
DAWSON SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

TO: Dawson Regional Planning Commission
FROM: Nicole Percival, Senior Land Use Planner
SUBJECT: Report for October 2022
DATE: October 12, 2022

The following is a summary of key activities completed by the Commission and staff between April 2022 – October 2022

1. Summary of Work Completed (plan products and deliverables)

I am happy to report that we only have one outstanding item left to complete in our list of deliverables as per our Terms of Reference (ToR).

Recommended Plan

The staff and Commission were very proud to complete this phase of the planning process. After carefully considering all feedback that was submitted on the draft plan, the Commission finalized the Recommended Plan.

- Delivered to Parties June 10 2022 on top of the Midnight Dome in Dawson
- Released by Parties to the public in September 2022

The engagement process on the Recommended Plan is currently underway and the Parties have completed engagement events in Dawson and Mayo, with Old Crow scheduled for November 3rd. A Whitehorse and Beaver Creek date has not been set yet.

Plain Language Summaries and maps

Ensuring that the Plans are easily understandable to a broad audience is something that has always been important to the Commission. The Terms of Reference (TOR) outlines that a 'plain language summary' of the plan be prepared by the Commission. With the help of some very talented local artists, copy editors, and designers we created a suite of 'summary documents' of the Recommended Plan which include:

- Summary: 90 page document in plain language
- Highlights: an 8 page document to provide high level overview
- Illustrated booklet: to focus on the management intent and values of each LMU
- Illustrated Map: an illustrated map depicting some of the values and management intent in the region.

In Your Words Report

The In Your Words Report was released to the public in August 2022. It is a summary of the activities and feedback that the Commission received over the 5-month engagement process (June 2021 – Nov 2021). In addition to the report, we posted all feedback that was received on our website. This includes meeting notes, survey responses, and letters/emails.

Cumulative Effects Report

The draft version of this report was posted online in October. The report was written by representatives of the Parties and YLUPC. It summarises the following:

- the work that was done to support the Commission in creating our CE framework.
- the creation of the future scenarios in the quartz and placer industries.
- the current surface disturbance and linear density levels in the region
- values in socio-economic and socio-cultural areas

YESAB responses OR 'consistency checks'

From time to time the Commission have submitted responses to projects that are in the YESAB process. Generally speaking, these projects have been large quartz exploration projects, in culturally sensitive areas, or are permanent dispositions. Moving forward the Commission will be considering how best to manage responses to the numerous projects that the Dawson Region sees each year.

2. Recommended Plan engagement

We staff have been supporting the Parties in their engagement efforts as needed. Commission and staff have attended the two meetings held in Dawson and Mayo to provide context and information pertaining to the Recommended Plan as required.

3. Finance and administration

Reporting

In July 2022 the annual report and audited financial statements for 2021/2022 were completed and approved by the Commission via email. There was no management letter associated with the audit, meaning there were no concerns.

The Interim Report and financial statements to July 2022 were approved by the Commission via email in September and submitted to YG. The reporting should have reflected activity and finances to the end of August, however with the departure of our Finance Manager Heidi Hansen we were only able to report finances to July. We will have up-to-date financial information again in October.

Staffing update

YLUPC has hired Andrea Kenderova as their new office administrator. Under our ongoing arrangement with YLUPC, Andrea is providing administrative support for the DRPC.

Work plan and timelines

The budget and workplan for the Commission are on track, with the interim report only making slight adjustments to accommodate the anticipated travel for engagement events and upcoming working sessions. Given the stage of the process that we are in it is difficult to predict how the next phase of the planning process will go.

Once the 60 days of engagement is over the Parties will produce a 'what we heard' report and then either accept, modify, or reject the Recommended Plan. Each one of these outcomes comes with different implications for the workplan and budget.

We are currently working on the assumption that the Parties will choose to 'modify' the plan and we will have to produce a Final Recommended Plan.

This assumption would entail:

- The Parties engagement period ending on November 20 and not being extended
- The What We Heard report being produced a month after the end of the engagement period.
- The Parties submitting their decision to accept/reject/modify to us in early in the new year

It is unknown to us at this point what will occur in the next half of this year. We are ready to be nimble and adjust the budget and workplan accordingly once we receive confirmation from the Parties.

Upcoming activities

We are currently working on a Methods Report as this is noted as an optional report in the TOR and is listed in our workplan and budget for this year. We hope that this document will help to provide further clarity for how the Draft Plan and Recommended Plan were created. We are hopeful that this report will assist future Commissions in their planning work.

All in all, the first half of this year has been very productive and satisfying as we have completed some significant milestones in our planning journey. We are thankful to continue to have a very positive and productive working relationship with the Parties and stakeholders. And I would be remiss not to thank the staff at YLUPC for their continued support, and the great work that Charlotte has done these past months.

As we inch closer to getting a Regional Land Use Plan approved for the Dawson region, I continue to be honoured to be able to work on this important project in a place that is special to so many of us for many different reasons.