is \$90 million. Total of \$650 million to date. • 50% of Yukon’s placer mining reserves are in the Indian River watershed. • Currently has 25 staff with plans to hire 25 more. • There is a multiplier effect of mining. Up to 5 times as many jobs result from each direct job at the mine. • Want to mine in a responsible way and respect everybody’s heritage. • What would the impact be of the Draft Plan, if stays the same? The mine will be limited and will pretty much have to wrap the mine up in 5 years. They are unsure if they can continue or how the restriction will affect the operations. • It would be pretty difficult to scale down the operation and still be viable in 5 years. • Restriction to the wetlands would essentially shut down all mining. 25-30% of the valley bottom is required. 30% of bench 	

<p>claims are required. This is 200-300 acres/year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The company will make sure reclamation gets done as they go. • Commission thanks the presenter for the information. 	
<p>Agenda Item 13: Draft Plan- What We Are Hearing</p>	<p>Action Items</p>
<p>Comments</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Placer Mining industry is concerned about how the threshold will work, and the impact the Draft Plan’s recommendations for development in Wetlands. • There is concern about how realistic the Draft Plan is when it comes to wetlands and industry coexisting, and the Wetlands are culturally important and significant to TH and a significant part of their identity. • A lot of support for the Land Stewardship Trust and lots of ideas were proposed for how this could work and who would be involved. • There is concern around climate change and its effects on animals (their habitats and activity) and landscapes in the region. • The ability to harvest and sustain traditional activities was consistently highlighted • Concern over how the Draft Plan will be implemented with concern on how the conformity checks for the Draft Plan will be completed. • Future Planning Areas, particularly the Yukon River and Klondike Valley, and when sub-regional plans will be completed and who have consistently been raised as the Draft Plan is unclear about timelines and responsibilities. • Many have acknowledged the opportunities the Draft Plan and subsequent Recommended Plan could offer, e.g. multiple land uses and partnerships (placer & agriculture, forestry & agriculture, tourism & placer etc.). The current legislation does not permit this but future synergies could be realised through an effective Regional Plan. • <u>Aug 4/ 5, 2021 workshops:</u> • Public, online and in person, workshop were well attended. • Future Planning Areas Workshop: • Klondike Valley: Diversification, clear expectations and time frame, plans need to happen quickly. • The Area has various activities including residential, farming, placer, transportation, recreation, water is a very important, habitat, in the Klondike valley. • Conservation, lakes, links to municipal planning 	<p>Action:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dempster Corridor: has traffic issues on highways and access via adjacent roads and along the corridor. Invasive species. Cultural values are also identified as important along the corridor. • Yukon River: Cultural Values, Mineral development, access concerns, climate change, size of corridors , Salmon, tourism, transportation are more of the key components. • Conservation zones workshop: better define SMAs and SMA2s, productivity, LMU 12 and 19 possible changes, 18 and 23 also came up as topics for conservation values, assess values in SMA2s , exploration development, complexity of the plan. • Wetlands Workshop: Need more discussion on wetlands to discuss the challenges and opportunities, and conservation values. • Cultural values of wetlands and the function of wetlands. <p>Technical CE workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well attended (in person only): Linked values and their management objectives to cumulative effects (e.g. maintain healthy population of moose) , setting goals and administering the framework. Water quality was a key topic. Discussed the roles of industry and assessors and regulators. The need to incorporate traditional knowledge. Discussed the pros and cons of the Draft Plan indicators (surface disturbance and linear density). • Wetlands Technical workshop tomorrow 9 am -5 pm (in person only) 	
<p>Agenda Item 15: Questions from the Public</p>	<p>Action Items</p>
<p>Comments</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How will the Commission ensure the intent of the final agreement in terms of indigenous rights and stewardship? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Look through all submissions to see where they can improve, and using the expertise and Tradition Knowledge to work through it. <p>Be mindful of incorporating the Chapter together with other chapters. It is a work in progress.</p> 2) Does the Commission believe 3.8% permanent protection is enough? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Still collecting input so the commission does not have an answer for as of yet. 3) All scenarios should consider the short and long term implications of mining, if a responsible placer mining permit expires and not making a CE threshold? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) The Commission does not feel there is a clear definition of the implication and the Commission does not have the tools to address this. 	

4) Are the Commission members and staff satisfied with the level of public engagement is has made? Some have not been engaged. Will the Commission commit to engaging youth and will there be further engagement?

A) The Commission’s goals was to have a long period to connect with as any people as possible, the commission is hoping to reach the bulk of people but may not have reached any everyone.

The staff feels they have done a great job and worked really hard with the engagements and have encouraged people to come forth with their input. The staff have worked with TH and an Elder Council to get feedback.

Also will be engaging with students in Robert Service school on Friday and Youth Council on November 29.

Senior Planner for YLUPC mentioned that the Dawson process has engaged more people than other planning processes.

The Senior Land Use planner indicated that if there was a sector they have not heard from, an attempt was made to reach out to them.

When the staff meet with people they are actually listening, (it’s not just a check box).

The Commission cannot respond if there will be future engagement until a later date.

The Chair mentioned they have the information and they are trying to compile and evaluate the information received. There are also a lot of unanswered questions and just trying figure out where to go once all data is compiled.

5) Will the public be able to consult on the recommended plan?

A) The Parties will be engaging on the Recommended Plan, as per Chapter 11.? froze

All the information will be compiled and broken down with consultation with TWG, and the Commission

6) How will the Commission digest everyone’s 25+ page submissions & carefully consider the info provided without missing important references?

A) Staff will log and catalogue every response received and record in a spreadsheet. Data is assembled and staff will then undertake thematic and cohort analysis of qualitative input according to various lenses. Then, using a Structured Assessment Framework, staff will review, develop options papers and recommendations papers and then the Commission will use these tools to make decisions for the Recommended Plan.

7) Climate change consideration seems like an afterthought within the Draft Plan. How will the Commission ensure Climate Change is properly addressed?

A) The Commission is deeply committed to developing a Recommended Plan that is mindful of Climate Change and the effects it will bring to the Dawson Region. Climate change is a factor that will affect almost every, if not all, values in the Region and there are

<p>many things to consider. The Commission anticipates many of the comments and feedback received will address Climate Change, and this will help to inform decision making.</p> <p>8) Will the commission be nominating any wetlands of special importance?</p> <p>A) The draft plan does comment on wetlands of special importance.</p> <p>9) How will the Commission ensure that climate change is properly addressed?</p> <p>A) The Commission carries the responsibility quite seriously, and try to put all the interests in the plan, and are hoping that they don't miss anything. This is the People's Plan. The Draft Plan will be carried as a bible and will affect our children and grandchildren, for 7 generations. Hopefully the grandchildren will be catching Salmon, if the Dawson Land Use Plan is done right.</p> <p>The commission does not want a government plan, the plan is very important to the Commission. They want they plan to connect the young people with the old people.</p> <p>10) What is the single biggest question that you as an individual are grappling with?</p> <p>A) The struggle with making everybody happy, where do you find the common ground without pushing people in the corners.</p> <p>There are so many Chapters in the Land Claim Agreements that it's hard to be accountable, and not get overwhelmed with the task. Need to make sure we did not miss anything from the agreements.</p> <p>The Commission has to figure out how to what is just and right, as well as what will be accepted.</p> <p>Maintaining openness and commitment.</p> <p>The Commission take the process seriously and how it impacts the future.</p> <p>Knowing all the interests in the region, and how to incorporate all the interests</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 16: Next Commission Meeting</p>	<p>Action Items</p>
<p>Comments</p>	
<p>Next Meeting: Staff is proposing early December, to be finalized at the working session later in the week.</p>	

Approval at Regular Board Meeting #13 – 2021-22

By Motion #2 at Regular Board Meeting #13 – 2021-22



Dec 3 2021

Chair

DRPC Secretariat

Date