

Public Meeting #2 2026-27 Minutes

August 25, 2026 (10:00am – 3:30pm)

Present

Council: Neil Salvin (Chair); Jacob Newkirk (Member); Carl Sidney (Member).

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

Guests: Amber Church (YG), Nathalie Lowry (Canada)

1.0 Review Agenda

Motion to approve agenda.

Moved by Carl Sidney, seconded by Jacob Newkirk; *motion passed.*

2. Review Minutes/Actions from July 6, 2026 meeting

Under Item 2 in July 6, 2026 minutes, change June 6 references to June 2.

Motion to approve July 6, 2026 minutes, as amended.

Moved by Carl Sidney, seconded by Jacob Newkirk; *motion passed.*

Action item review:

Schedule YLUPC chair selection in December, 2026

- Bring forward is in the YLUPC calendar.

Tim to connect with Water Board re: information available in the NND region that could be referenced in the annotated bibliography.

- Reached out. Waiting for a reply from Water Board.
- Water Board's Type A licence annual reports and applications contain wildlife surveys, water quality reports etc. Hard copy and digital formats are available.

Staff to share with Council S. Lakes Caribou priority actions from June 2026 meeting.

- Tim to reach out and get an update.

Michelle to provide Council with mock-up of YLUPC hoodies and vests.

- Hoodie mock-ups provided. Michelle to explore vest options.

Staff to start work on Gathering: look into facilitator (Line Gagnon and Jewel Davies); send out survey to previous participants re: theme, seeking funding, interest in attending, etc.

- Gathering on hold pending funding. Tim reached out to Jewel – did not hear back. Michelle to cancel Skookie's booking.

Neil to write a message from the Chair for 2025-26 Annual Report.

- Done.

Michelle to confirm if camping at Long Ago Peoples' place is available for CAFN GA.

- Done.

Tim to invite EMR to Jacob's July training.

- Done. Amber attended a portion of Jacob's training.

Tim to look into next UFA hub meeting.

- Done. August 27, 2026.

3. Director's Report

1. New Board Membership

We held a successful onboarding for Jacob Newkirk and had a going away lunch with outgoing member Al Foster. Al has a keen interest in land use planning and plans to attend future meetings as a member of the public.

2. Finance

Update to be provided under meeting item #5.

3. Funding Adequacy

Between 2001 and 2026, commissions spent a total of \$7,540,426 on planning. These commissions included: Vuntut, North Yukon, Teslin, Peel, and Dawson (commissions 1 & 2). Total Dawson Planning = \$3.4 million (to the end of the current fiscal year). The balance available for Chapter 11 planning commissions as of January 2026 was estimated at \$2.89 million. Hopefully funding negotiations result in new funding available for planning.

4. Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Region

The last working group meeting was August 18. No further progress has been made towards establishing an NND Commission. YG is seeking a GTOR mandate under the new leadership. NND is in the process of collecting information on lessons learned from the Dawson planning process. Sam is developing a regional profile for NND region.

5. UFA Boards and Committees

Tim sits on the working group for the boards and committees coordinating body.

6. Communications

YLUPC staff and council attended the annual general assemblies for CAFN and NND which both occurred July 17-18.

7. Peel Watershed Plan Implementation

PPIC met on July 30. The main discussion was related to the Silver 47 (Michelle Creek) Class 1 Notification. The project was turned down again by the decision body.

Tim has completed a catalogue for the office library.

Action: Tim to provide staff and Council with library catalogue link.

4. Meeting Debriefings

NND GA July 17-18, Mayo (Tim and Neil)

YLUPC information booth was well received. Connected with citizens, Chief and Councillors. High-tech language tool demos.

CAFN GA July 17-18, Long Ago Peoples' Place (Mike and Carl)

Citizens want to share their knowledge to guide future planning. The FN is ready, but the process is stalled. Bison hunting is a big issue.

PPIC July 30 (Tim and Mike)

The Rusty Springs project is in pre-screening for adequacy. Council discussed consistency opinion for the North Yukon and Peel plans. Discussed the challenges of joint management in plan implementation.

Action: Notify Minister Laking that Council is ready for a meeting.

Action: Staff to follow-up with Bizont on pushing the change registry to the live site.

5. Finance

The financial statements were reviewed by YLUPC's auditor, Crowe MacKay, during July and August. It was a clean audit. There is no management letter, which is good. The 2024-2025 fiscal year deficit was \$15,447. The 2025-2026 cumulative deficit was \$12,296.

Julia reviewed the 2025-2026 Variances by Budget Category

Discussion

There were problems with the auditor this year: they were late, and there was a lot of back and forth due to mistakes made on their part, which was frustrating.

Suggestion: Provide Auditor with feedback on the audit process this year.

Motion: To accept and approve the YLUPC Final Audited Financial Statements for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and submit to the Government of Yukon.

Moved by Carl Sidney, seconded by Neil Salvin; *motion passed.*

Annual Report Review

Changes:

-Use a more traditional excel-styled finance table.

-Message from the Chair: add comma after "Energy" in "Energy Mines and Resources"; add "Current Chair" and date stamp underneath Neil's signature.

-Ensure canva version matches latest word document.

Motion: To approve the 2025-26 YLUPC Annual Report, as modified, and submit to the Government of Yukon.

Moved by Neil Salvin, seconded by Jacob Newkirk; *motion passed.*

Current Financial Status – as at July 31, 2026

YLUPC is 7.7% (\$23,674) under budget, based on the original budget. This figure does not account for approximately \$19,000 in anticipated invoices nor the \$12,296 deficit carried forward. When these are taken into consideration, we are about \$7,600 over budget.

TK Circle Meetings and Secondment

- Two TK Circle meetings have been held to date, at a total cost of \$30,154.
- The 1st TK Circle meeting used funds from the Special Projects allocation.
- The 2nd TK Circle meeting was based on expectation of Sam's secondment to YG
- The secondment has been postponed to October 1, 2026.
- If continuing with the revised budget based on the anticipated secondment, the current projection is an estimated deficit of approximately \$15,000.

- This projected deficit does not include the GIC interest YLUPC expects to earn throughout the fiscal year (approx. \$3,654).

Concerns

- A later date means expenditures will need to be reviewed and costs reduced.
- If the secondment is delayed further, an annual gathering and TK Circle meetings may not be feasible.
- There is a financial risk associated with planning and proceeding with the annual gathering before receiving official confirmation from YG regarding the secondment.

Discussion

-Council can't move forward with budget decisions until the secondment is signed off and budget reallocations approved by YG.

-Re-allocation requests that have been made in the past have generally been approved.

Action: Julia to calculate savings since new Council member will not be claiming for travel.

Action: Council and staff to discuss TK Circle funding at upcoming meeting with CYFN.

6. Issues and Opportunities

In 2016, YLUPC developed a UFA Interpretation Issues document which identifies a number of challenges we face in implementing Chapter 11 including: united planning; balancing interests; timeframes and funding; role/power of commissions; and technical issues.

In late 2017, the Peel Watershed Supreme Court of Canada decision was issued and in 2023, YLUPC developed a new set of Strategic Priorities. In 2024, the implementation funding agreement expired and there is uncertainty about the level of funding for land use planning the future.

With the onboarding of our new member, Jacob Newkirk, it became clear that we are overdue to look again at what our challenges are and reflect on opportunities to address those challenges. Sam noted that 13.1.1.8's link to heritage resources is important.

Suggestion: File 2016 UFA Interpretation Issues document under historical documents, as a reference point in the event the UFA is ever re-opened.

Brainstorming

Issues

1. Slow Progress of Planning
 - LUP should have proceeded first
 - No agreement on co-management
2. Funding/Capacity
 - First Nation capacity
 - Lack of funding limits the amount of planning that can be done
 - Opportunity: the more support for planning, the more potential to access funding

3. Losing the Spirit and Intent of the UFA over time
 - What do the sections truly mean?
 - Chapter 11 Objectives reflect a clear spirit and intent of the UFA
 - Opportunity: How can we work to a common understanding?
 - Opportunity: Move from words to action
 - Opportunities: FNs have more capacity now than when land claims were first settled
4. Loss of knowledge
 - Staff turnover
 - Losing Elders
 - People are not aware of the UFA and other Yukon knowledge
5. Industrial Development
 - Development before planning
 - Pending population growth
 - Protecting important values (example: water quality)
 - Opportunity: Everybody wants to get planning done
6. Lack of agreements on key topics
 - Related to this, decision-making processes
7. Parties hesitant to express their perspectives
8. Negative tone about land use planning
 - We hear Chapter 11 does not work for some people (FNs, YG, Canada)
 - Opportunity: Explore why this perception exists – what can we fix

Opportunities:

- Communications
 - o Look at what a development looks like in a planned vs. unplanned region – helpful for FNs, developers, public, etc.
 - Explaining how regional planning works, what it does
 - o North of the Ordinary article – UFA
 - o Storytelling Festival
- Training
 - o FN 101 course integration of land use planning (offer to meet w/ Yukon U)
 - o FN101 does not adequately cover UFA/Ch.11. The UFA needs its own course.
 - o HEED course, other entities (City, ATCO, Northwestel)
 - o Public awareness of UFA – schools, adults?
 - o New Yukoners? How do we inform them? How do you make them care?
- Documenting successes in the planning process – consensus decision-making
 - o Conversely the decision-making process among governments may be a potential issue
- Have candid conversations with anti-Ch. 11 perspectives out there

8. Media and Correspondence

Items of note:

- UFA Implementation Funding letter from the Parties – Council may want to consider requesting a more detailed update from the parties. Heritage Resource Board seeking interest in elevating the funding renewal issue. Council would prefer not to elevate at this time as there will be future opportunities.
- YESAB is seeking further input on proposed DO rules.

Suggestion: Offer Whitehorse City Council a presentation on regional land use planning: an opportunity to raise awareness and break down silos.

9. Upcoming Meetings

- UFA Boards Hub meeting (August 27)
- PPIC (August 27) – Mike and Sam
- TTC (August 27-29) – rescheduled to Sept 10-12
- CYFN Grand Chief Sept 4.
- TH GA – Oct. 3-4.

Action: Mike to request an invite to TH GA and Tim to check if Kirsten is attending.

- Next YLUPC meeting – Sept 23, 930am-300pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Approval of August 25, 2026 meeting minutes at September 24, 2026 Council meeting.

YLUPC Chair

Date

YLUPC Director

Date

Signature:



Email: tim@planyukon.ca

Signature:


Neil Salvin (Oct 15, 2026 15:38:36 PDT)

Email: salvin@northwestel.net