
DAWSON SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

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

The following is an update on activities undertaken since the last meeting October 26-28 as well as upcoming activities planned.

1. Draft Plan Engagement

The engagement on the Draft Plan ended on **November 1, 2021**.

Our public engagement included:

- Meetings with over 30 stakeholders/plan partners
- Public meetings in Dawson City, Whitehorse and Mayo
- 7 workshops with public and plan partners
- Meetings with TH citizens, TH elders, and Dawson youth
- Plan Summary and Highlights documents
- Hosted an Engagement Website
- Online and paper survey

We are pleased to report that we had an overwhelming response. We received over 250 letters and emails and received 100+ survey responses.

We also received fulsome feedback from the Parties. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Government both provided narrative and technical levels of feedback. We are looking forward to the Parties presenting their feedback in person. Feedback received from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in also includes a set of citizen feedback.

We have made some progress with youth engagement since our last meeting. Robert Service School on October 29 and TH Youth Council on November 29. We have developed a youth survey customized for these age groups.

We are hoping to receive feedback from the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Mayo RRC, and the Vuntut Gwitchin Government by the time of this Commission Meeting.

We have provided you with binders with all of the Draft Plan feedback and have posted most of the information to our website so that the public can also view it. We have also posted workshop and public meeting notes to the website.

2. Review of Feedback

We are working very hard to synthesize the information received. The data synthesis will require a big effort.

We have purchased a special software to assist with data compilation (AtlasTI). This will allow us to tag the various topics and see what kind of patterns exist.

The Terms of Reference requires us to develop a “what we heard” document. This document will be developed once we have compiled and processed the full spectrum of feedback.

A lot of the feedback acknowledges the hard work and congratulates the Commission for completing the Draft Plan. There are also a lot of comments stating that the Draft Plan is on the right track.

As anticipated, we received a lot of feedback on the key issues we identified, including:

- Wetlands,
- Special Management Areas, and
- Cumulative Effects.

We also received many comments related to:

- Climate Change,
- Plan implementation and adaptation,
- Final Agreement linkages, and
- Culture and heritage.

3. Decision Making Approach

There are going to be many decisions for the Commission to consider over the coming months. We are developing different tools based upon the complexity of the issue.

Options Papers

- For the most complex and sensitive issues, we are developing options papers. These papers include:
 - Background on a topic or planning issue
 - Draft Plan recommendation
 - Feedback Received
 - Options with pros and cons
- We intend to have fulsome discussions regarding each one of these options papers at Commission meetings.

Table of Changes

- This table lists other changes as brought forward for consideration. It includes:
 - Section # and page #
 - Draft Plan text
 - Recommended text
 - Rationale
 - Staff recommendation
 - Commission sign-off
- We will review this table with the Commission and decide on the changes on a case-by-case basis.

We have contracted Vector Research to develop a framework to support the gathering, assessment and decisions. 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 presented at this commission meeting.

4. Work Plan and Timelines

After meeting with the Parties, I am recommending a revised work plan and timeline for your consideration. This is based upon the following factors:

- Volume of and complexity of feedback received on the Draft Plan;
- Request from TH for a traditional knowledge workshop;
- Delay in feedback from affected First Nations;
- COVID-19 impacts on capacity;
- A YG Wetlands Policy is not yet in place;
- Surface disturbance data from YG is still not available;
- Desire to achieve agreement from Parties on key issues;
- Interactive process to ensure an “approvable plan” is presented to the Parties; and
- Taking the time to get it right.

One risk we face is that if we delay the process too long, we lose momentum and support from the Parties. Therefore I propose the new target date for completion of the Recommended Plan of **June 1, 2022**. This will provide two additional months for completion of the plan. The Commission staff will develop a detailed work plan that charts out the steps required to meet this target date.

5. Finance and Administrations

The 2022-23 DRPC Preliminary Budget and Workplan is being provided for your review and approval. This document assumes the Commission will support the new target date of June 1 for the Recommended Plan.

Once approved, the 2022-23 Budget will be submitted to YLUPC, then will go to the Parties. The budget will also be sent to Affected First Nations, which is a requirement of Chapter 11.

6. Staffing update

YLUPC has hired Michelle Christensen as administrative support. Michelle will support YLUPC and the Commission part time.

YLUPC is hiring a part time GIS person to do our mapping, since Sam is taking an extended holiday starting January.

7. Upcoming Activities

Our next steps include:

- Compile and code public and Party Draft Plan feedback;
- Develop Options Papers and Table of Changes;
- Engage with the Parties to seek alignment on their recommendations;
- Begin planning traditional knowledge workshop with TH