



**2024-25 Meeting #1 April 19, 2024**  
**Yukon Land Use Planning Boardroom**  
**1:00-4:00pm**  
**MINUTES**

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**Participants**

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

**Staff:** Tim Sellars (Director), Micheal Jim (Land Relationship Planner), Julia Benn (Finance Manager – zoom), Sam Skinner (Senior Planner), Michelle Christensen (Administrator).

**Guests:**

In person: Kirsten Reid (DRPC Senior Planner), Colin Prentice (Little Salmon Lands Manager), Scott Berdahl (Snowline Gold Corp. CEO), Craig Hart (Snowline Gold Corp. Chair), Mike Burke (Sitka Gold Geologist, Chamber of Mines Board Member).

Zoom: Jo Lane Dillman (YG Aboriginal Relations Fiscal Advisor); Rose Sellars (YESAB Indigenous Partnership Manager); Dave Leegstra (CAFN Lands & Planning Manager); Amber Church (YG Manager of Regional Land Use Planning); Brooke Rudolph (KPMA Board Advisor); Nathalie Lowry (ECC-Canadian Wildlife Service); Charlotte Luscombe (TH Land Use Planner); Debbie James (Truepoint Exploration Geologist – Dawson/Mayo); Martin Nunez (B2goldcorp, Snowline Gold Evaluations Geologist).

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**1. Review Agenda**

No changes.

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**2. YLUPC Minutes**

Motion 2024-04-01: To approve the Minutes from Meeting #4, February 7, 2024 as presented.

Moved by Carl Sidney; Seconded by Al Foster; *Motion Passed*

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**3. Director and Chair Reports**

**Director's Report (Tim Sellars):**

- Council submitted a formal recommendation to YG and affected First Nations on April 3, 2024 for a review of the North Yukon Plan. It was “positively received” by Government of Yukon. The plan was approved in 2009: Review of a regional land use plan in Yukon has never been done.
- Pre-planning work has begun in the NND region: YG and NND are making progress on an MOU and TOR.
  - Recent court ruling re: Metallic Minerals’ exploration in the Beaver River watershed has implications for planning and projects in the area.
- Membership update:

- Carl Sidney was appointed to the Council February 22, 2024.
- Canada appointee's membership expires mid-June (Neil Salvin): hoping there's no gap in membership.
- 2024-25 budget and workplan have been approved by YG: first funding installment has been received.
- Council is developing a communications plan.
- Summary and Report from the 2023 Brooks Brook Land Relationship Gathering are available in print and on YLUPC's website.

#### **Chair's Report (Neil Salvin):**

- Additions to Director's report:
  - Attended Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement meeting.

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#### **4. Year-end Finance**

- Year end surplus of \$18,219, audit to follow.
- 10 year funding agreement for Boards and Councils overdue for renewal.

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#### **5. Dawson Planning Region**

##### **Senior Planner Update (Kirsten Reid)**

- Last public update: November 2023: The Commission shared that they expected to hear back from the Parties in March 2024. In June, 2022 the Commission submitted the Recommended Plan to TH and YG. Since then, the Commission has met infrequently. In March 2024 the deadline was extended to April 30. YLUPC then sent a letter to the Parties requesting no further delays. The Commission expects TH feedback at the end of April and YG's at a later date due to consultation with White River and cabinet process. Meeting next week with senior leadership to discuss confidentiality around TH submission: unsure how widely feedback can be shared.
- Neil expressed concern about the long wait for a final plan and the potential for losing commission members.

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#### **6. North Yukon Plan Review**

- Chapter 11 specifies that plan review may occur. Need to determine cost, scope.
- YLUPC recommends that the North Yukon Commission be re-established to conduct a Plan Review using a collaborative approach.
- Members discussed the challenge of overlap areas: fabric of regional plans should be connected. Ideally overlap areas are not left out, which lengthens the planning process and increases its cost.

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#### **7. NND Planning Region**

### **Pre-commission work**

- In addition to development of an MOU and TOR, YLUPC is working with YG and NND on a regional bibliography (compilation of published and unpublished data for the area) which will help the commission to hit the ground running.
- NND is asking for a more wholistic approach than what has been done in the past (e.g. producing a “values” report instead of a Resource Assessment Report).
- Assuming timely response to Commission recommendations, a final plan could be completed by 2027, if planning starts this year.
- Sourcebook redesign - guidebook for commissions on the planning process is being re-done. There is flexibility in Chapter 11, in terms of how commissions carry out their work, however, it is part of the Council’s mandate to ensure that regional land use planning in the Yukon is consistent.

### **Discussion**

- Question: how is First Nation governance incorporated into the land use planning process? Answer: Should be reflected in the MOU between the parties. Sourcebook provides guidance as well: suggestions from previous commissions.
- Question: will there be an assessment of data gaps? Answer: Yes. In the past, data has been collected from YG and First Nations at the beginning of the process. Once the Commission is up and running data gaps were filled to the best of abilities with parties/planning partners. We hope to start filling gaps earlier in the process. Getting timely, relevant data is a challenge. Funding available through the Nature Agreement may help fill gaps. Commission can recommend data be gathered if necessary. Land use plans are not static – need to be regularly reviewed.

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### **8. Traditional Knowledge Circle Update**

- The Circle is an advisory group to the Council, comprised of all Yukon First Nation language groups, and supported by Micheal Jim, YLUPC’s Land Relationship Planner.
- The Circle’s role is to advise the Council on how to better embrace Indigenous planning approaches and concepts throughout the regional planning process.
- The Circle has held several gatherings and is planning another one for this summer, focused on empowering relationships. Gatherings are great opportunities to gather youth and elders and bring UFA Boards and Councils together to facilitate increased collaboration.
- [Action: Contact How We Walk’s new planner \(Heather Friday\) for presentation to the TK Circle and to the Council.](#)

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### **9. Correspondence and Media**

- Correspondence:
  - Council made a recommendation to YG that the North Yukon Plan be reviewed.



- Council received an encouraging response from YG re: the North Yukon Plan Review.
- Media:
  - Canada/Alaska suspend fishing of Yukon River chinook salmon for 7 years.
  - Yukon court dismisses appeal of decision to quash exploration project in Beaver River Watershed.
  - Water Board approves emergency plan to prevent tailings spill at Yukon's Mount Nansen mine site.

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### **10. Upcoming Dates**

- Next Council Working Session: May 13, 2024.
- Next TK Circle meeting: June 17-18, 2024.
- CYFN GA: June 25-27, 2024.
- Next Public Meeting: July 3, 2024.
- Tentative On the Land Gathering: July 23-25, 2024.

### Closing Comments

- Mike Burke commented that the mining industry supports land use planning.

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4:00pm Meeting adjourned.

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Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes #1 2024-25 at Regular Board Meeting #2 2024-25.

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YLUPC Chair

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YLUPC Director

Handwritten signature of Al Porter in black ink.  
DateHandwritten signature of Tim Sullivan in black ink.  
Date