



Meeting #1 2025-26 Minutes

April 7, 2025 (1:00pm-3:15:pm)

YLUPC Boardroom

Present

Council: Neil Salvin (Member), Al Foster (Chair), Carl Sidney (Member).

Staff: Tim Sellars (Director), Michelle Christensen (Administrator), Micheal Jim (Land Relationship Planner), Julia Benn (zoom - Finance Manager)

Guests: Kirsten Reid (DRPC Senior Planner); Amber Church (zoom - Government of Yukon); Nathalie Lowry (zoom - Environment Canada); Aidan Kyikavichik (zoom - Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation); Loretta Johns (zoom - Carcross Tagish First Nation); Nick Grzbowski (YESAB); Rebecca Rothgeb (zoom - Government of Yukon); Rose Sellars (zoom -YESAB)

1. Review Agenda

-No changes.

2. February 12 Minutes

Action item review:

- Wetlands – will address under Item 7.
- Provide concerns to Minister in advance of quarterly meetings – done/ongoing.

Motion to approve February 12, 2025 Minutes as presented.

Moved by Carl Sidney; Seconded by Neil Salvin; Motion Passed

Action: Staff to send Heritage Stewardship Guide to Amber Church and Nathalie Lowry.

3. Director's Report (Tim Sellars)

- Staff have been busy with youth engagement: ran land use planning simulations for Whitehorse grade 11 and 12 classes; will host booth at youth summit later this week; and have been in conversation with Randy Lewis, YFNED and YFNSB.
- Preparations for meeting with Minister Streicker later this week.
- Further website improvements relating to site stability and a modernized design.
- NND planning region is very close to moving ahead. FNNND has requested that a cumulative effects study of the Mayo dam be undertaken. This will mark the first time a Section 112 study has gone ahead.
- Planning guidance manual has been updated to reflect Peel court case outcomes.
- Peel region: consultation on feasibility of a national park in the region. At the Chairs meeting, Dave Loeks suggested we follow up on carrying capacity of the Snake River and deterioration of West Hart Trail. We will follow up on these with PPIC.
- North Yukon region: Plan is due for review. There is urgency to plan the annex area.
- YESAB: hoping to hear soon whether YG vs. YESAB court case gets appealed.

- Tim will be away on holidays April 14 through May 16.

Chair's Report (Al Foster)

- Funding adequacy: would have been better to have had 1 meeting rather than 3.
- Council and staff have been working on developing feedback for YGs Wetland Policy.

Discussion

Action: Staff to survey Youth Summit attendees on how best to engage youth.

Action: Mike to look into YLUPC-led workshop at FN education forum for FN youth.

4. Dawson Region Update (Kirsten Reid)

- Commission is currently (January through April) actioning TH and YG feedback on the plan. Commission has remained true to their original intent.
- Hopeful for a complete draft this fall.

5. Traditional Knowledge Circle Update (Carl Sidney and Micheal Jim)

- Circle last met January 20. Some members to attend TH-led conservation discussion at Land of Plenty April 15-16. Next Circle meeting April 29-30.
- Two new members: Colleen James (CTFN – Tlingit) and Franklin Patterson Jr. (FNNND – Northern Tutchone). Have full complement of FN language reps from across YT.
- Working on developing list of critical components of TK in LUP.
- Annual gathering to be discussed at next meeting.

6. YLUPC Finance

Year end financial status (Julia Benn)

- Income statement figures are preliminary – adjustments and accruals to come.
- Overspent by 2%. Estimated deficit of \$15,000. Council doesn't have enough funding to meet obligations, therefore have had to access line of credit. May max out line of credit and need to apply for more from Council. Multi-year funding could address this.
- Funding review has taken a lot of Council's time since 2023. By fall, Parties will have enough information to undertake negotiations. A legal analysis could be helpful.

7. YG Wetland Policy Guidance – feedback due April 17

- As part of implementation for YG's wetland policy developed in 2022, they've released guidance on wetlands classification standards and guidance on nomination and evaluation for wetlands of special importance.
- Feedback on the Classification Standards to reflect:
 - Lack of FN Traditional Knowledge in the standards.
 - Expansion of value of wetlands section.
 - Clearly define "wetlands complex".
 - Greater clarity on what wetlands mapping standards are being applied.
 - Need to address that wetlands change over time.

- Align standards with existing land use plans.
- Clarify qualifications and assign responsibility for conducting classifications.
- Feedback on the Wetlands of Special Importance guidance to reflect:
 - Stronger legislative protection.
 - Wetland designation process should include approval by YT FNs.
 - Guidance needs to better reflect the dynamic nature of wetlands.
 - Guidance needs to address impacts of climate change on wetlands.
 - Mapping standards need to be cross-referenced and articulate more detail.
 - Doesn't differentiate wetland complex from a wetland.
 - Wording around cumulative effects thresholds needs to be improved.
 - Program should be in place to oversee WSIs.
- DRPC will also be providing feedback on these documents.

8. YG vs YESAB Court Case

- Key implications and themes for YLUPC
 - YLUPC opinions are non-binding.
 - YLUPC is uncertain whether it is appropriate to provide consistency opinions.
 - YLUPCs checks are not formal conformity checks as they don't have authority.
 - YLUPC provided a "qualified opinion" that the project conformed to the Peel Plan.
 - Since planning commissions are discontinued once plans are in place, conformity checks as required by YESAA are compromised.
 - The DO's ability to recommend mitigative measures was limited due to the absence of baseline data.

9. Annual Gathering

- \$53,501 allocated to this year's gathering. Hopeful that there will be supplemental funding. Could have a registration fee; YESAB has contributed in the past.
- Ideas put forward from the last gathering were reviewed.
- Theme could address youth involvement.
- Carcross, Kaska country and Klwane were proposed previously.

Action: Mike to contact CAFN re: the possibility of holding annual gathering in their Traditional Territory for 2-3 days sometime the last 2 weeks of July. If CAFN not an option, pursue Carcross and Kaska options.

10. Correspondence and Media

- KPMA letter re: regulatory backlog. Also came up in legislature.
- Media has been focused on trade and tariffs.
- Some news on Eagle Gold, Dempster Highway improvement project and proposed national park in Peel River watershed.



Zoom meeting interrupted by uninvited troublemakers

Action: Future Council Meetings to include waiting room and password requirements.

11. Upcoming Meetings

- April 9-10 Youth Summit
- April 11: EMR Minister Meeting
- April 15-16: Traditional Knowledge Circle – IPC Land of Plenty
- May 13: Working session
- To be determined: 2025-2026 Council Meeting #2

Meeting adjourned 3:15pm.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes #1 2025-26 at Council Meeting #2 2025-26.

Allan Foster
YLUPC Chair

10/09/25
Date

Tim Sellars
YLUPC Director

10/09/25
Date

Signature: 

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