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## SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Dawson Regional Planning Commission

**FROM:** Tim Van Hinte

**SUBJECT:** Report for September 25, 2020 to November 20, 2020

**DATE:** November 20, 2020

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The following is a summary of key activities completed by staff between September 2020 – November 2020.

### 1. Finance and Administration

**Interim Report 2020-2021:** Staff submitted the Interim Report to the Yukon Government (YG), Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) and Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) following its October meeting. This report is required under the terms of the financial agreement with the YG.

**Preliminary Draft Work Plan and Budget 2021-2022:** The Commission is required to submit a preliminary draft work plan and budget for 2021-2022 to YG, TH and YLUPC by December 15, 2020. Commission staff prepared the draft work plan and budget in November 2020 and will present it to the Commission for consideration at its meeting on December 1, 2020 for review. Key deliverables in the work plan for 2021-2022 include:

- Draft Plan public engagement process (April – June 2021);
- Submission of report on public engagement process (August 2021); and
- Submission of Recommended Plan (December 2021).

### 2. Public Engagement and Communications

**Public Updates and Communication:** Staff have been communicating with the public and planning partners through email, Facebook and the Commission's website. The most recent public update was posted and sent by email on October 16, 2020. The next public update is anticipated following the December Commission meeting.

**Yukon Geoscience Forum Presentation** – Staff prepared a presentation for this year's virtual Geoscience Forum. The presentation was pre-recorded and will be aired on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Land Use Planner and YLUPC Director will be available to answer questions as part of the presentation.

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

- Staff met with TH Land Stewardship Framework staff (October 5) to share progress updates and exchange ideas on Draft Plan development.

- Staff met with staff from the Yukon Chamber of Mines and Klondike Placer Miners' Association staff (October 22) to provide a progress update and answer questions.
- **Cumulative Effects Working Group** – Staff attended the working group meetings on October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>. The group includes staff from YG, TH, YLUPC and the Commission and its work focuses on developing tools to assist the Commission in making recommendations in the plan related to cumulative effects management.

### 3. Planning Products:

**Cumulative Disturbance Report** - This draft report was prepared by YLUPC staff and explores cumulative disturbance of human activities and describes potential effects of future land use in the planning region on select values. Staff continue to work with technical staff from YG and TH to update this report. This work is ongoing and is focused on:

- Updating future land use scenarios for placer, quartz, forestry and oil/gas sectors; and
- Adding a qualitative discussion on cumulative effects from surface disturbance and linear development to key values.

**Draft Plan Development** – The Commission and staff continue to draft management directions for the planning region. This step requires analysis of available information, including areas identified as having significant economic, ecological and/or cultural value within the planning region. This work includes:

- Spatial overlay analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS);
- Landscape simulation and scenario modelling;
- Engagement with technical experts; and
- Guidance from the Commission.

At their working session on October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Commission received preliminary information on conservation priorities from the Canadian Wildlife Service, TH and YG. This information will be used, together with economic and cultural information, to develop land use options and strategies in the Draft Plan. The Commission and staff are continuing with this work in the fall and winter. Public release of the Draft Plan is anticipated in the spring of 2021 followed by a comprehensive public engagement process.

#### Other Activities

**TWG Meetings** – The Technical Working Group (TWG) met on October 8<sup>th</sup> (TH Community Hall) and October 30<sup>th</sup> (video conference). The latter meeting focused on a collaborative discussion with technical experts from YG and TH related to management options and strategies for caribou populations in the planning region.

**SLC Meetings** – The Senior Land Use Planner and a Commission member attended the Senior Liaison Committee (SLC) meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> (via video conference).