
DAWSON SENIOR PLANNER'S REPORT

TO: Dawson Regional Planning Commission
FROM: Tim Sellars, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Report for February 2022
DATE: February 1, 2022

The following is an update on activities undertaken since the last meeting December 2-3, 2021.

1. Draft Plan Engagement - Review of Feedback

We are continuing to use AtlasTI to process the information received from the Draft Plan engagement. The information will continue to inform the options and proposed changes. It will also be used for the "what we heard" document.

There are going to be many decisions for the Commission to consider over the coming months. We will be testing and employing these tools based upon the complexity of the issue:

- Discussion papers
- Options papers
- Table of changes
- Spreadsheets (e.g. Traffic signal)

These will continue to be developed for the Commission, and we will adjust as we go based upon Commission member feedback.

2. Cumulative Effects Framework

The Cumulative Effects Working Group is making progress towards development of a framework. They are doing exploration of values, objectives and indicators for ecological, social, and economic aspects of a framework.

We expect that this work will progress to the point where the basic elements of a framework can be identified, but that the establishment of new indicators and thresholds will be part of implementation and an adaptive management approach.

In other words, the Recommended Plan will likely need to adopt the same approach as the Draft Plan. That is, surface and linear disturbance thresholds based upon the level of socially acceptable change (acquired through the draft plan engagement process) as well as identification of other potential future indicators.

3. January Commission Working Session

The Commission met with staff to work through decisions about LMUs with conservation priorities.

4. YESAA Workshop

Staff met with YESAB to test out the Draft Plan and determine the aspects of the plan that can be implemented under YESAA and identify where improvements could be made. Detailed notes are available for the Commission, if desired.

Some observations:

- The Dawson Plan is already being used to provide context for assessment recommendations
- Language in the plan; definitions for terms need to be provided (i.e. 'significant' 'adequate') or avoided. Some terminology overlaps with YESAB, so it would be good to align these.
- When YESAB looks at a recommendation in a Plan, they also want to know the intent, the rationale and the value-based objective(s) behind the recommendation.
- YESAB sees plan conformity as discretionary. That is, they do not have an obligation to follow the plan as per their legislation, but they should consider it.
- YESAB would like to see clear priority values for LMUs.
- Guides for proponents and assessors on how to use the plan would be helpful, and would be different for each.
- A more streamlined process will be needed for conformity checks in the Dawson Region. YESAB sees value in a continuing role for the Commission for this.

5. Fisheries Act Meeting

Staff met with DFO and YG CMI (Compliance Monitoring and Inspections) to gain a better understanding of the legislation and processes related to the Fish Habitat Management System.

6. Work Plan and Budget

The 2021-22 DRPC Budget has been increased to \$509,774. This is to account for expenditures we made to ensure a thorough Draft Plan public engagement. To date, we have expended \$356,221 (December 31, 2021).

The DRPC Preliminary Work Plan and Budget for 2022-23 was approved by the Commission in December and forwarded to the Parties and Affected First Nations. The Parties provided some feedback on the wording around the Wetlands Policy. The DRPC Final Work Plan and

Budget for 2022-23 has been amended based on feedback from the Parties and to account for an additional \$125,000 in reallocated Ch. 11 regional planning funding provided by Canada that will be carried over.

Once approved, the DRPC Final Work Plan and Budget for 2022-23 will be submitted to YLUPC, then will go to the Parties.

7. Upcoming Activities

Our next steps include:

- Continue to engage with the Parties at technical and senior levels;
- Finish coding of Draft Plan feedback;
- Overall consideration of fundamental changes
 - Climate Change
 - Traditional Knowledge and TH culture
- Continue to develop Options Papers for:
 - Land Management Units
 - Cumulative Effects Framework
 - Wetlands
 - Stewardship Trust
- Revisions to specific sections:
 - Regional context
 - Plan Objectives
 - General Management Directions
 - Implementation
- What We Heard Report
- Methods Report