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## SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Dawson Regional Planning Commission

**FROM:** Tim Van Hinte

**SUBJECT:** Report for November 21, 2020 to January 18, 2021

**DATE:** January 18, 2021

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The following is a summary of key activities completed by staff between November 2020 and January 2021

### 1. Finance and Administration

**Final Recommended Work Plan and Budget 2021-2022:** The Commission is required to submit a final recommended work plan and budget for 2021-2022 to YG, TH and YLUPC in February 2021. In January, staff revised the draft work plan to reflect changing circumstances related to delays in scheduling the December Commission meetings. The meetings were rescheduled to mid-December as a result of increased COVID-19 cases in the Yukon reported at the beginning of December. The work plan has been updated to reflect these circumstances by revising the target date for Draft Plan submission from March 2021 to April 2021. The Draft Plan public engagement process would therefore begin in May 2021.

### 2. Public Engagement and Communications

**Public Updates and Communication:** Staff continue to communicate 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 December 23, 2020. The update shared a graphic outlining the Dawson regional planning process as well as clarification on transparency in the planning process.

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

- **Cumulative Effects Working Group –** Staff attended the working group meetings on November 23, 2020. 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. Draft Plan Development:

The Commission and staff continue to build the Draft Plan in anticipation of a spring 2021 submission to TH and YG (the Parties) and the public. The Commission received final conservation priorities information from the Parties at their December 2020 meeting.

The Parties have asked that their conservation assessment work remain confidential until release of the Draft Plan. This information will be used, together with economic and cultural information, to develop land use options and strategies in the Draft Plan.

The Commission has chosen to assist the Parties in their discussions on potential interim land withdrawals by providing them the first part of the Draft Plan, consisting of the draft land use designation system and conservation areas for consideration in the planning region, in early 2021. Following this initial partial submission, the full Draft Plan submission with all remaining draft recommendations will be delivered to the Parties and the public in spring 2021, at which point the Commission will conduct a comprehensive public engagement period.

#### **4. Other Activities**

**TWG Meetings** – The Technical Working Group (TWG) met on December 4<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup>, January 14<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>. Key topics discussed included options and strategies for moose populations in the planning region, the draft land use designation system and conservation priorities information.

**SLC Meetings** – The Senior Land Use Planner and Land Use Planner attended the Senior Liaison Committee (SLC) meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> (via video conference).