
DAWSON SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

TO: Dawson Regional Planning Commission
FROM: Tim Sellars, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Report for October 2021
DATE: October 18, 2021

The following is a summary of key activities completed by staff from August to October, 2021.

1. Draft Plan Engagement

In early August, we hosted public workshops online and in Dawson on the topics of wetlands, conservation zones, and future planning regions. These sessions were well attended, with about 25 people attending the various sessions. The notes from these sessions have been posted to the engagedawson.planyukon.ca website. Some valuable insights and ideas were put forward during these meetings.

In early September, we were invited to present the Draft Plan at the KPMA Annual General Meeting. This was followed by an open session for KPMA members and public to ask questions.

On September 17, DRPC Chair Debbie Nagano and Land Use Planner Charlotte Luscombe met with Minister Nils Clarke, Government of Yukon Minister of Environment, for introductions and to discuss Land Use Planning in Dawson.

Throughout October, we have had several public engagement sessions, including October 12-13 in Dawson, October 14 in Mayo, and October 19 in Whitehorse. On October 15, we met with Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation and on October 22 we will be meeting VGFN Chief and Council via Zoom. The Commission has also been invited out to Land of Plenty (Settlement Land R22) on 20 October to hear from TH Citizens and participate in storytelling conversations.

The public sessions in Dawson October 12-13 were felt to be successful and productive by staff and commission members. Conversations were broad and attracted a spectrum from across Dawson's diverse community. There was also significant TH Elder presence and their input was greatly valued by all. At this event we were also able to showcase some of the new Cumulative Disturbance images produced for us that help to illustrate what each ISA could look like based on the proposed thresholds. This combined with the threshold data helped attendees to better understand how the Draft Plan will work in practice.

We continue to meet with various stakeholders. In October, these have included DDRRC, KATTS, Friends of Dempster and others.

We have promoted these engagement events through posters, social media, emails to stakeholder groups, direct mail, and via our website.

Engagement on the Draft Plan will continue until **November 1, 2021**.

In addition to feedback from the public and stakeholders, we are also anticipating feedback from both Parties.

2. Technical Workshops

On September 28-29, we held a cumulative effects technical workshop in Whitehorse. This was also well attended and resulted in discussions that will help us with our cumulative effects framework and other potential improvements towards a recommended plan. We are currently compiling the information from this workshop and will be posting this to the website too.

On October 27, we will be hosting a Wetlands Technical Workshop at TH Hall in Dawson. The purpose of the workshop will be to have more in depth conversations about wetlands, with a focus on the wetlands concepts in the Draft Plan.

3. Plan Survey

We have developed and launched the Draft Plan Survey for public and stakeholders. It is now available online and in hard copy. We also developed a pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation of the Draft Plan which is now available on the website, linked to the survey.

4. TWG and SLC

We hosted several TWG meetings, with discussions focussed on preparing for technical workshops and citizen engagement. We also attended several SLC meetings, hosted by YG and TH. We provided updates on our engagement.

5. Finance and Administrations

The 2020-21 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements were submitted to Government of Yukon.

The 2021-22 Interim Report has been approved by the Commission by a combination of online meetings and email. We are now seeking formal approval of the Interim Report at the October Commission Meeting.

6. Decision Support Framework

We have contracted Vector Research to develop a framework to support the gathering, assessment and decisions from the variety of input that we are receiving on the Draft Plan. Vector will also provide advice and support in the application of this framework, with the actual work being undertaken by commission staff. We anticipate the draft framework to be developed in November.

7. Upcoming Activities

Once the public engagement period has ended, we will start the next major phase of the planning process, moving from Draft Plan to Recommended Plan.

As a first step, we will be working very hard to synthesize the information received and provide the Commission with a “what we heard” document. The data synthesis will also require a big effort to compile the responses into a database