
YLUPC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TO: Yukon Land Use Planning Council
FROM: Sam Skinner, Acting Director
DATE: February 1, 2024

The following is an update on activities undertaken since December 2023.

1. Chairpersons Meeting

As per 11.3.5, a chairpersons meeting has been scheduled for February 19th. Chairpersons from YLUPC, North Yukon Planning Commission, Peel Watershed Planning Commission and the Dawson Regional Planning Commission are expected to attend.

2. Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Planning Region

In January, the Parties met to discuss among other things, the boundary of the NND region. They agreed that the Beaver River Planning Area was to be included in the region, and that the spelling of the region has not yet been determined. We responded by creating a new map of the planning region that shows the Beaver River Planning Area inside the region. Other outcomes of that meeting have not been disclosed.

We made significant progress on Chapter 3: Planning Progress, with Kirsten writing a first draft, and then a second based on input from Sam, Mike and Nicole. We recently met about the next steps.

YG recently expanded the list of expected contents for the annotated bibliography of relevant land and resource publications relevant to the region. However, they also said that there would not be a Technical Working Group established until the MOU and ToR are signed. Without a TWG, progress on the annotated bibliography is hampered.

The Recommended ToR requires that records management for the NND process follow OCAP (First Nations' Principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) principles. Sam, Kirsten, and Mike took part in an introductory course.

3. Dawson Planning Region

YG and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have recently indicated that they will not provide a response to the Commission by their previous deadline of March 2024. No new deadline has been set, making work planning difficult for the Commission

4. Conformity Checks

4.1 Major Project in North Yukon & Peel Watershed

Keith Maguire (Major Projects Yukon) called to ask about how a conformity check for a potential major oil and gas project in North Yukon could work. We discussed what the current conformity check/consistency opinion process is, and some of the opinions and work we did for similar checks in the past. This would be the first conformity check/consistency opinion done for an Executive Committee-level project.

In a follow-up email, we flagged several issues including:

- Cautionary Level of linear disturbance has already been exceeded in LMU 9
- A draft Access Management Plan for Eagle Plains has not yet been approved
- Information gathering requested by both plans may not have been done

We could meet any of the participants in the process if needed.

4.2 Conformity Check Process

Kirsten has revised an options paper to soon bring to YESAB to start staff-level discussions of how the process may be improved. Options explored include when in the assessment process should conformity checks happen, and how should project information be collected. Sam developed a demonstrative on-line form for proponents.

5. Peel Watershed Implementation

The Peel Plan Implementation Committee (PPIC) recently met to kick off a contract to start developing Adequate Baseline Data requirements. I gave some feedback on the list of key documents for the contractor to review.

We also reviewed a letter to the RRCs about amendments to the Off-Road Vehicle Management Area Regulations coming from the plan.

6. Cumulative Effects

We have continued to explore a number of options with help from contractor Eric Delong. We shared our Disturbance/Recovery Tracking paper with researchers at Yukon University and Environment Yukon, then met to discuss common interests and potential collaborations. Both are interested and are working on several parallel projects. Feedback is expected in the coming weeks.

YESAB has asked whether YLUPC is interested in leading an on the land Cumulative Effects workshop. We have responded that we are open to the idea. Further discussion is dependent upon their funding approval. It may be in August or September.

CIRNAC indicated that there haven't been any decisions made on the tripartite Cumulative Effects Forum for this year.

7. Communications

- **Website:** new spatial data portal, and article discussing it and the interactive map
- **Events/Presentations:**
 - Yukon University class presentation: RENR 491- Land (Use) Planning in Canada's North (Sam, Kirsten, Mike)
 - First Nations Climate Leadership workshop 1 (Mike)
 - Yukon River Panel (Kirsten)
- **Communications Strategy:** Drafted
- **Communication Plan:** Early draft stage
- **"FAQ":** edits from previous meeting + map changes have been incorporated. A final proof is soon expected from the printers.

8. Finances

YG's response to our Preliminary Workplan and Budget was due January 12th, but has not yet been provided. They indicated that they have received it, our next payment will not be impacted, and that they know the date of this meeting and will try to get a response back before then. What they reply will affect decisions for our cost-sharing arrangement with DRPC, TK circle operations, and the 2024-25 on the land gathering in addition to our more typical operations.

9. Staffing

Julia Benn had her baby (Ilaena) on December 9th. Julia is back working at full capacity and Andrea has trained Julia to take over the payroll process. Andrea will now be stepping back now that Julia has the full breadth of knowledge and skills to assume the Finance Manager role.

The Dawson Senior Planner, Kirsten Reid, is providing support for various YLUPC projects while DRPC awaits feedback on the Recommended Plan. This includes some work to prepare for the NND region.

10. Council Member Appointments

- The next Council appointment expiry will be Neil Salvin on April 15, 2024.
- There is no news on a CYFN nomination.
- YFWMB recently wrote to YG urging them to improve their appointment process.

11. Traditional Knowledge Circle

We are awaiting a final proof of the Proceedings from the Land Relationship Gathering at Brooks Brook from the printer. Target is to send out to participants by February 5.

The Circle has been reflecting on the gathering and the Elders Workshop (February 2023), and have been contributing ideas for action items and recommendations for Mike to collate. The next meeting is proposed to be April 17th.