
YLUPC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TO: Yukon Land Use Planning Council
FROM: Tim Sellars, Director
DATE: October 17, 2024

The following is an update of activities since the September 3rd YLUPC Meeting #3

1. Communications

Meetings and events

On September 4, we held meetings with White River First Nation and Kluane First Nations to discuss options and opportunities for planning.

On September 6-8 we attended the CAFN Annual General Meeting in Champagne and hosted a booth.

On September 28, we are presenting to Carcross/Tagish FN General Council.

On October 1, we are meeting with John Streicker, Minister responsible for EMR.

On October 5, we hosted a booth at the NND General Assembly.

Video project

Sam, Mike and Kirsten have been leading the collection of video recordings of TK Circle Members and Chairs. These will be valuable sources of knowledge and information for future land use planning work. Sam is identifying and documenting the themes as raised by these knowledge holders. They will eventually make their way to our website, social media communications, and future presentations.

Photo project

Staff are working to catalogue the collection of YLUPC and Commission photographs. There are over 3000 (and counting) unindexed photographs saved on our servers, but we are making good progress.

Minister's Meeting

On October 1, Council met with Minister Strecker about how we could work together break the barriers to advancing regional planning. It was a productive meeting and the Minister agreed to setting up quarterly meetings with us. The next meeting is now scheduled for January 9.

2. Dawson Planning Region

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have publicly released their feedback on the Recommended Plan and called on Yukon Government to provide their feedback.

Yukon Government has communicated that they will provide feedback "in the fall". TH has requested a meeting of the Principles (Chief and Premier) to attempt to move this forward.

Two new land use planners for the Dawson Region have been hired and started October 8. Kim Melton and Toshibaa Govindaraj. Kim is working in Dawson and Toshibaa is based in Whitehorse.

The next Dawson Commission meeting is scheduled for December 11. I will be attending the meeting in Dawson.

3. Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Region

FNNND has provided a response to our letter about initiating planning in their region. Their letter is supportive of planning proceeding and includes a partially signed MOU between FNNND and YG.

I have revised the GTOR for the NND region for consistency with the MOU and have had follow-up discussions with their advisor on the file, Tim Gerberding.

We are working with the Parties to begin collection of regional publications in an online bibliography.

4. Peel Region

The Parties are continuing to work towards designating several of land management units under national and territorial land designations. They are also working together to ask mineral companies to relinquish their mineral claims in those conservation areas.

We are working with the Peel Planning Implementation Committee to clarify the process for variances and amendments to the Plan.

The Committee has been making some changes to the land management units as it prepares for the national designation as a park. We believe that this should be considered either a variance to the plan or requires a plan amendment.

As of October 3, the Wind River Trail has been closed via an Order in Council under the Highways Act. This was an implementation commitment from the Peel Plan.

There was also discussion about the possible re-establishment of the Commission, as possible amendment to the plan.

5. Interim Report

Each year we are required to submit an Interim Report to YG. The report identifies the status of our projects and budget as well as providing an opportunity to reallocate funds between different expenditure categories.

Julia and I have provided an amended budget and work plan based upon Finance Statements to September 30. We will need to review and approve an interim report today, for submission to YG prior to October 31.

6. Traditional Knowledge Circle

Colleen James has now been appointed to the Circle to represent Tlingit language group, with Carl Sidney stepping over to the Council member role.

For the October 21-22 meeting, we invited Chuck Hume to discuss the AFN approach to Traditional Knowledge as well as having How We Walk staff to talk about indigenous planning.

7. Holidays

I will be away November 12-26. Sam Skinner will be Acting Director during that period.

Sam will be away for 6 months, starting January 1.

No other staff vacation is planned between now and the end of the year.