



Moving forward together:

Dawson Regional Planning Commission Training and Orientation

April 8 - 10, Downtown Hotel, Meeting Room, Dawson, YT

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Context

A Dawson Regional Planning Commission Training and Orientation workshop was held in Dawson April 8 - 10th so that members could understand each other, build the team, and learn about the Regional Land Use Planning task and context.

Themes from leadership to Commission Members

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief Roberta Joseph

- Great timing and conditions - we have readiness and clarity
- About working collectively, together as a community
- Focus on sustainability, balance, and a diversified economy
- Spirit and intent of Final Agreement; respect as a foundation
- Shared community knowledge
- Gratitude for hard work on behalf of the community

Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Ranj Pillai

- Commission-led process
- Process must consider all interests and values
- Help to minimize conflict
- Outcome will benefit all
- Intention for governments to be working together

Yukon Land Use Planning Council Members

- Working for future generations
- About people, as well as the animals and fish
- Strive for consensus knowing conflict happens
- Bigger complex systems thinking: science, culture, and TK
- Gratitude in willingness to step up
- Guided by Agreements



Team initial...

Observations

- The task at hand of defining a Land Use Plan for the TH traditional territory is the last step of a 25 year process initiated by the UFA. This is unique and historic
- We are similar
- Based on what I heard today, I believe the DRLUP commission members will creatively find the best use for resources and people who live in the region
- Many people said they are here to make a difference
- Mining as a prime mover appears entrenched in the region
- Community members are ready for the certainty that land use planning can provide
- Intent to build capacity to work well together as a team; I like the diverse group of people involved
- There is increased activities on the landscape in the Dawson area

Questions

- How will an archaic Mining Act affect the land use plan in the Dawson region?
- How to reduce the importance of that international boundary?
- Do we have enough time, and what's for lunch?
- Do we as a commission have all the necessary information to make a final recommendation?
- How do we engage the full breadth of concerns and uses?
- How steep is our learning curve?
- How will the commission find the right balance for future land use in our region?
- How are we going to manage population growth in this area?



Hopes - our '6-word stories' on how we work together

- *Hope. Integrating cultures. Collaborative sacred knowledge*
- *Work well together, balanced - sustainable implementation*
- *Collaborative effort, public support, recommended plan*
- *Respectful collaborative teamwork > creative plan*
- *Community consensus in time for plan*
- *Hard to make a long story short*
- *Conflict of interest. open minded. not all the same*
- *We plan for all good use of land*
- *Everyone to keep an open mind*
- *DRLUP as a positive example for other regions*
- *TK process, positive concerns, hopefully reassuring, protected*
- *Consensus: best plan Dawson region*
- *Everyone works together respecting each other*



'Log cabin' exercise: learning to work together

Commission members participated in a team-building exercise with the objective of fitting various items into a 'log cabin'. The exercise is meant to illustrate that only when individuals learn to compromise, does the team achieve its objective. (It should be noted that this group of Commission members achieved their objective in record time!)



Wisdom from past Commission Chairs (as recorded by the facilitator)

- This is an important responsibility
- Team motivation to stick with it matters
- Develop some group guiding principles
- Clear ground rules are important
- When there is conflict, the key is to go back to values and focus on respect
- Decide and define what consensus means to you as a group
- Success is connected to smart allocation of time and resources
- Recognize that some people just want to be heard, they don't want information
- Provide options: there are different ways to share information and feel heard
- Developing a variety of scenarios and evaluating trade-offs helps people understand
- Don't be surprised how passionate some people will be
- Recognize different types of knowledge: traditional, science, and local
- Importance of trust, acting in good faith, and commitment
- Improve public engagement by being creative and using various channels

Best advice

- Leverage people: Senior Liaison Committee, Technical Working Group, and Council
- Have an interim Chair for 6-months then decide on the more permanent Chair
- Focus on the public good
- Work hard to work together
- Climate change is amplifying things: increasingly our question is about adaptation
- Involve elders and youth



Navigating 'truths' and 'interests': group deliberation

- Collective understanding is connected to feeling heard and to matter
- Foundation of share, care, and respect
- Foundation of willingness
- How does TK work with other 'knowledge' systems like science?
- Getting to a place of collaborative knowledge: TK, science, local...
- How to recognize multiple truths and develop a 'common truth' as foundation
- Successful implementation must respect multiple truths and knowledge
- Recognize we might interpret the same story differently
- Does not having enough information or evidence mean we can't make a decision?
- Where does the 'precautionary principle' fit?
- "Known knows, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns..." (Tim Rumsfeld)
- Where does our reliance on fossil fuels and impact on climate change fit?
- If trust is a foundation of community, how can our process build trust?
- Process needs to be transparent and fair to build trust
- Trust requires listening, and a depth of understanding: dig down into a root concern
- Decisions are based on trade-offs with transparent rationale
- Planning paradigm: thinking as a 'journey' rather than a 'project' so that we don't need to know everything / solve everything through the planning process



Issues and opportunities: questions that we will need to consider

- *How will Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in TK be a meaningful part of the process?*
- *How to create a plan that we all can accept?*
- *How to consider cumulative effects of all human activities on various values?*
- *How to reach consensus?*
- *How do we balance multiple land uses in a fair and equitable manner?*
- *How do we create a plan without all the information?*
- *What is our Collective vision for the future?*
- *Do we have adequate finances?*
- *How can my concerns, comments, contributions be incorporated in a land use plan for our region that will meet with the approval of all stakeholders?*
- *How will the plan balance economic, environmental and social values, interests, and priorities in the region*
- *How do we manage expectations of what the plan can do?*
- *How do we seriously consider the needs of animals, birds, fish, flora and fauna?*
- *How can a plan balance development and conservation efforts?*
- *What is the vision for the future of the land and water in our region?*
- *How to effectively plan for habitat protection while maintaining a healthy diverse economy and while considering a climate change?*
- *How do we get started!*



Our best advice to each other

- *Commitment*
- *Respect different worldviews*
- *Be patient = planning is a process*
- *Listen / learn / respect*
- *Don't get bogged down, keep our eye on the prize*
- *Listen and balanced perspectives*
- *Be open-minded*
- *Respect, care, share*
- *Dawson Regional planning process demonstrates how competing sectors can collaboratively work together to reach consensus on many issues*
- *Keep it simple*
- *Conflict will happen don't take it personally*
- *To speak up at meetings. Let everyone know what you're thinking. Right or wrong your voice is important*
- *Respect and trust*
- *To be a team*

