



STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT #6

October 18, 2022 Meeting



Credit: John Meikle

Prepared by



GROUNDWELL
PLANNING

October 2022

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 sixth meeting at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre on October 18, 2022 from 5:00 -7:30 pm.

ATTENDEES

Kathy Elliot (YG member)

Mike Ellis (YG staff)

Jane Koepke (Facilitator)

Jocelyne Leblanc (YG member)

Bengt Pettersson (YG member)

Joseph Petch (YG staff)

Steven Shorty (KDFN member)

Margaret McKay (KDFN member)

Roy Neilson (KDFN staff)

Karee Vallevand (KDFN staff)

Regrets

Jasmine Bill (KDFN member)

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Report back on summer engagement activities and preliminary results;
2. Orient Committee to next steps in the process;
3. Seek Committee decisions/guidance on various process-related issues; and
4. Plan and schedule the next Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION

June 8th Meeting Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Kathy motioned to adopt the minutes without changes and Jocelyne seconded.

Engagement Update

Jane gave the Committee an overview presentation of the various engagement activities that took place over the summer, including:

- **Survey**
 - 325 surveys were received (YG and KDFN consider this a strong response);
 - 21% of participants were KDFN citizens, 17% were full or part-time residents, and the 30-39 age group was most represented; and
 - 8 responses were submitted on behalf of businesses (3) or organizations (5).
- **Farmer's Market** – The process had a booth for three evenings in July. There was considerable interest in the project and staff and Committee members had good discussions.

- **KDFN event** – A BBQ event was held at the McIntyre community rink on August 2nd. An estimated 100-125 people attended. There were fun activities designed to get citizen input, such as a LZM trivia bingo, prizes, and LZM themed goodies.
- **LZM residents' event** – An event for Fish Lake area property owners and/or residents was held at Sky High Wilderness Ranch on the evening of August 18th. About 20 people attended and participated in three rounds of small group discussion about vision, issues/challenges and opportunities facilitated by planning staff/contractors and Committee members.
- **Direct outreach** – E-mails were sent out to 34 organizations deemed to have a direct or indirect interest in the planning process. A handful of responses were received, including a very comprehensive report from the Fish Lake Residents Association that presents the findings of many resident interviews.
- **Preliminary take-aways** – Responses to the six open-ended survey questions are still being reviewed and sorted, but Jane shared some preliminary impressions of results to date.

She noted that values appear to be broadly shared (wilderness, wildlife, access to the land) and many respondents envision little to no change in the future. There appears to be support for small-scale infrastructure to help manage visitor impacts (i.e., outhouses, garbage cans, etc.). Jane observed that the questions relating to the accuracy and thoroughness of the reports didn't yield much useful information.

Some Committee members shared some of their impressions as well. The importance of protection and desire for little to no change were heard by all. Kathy noted the tension between use and access and preservation. Margaret talked about citizens' desire for the area to be treated respectfully, given that it holds so much history and memories for KDFN. Margaret noted that respect should extend to the dangers posed by the lake conditions as well.

Carry-Over Discussion Items

The Committee discussed several items that were raised/and or discussed during previous meetings but not yet resolved:

- **Additional Phase 1 engagement** – During the Fish Lake residents' event, several attendees noted that the summer timing was not ideal for many people living in the area and suggested that an additional opportunity be provided for input.

Some YG Committee members shared their impressions that area residents may still be unclear about the process and what their role is. The Fish Lake Residents Association was ready to engage but the Jackson Lake Community Association was less so. These members also felt that there is a lack of trust from some residents that their input will be heard and incorporated into decision-making. The likely process delay posed by additional engagement was noted by other Committee members and additional communications about the process was suggested as a strategy to build more awareness and understanding.

Some KDFN Committee members spoke to the need to build relationships and trust between citizens and area residents and suggested that all the key players, including Chief and Council could participate in some way.

Committee and staff generated several options for keeping the process on track while allowing for additional engagement. After considerable discussion, the Committee decided that it would hold some form of public engagement event following the Committee-only Vision & Values workshop. A final decision around target audiences (i.e., who to engage with) and timing of this event will be postponed to the Vision & Values workshop itself.

In the interim, area resident Committee members indicated they would try to engage informally to better understand what the information and/or outreach needs are, and the governments were asked to prepare a newsletter/project update for public distribution.

- **Public distribution of meeting minutes** – Committee members confirmed their support for making all meeting minutes to date public via sharing on KDFN’s and YG’s websites.
- **Guest attendance at Committee meetings** – The Committee discussed the idea of having groups attend their meetings, which is supported by the MOU between governments. Members value transparency and the opportunity to hear different perspectives and ideas; however, the risk of undermining Committee efficiency in a time-constrained process was also recognized. Members brainstormed some potential strategies for balancing inclusiveness with efficiency, including:
 - Responding to requests (versus issuing an open invitation);
 - Vetting requests in advance with the Committee;
 - Putting guests on the agenda with a defined time limit and clear objective;
 - Differentiating between “guests” (who can present and/or participate in Committee discussions) and “observers” (who can attend but not participate);
 - Setting aside separate time for Committee discussion, particularly of a sensitive or confidential nature.
- **Land use applications** – The Committee deferred this item to the next meeting.

NEXT STEPS

Engagement Wrap-Up

Jane, Karee and Joseph will finish compiling survey results and Jane will write a “What We Heard” report. From this, she will also develop a short draft Vision and Values paper that the Committee can review. These documents can be expected in mid-to-late November.

Vision and Values Workshop

Roy explained that the next step in the process involves the Committee articulating a high-level “statement of intent”, or vision/values, to provide overarching direction for the more detailed,

management-oriented planning to follow in Phase 2. He shared examples of brief Vision & Values papers from other planning processes. The intention is for Jane to create a draft paper to serve as a starting point for discussion and Committee revision at a half-day workshop. Afterwards, the Vision & Values paper will be finalized.

Phase 2 Consultant Selection

Joseph shared that he was in the final stages of releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to undertake Phase 2, during which the actual plan will be developed by the Committee and shared with the public and stakeholders. As part of the hiring process, the Steering Committee will have the opportunity to interview consultants. The interview will focus on the communication skills of those assigned to work with the Committee. All interviewees will be asked identical questions.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting – the half-day Vision & Values workshop - is tentatively scheduled for early December. Engagement results will be discussed, and the Committee will work through the draft Vision and Values paper to arrive at a final version.

Action Items

Action Items generated during the meeting include:

- Share engagement presentation and list of stakeholder groups who were contacted and participated with Committee (Jane)
- Schedule date/time for the Vision/Values workshop (Roy/Joseph)
- Make existing meeting minutes publicly available (Roy/Joseph)
- Add a discussion around further engagement on Vision/Values workshop agenda (Jane)
- Have a follow-up discussion with Kathy/Jocelyne around communications and/or “ground truthing” with area residents to inform a Committee decision on additional engagement (Joseph)
- Develop a simple, draft set of guidelines to inform how external groups might engage with the Committee for Committee review/discussion (Joseph)
- Set a date for Phase 2 proponent interviews (Joseph/Roy)
- Complete the draft What We Heard and Vision & Values reports (Jane)
- Draft a community newsletter/update for the project (Roy/Joseph)