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## SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Dawson Regional Planning Commission

**FROM:** Tim Van Hinte

**SUBJECT:** Report for February 13, 2020 to July 17, 2020

**DATE:** July 17, 2020

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The following is a summary of key activities completed by staff between February 2020 – July 2020.

### 1. Finance and Administration

**Commission Working Sessions:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, the Commission was unable to host regular public meetings this spring. However, the Commission and staff organized five shorter working sessions between February and May 2020 to discuss key items and to explore a wide range of options for the planning process to continue in an open and transparent manner. Due to the uncertainty associated with the pandemic, the Commission and staff continue to explore a wide range of options but will be hosting a Commission Meeting accessible to the public in the summer. The Commission will meet in-person, with limited public seating available based on COVID-19 restrictions, and will be broadcast for the public through a Zoom webinar.

**Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements 2019-2020:** Staff prepared the Commission's Annual Report for 2019-2020 for review and consideration at its summer meeting. In addition, Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) staff worked with Crowe Mackay LLP to prepare the Commission's audited financial statements.

**Final Recommended Work Plan and Budget 2020-2021:** After incorporating some minor revisions, the Commission's work plan and budget for 2020-2021 was reviewed and accepted by the Yukon Government and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Subsequently, the financial agreement was finalized in May and signed in June by the Commission, the Yukon Land Use Planning Council and the Yukon Government.

### 2. Public Engagement and Communications

**In Your Words Summary Report –** Staff have finalized the draft "In Your Words Summary Report on Public Engagement" for the Commission, to be presented at its summer meeting. Following preparation of the preliminary draft report, staff identified some gaps in public input and further reached out to youth and tourism industry groups. The session with TH citizens planned for the Commission's February meeting was postponed due to the unfortunate passing of an elder in the community. However, staff worked with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Land Stewardship Framework Program to engage

with citizens via online surveys and phone interviews. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in lead this initiative with support from Commission staff and information has been incorporated into the report.

**Public Updates and Communication:** As a result of COVID-19, staff have been communicating more frequently with the public and planning partners this spring through email, Facebook and the Commission's website. In addition, a public newspaper update was prepared for the Klondike Sun and appeared in its June 24<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Meetings with Plan Partners –** Staff attended the following key meetings:

- **Ducks Unlimited Canada –** Staff met with Ducks Unlimited Canada via video conference on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The group presented Phase 1 of their wetland mapping project for the Dawson region to Commission staff.
- **Cumulative Effects Working Group –** Staff attended working group meetings were held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>. The group is working towards providing the Commission with a few examples of how modelling tools can be used to address cumulative effects management.

### 3. Planning Products:

**Resource Assessment Report (RAR) –** This report was completed on June 17<sup>th</sup> and is available on the Commission's website. This edition of the RAR has been updated from the original 2013 version with the assistance of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council and technical staff from Yukon Government and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The report has also been updated based on feedback received from the public and planning partners in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020. A special thanks goes out to Nicole Percival (Yukon Land Use Planning Council) whose work on this report was excellent.

**Issues and Interests Report –** Staff has updated this draft report based on feedback received from the Commission, the public and planning partners in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020. The final report will be considered at the Commission's summer meeting.

**Cumulative Disturbance Report –** Staff are working on updating sections of report based on meetings with technical staff from Yukon Government, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Cumulative Effects Working Group. This work is ongoing.

**Draft Plan Goals and Objectives –** The Commission and staff have prepared a draft list of goals and objectives for the land use plan. Staff has circulated the draft goals and objectives to the Yukon Government and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and have received some feedback. Staff will be summarizing and clarifying the comments for the Commission for consideration at its next meeting.

### 4. Other Activities

**TWG Meetings –** The Technical Working Group (TWG) met on February 18<sup>th</sup> in Dawson and via video conference on March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>

**SLC Meetings –** Staff attended the Senior Liaison Committee (SLC) meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> (via video conference).