



STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT #2

February 8, 2022 Meeting



Prepared by



GROUNDWELL
PLANNING

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BACKGROUND

In March 2020, Government of Yukon (YG) and Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work jointly towards a local area plan for the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area. A Steering Committee comprised of three representatives of each government was appointed in Fall 2021. The Committee held its second meeting virtually on February 8, 2022 from 5:00 – 7:10 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Jasmine Bill (KDFN member)
Kathy Elliot (YG member)
Jane Koepke (Facilitator)
Jocelyne Leblanc (YG member)
Larissa Lychenko (YG staff)
Margaret McKay (KDFN member)

Mathieu Marois (City of Whitehorse staff)
Roy Neilson (KDFN staff)
Bengt Pettersson (YG member)
Steven Shorty (KDFN member)
Karee Vallevand (KDFN staff)

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Familiarize Committee with the Summary Document and lay the groundwork for a more thorough independent review; and
2. Get initial direction from Committee to inform a draft engagement plan.

DISCUSSION

November 16 Meeting Minutes

The Committee decided to use a two-member nomination process to adopt minutes. Margaret and Bengt motioned for the draft minutes to be approved.

Summary Background Report

Roy and Larissa provided the Committee with an overview of the Summary Background Report and the thinking behind it. The document is intended to provide a shared foundation of understanding about the planning area. It will serve as the primary reference document for Committee members and is organized in a similar manner to the lengthier Background Report, which provides more of a “deep dive” into the same content.

The document will also be the main document shown to external audiences (citizens, general public, stakeholders, etc.). The layout and design attempted to create an appealing, easy-to-follow read.

Document Orientation

Committee members broke out into two groups and were tasked with a quick review of different sections of the report. Groups shared the key points/takeaways, interesting facts, and design/layout impressions that came out of their initial review:

- **Key Points and Takeaways** – These included: the rich history of gathering and trading; vast size of planning area and its connectedness; a non-Gold Rush/traditional portrayal of history; extensive traditional and contemporary Indigenous land uses; presence of 20+ protected species; variety of activities occurring and how they involve different areas at different times; dramatic increase in visitation from recreation, tourism, and events; importance of the area as a “training ground” for Indigenous land-based traditions; and overuse impacts on the land, animals and subsistence harvest.
- **Interesting Facts** – These included: large number of First Nation families who lived in the area and children having been taken away to residential school, 70-year history of the dam, area’s role in local climate change research, poor suitability for agriculture, presence of outfitting and trapping concessions, and extensive archaeological research and sites.
- **“Look/Feel” Impressions** – These included: difficulty reading the traditional and contemporary use map, visually compelling timeline, and effective use of images, quotes, infographics, and pull-outs.

Review

Jane provided initial direction for the independent review that Committee members will undertake, identifying two key types of input for government consideration:

1. **“Red flags”** - errors/issues that should be addressed before the summary document is released to the public; and
2. **Final version ideas** - suggestions/comments/edits that should be considered during final round of edits (along with public input)

Margaret mentioned that the report should convey the use of the planning area by many Yukon First Nation people, not just KDFN citizens. Fish Lake is a gathering and training ground for other First Nation people when they are living in or visiting the Whitehorse area.

Process Steps and Timelines

Bengt asked if there was an overarching process schedule that identifies upcoming steps and associated timelines. Now that the Committee is up and running and the background reports are complete, the governments are better able to predict project timelines.

NEXT STEPS

Independent Review

- Committee members will undertake a review of the summary background report document over the next few weeks and bring their comments to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

- Roy and Larissa plan to reconvene the Committee in early March to gather input on the summary background report document and seek direction on the engagement program, tentatively planned for April.

Background Report

- This is nearing completion and will be shared with Committee members after it is finalized and formatted.

Action Items

Action Items not implied by the draft March meeting agenda above include:

- Draft and send out meeting minutes to Committee (Jane/Roy/Larissa)
- Schedule next meeting with Committee members (Roy/Larissa)
- E-mail review instructions to Committee members (Roy/Larissa)
- Develop a draft project workplan showing timelines (Roy/Larissa)