



PEEL WATERSHED
PLANNING COMMISSION
TOGETHER FOR THE PEEL • CHUU TL'TI GEENJIT KHETOK

**Peel Watershed Planning Commission:
Meeting #6 Minutes**

February 8, 2006

Alpine Bakery / YLUPC Boardroom, Whitehorse, Yukon

Meeting #6 February 8, 2006

In Attendance:

Peel Watershed Planning Commission

Albert Genier – Chair

Peter Kaye

Steve Taylor

Sam Wallingham

Marvin Frost - absent

David Loeks – absent for portion of meeting

Support Staff

Brian Johnston – Senior Planner

Gerald Isaac - Facilitator

Ron Cruikshank – Director, YLUPC

Kathleen Zimmer – Office Administrator / Recorder

YG Staff

Jim Bell, EMR

Welcome

Discussion Topic

- Meeting began at 9:05 AM
- Gerald Isaac provided welcoming remarks.

Action Item

Agenda Item #1: Review Agenda	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission members reviewed agenda and added Porcupine Caribou Management Board presentation to Section 7 C. and an in camera session at the end. <p>Motion #1: To accept the agenda with changes as outlined. Moved: 1st Steve Taylor 2nd Sam Wallingham All in Favour Passed by Consensus</p>	

Agenda Item #2: Minutes	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were reviewed. <p>Motion #2: To accept November 8-9, 2005 Minutes as presented. Moved: Albert Genier 2nd Marvin Frost All in Favour Passed by Consensus</p>	

Agenda Item #3: Chair’s and Member’s Report	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<p>3.1 Chairs Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albert Genier is concerned about the extra money and time that might be required to complete the plan. He feels that the Commission should try to keep to the schedule. This would be easier to do if the Commission had implementation answers and more certainty. Sub-regional planning could become an issue. Is there money available for sub-regional planning? He would like a Senior Liaison Committee meeting before the year end to address these issues and get answers. Commission members wondered what it would take to get back on schedule. Brian Johnston replied that it was possible to make time back during the data collection phase; 	<p>Brian to work with YG and First Nations to schedule a Senior Liaison Committee meeting.</p>

however, receiving the biophysical map from YG is critical. YG hopes to have the first draft of the map by April 10, 2006.

- Ron Cruikshank explained that there are some external things that the Commission has no control over. He advised the Commission that YLUPC may be assigning staff to the Commission to assist with some tasks. He also pointed out that sub-regional planning was not the task of the Commission.
- Jim Bell commented that it may also take government longer than anticipated to review and consult the plan.
- Albert Genier would like these issues to be documented.
- Gerald Isaac pointed out that the 9-year review was in progress and would offer an excellent opportunity for First Nations to identify and document deficiencies of the land claim agreements. This is the political process that must be followed. However, remember that the Federal government has the final word on the review and implementation concerns.
- Ron Cruikshank replied that the YLUPC has already forwarded concerns and encouraged the First Nations to provide input on these issues.

3.2 Members Report

- Steve Taylor presented an update at a meeting of three renewable resource councils and the GTC. Brian Johnston emailed the PWPC presentation to him in advance. Steve also handed out copies of the Interests and Issues report.
- Steve Taylor reported that Norman Snowshoe and others were concerned with the legal clout of the plan. Steve pointed out that there are other players: DFO, YESAB etc to ensure that regulations are met. However, there is a concern from First Nations in the NT that if the land use plan does not have legal clout, it may not be followed or implemented in its entirety.
- Ron Cruikshank commented that the North Yukon is about to test the clause “they have to abide by it”. However, the Commission should keep in mind that YESAB can change portions of the plan.
- Jim Bell commented that the Minister has final authority.
- Albert Genier wondered if the First Nations could make it law. Gerald Isaac replied that this was a question for First Nations to follow up on and not the Commission.
- Steve Taylor said the other topic discussed was the need for more information from the Commission. The RRC’s, the public, and the GTC would like to see more meetings in Ft McPherson.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerald Isaac and Ron Cruikshank pointed out that the Commission members should be constantly talking to their communities, agencies, and stakeholders and that staff is always willing to assist with presentations and be a support to Commission members. The Commission must become more visible in their communities. • Steve Taylor said that the GTC people are much more aware of the land use process and want to be involved. • Albert Genier commented that he thought there was money from the Gwich'in land claim implementation budget to assist Commission members in traveling to that area. • Peter Kaye suggested the Commission get on the schedule for the Tetlit Gwich'in General Assembly in August. • Brian Johnston replied that the General Assemblies are a great way to reach large audiences but there was also a need for smaller, focused audiences and that was a task for Commission members. 	
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Agenda Item #4: Director's Report	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Johnston reviewed his report with Commission members and highlighted key points including the difficulties in getting First Nation organizations to share knowledge. • Albert Genier suggested meeting with elder councils and explaining why the information is needed and how it will be used. He also asked Brian if he had received the map of traditional trails yet. • Brian Johnston commented that he has asked the Dene Nation for but not received the maps for traditional trails. • Brian Johnston asked Jim Bell when the Commission could expect comments from Yukon government. • Jim Bell responded that comments should become available by the end of February. • Commission members questioned YESAB's role in the planning process and wondered if Commission had a role in questioning or halting development in the planning region before a land use plan is developed. Brian replied that the Commission has an obligation to raise concerns and that was all. 	<p>Brian Johnston to follow up on acquiring a copy of the Dene traditional trails map.</p>

Agenda Item #5: Selection of a Commission Chair	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item is deferred until next meeting and full membership. 	

Agenda Item #6: Presentations and Discussions	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<p>a. Ducks Unlimited – Amy Leach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy Leach presented Turner Lakes Wetland Report. A hard copy of the report was provided to the Commission. Scoter and Scaup are internationally significant as numbers have been declining. John Ryder asked if any land cover mapping was done. Amy Leach explained that land cover mapping would take too long. <p>b. Yukon Chamber of Mines – Al Doherty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Doherty reviewed the information that is known about the planning region and provided some highlights with respect to mineral development potential in the Peel watershed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal prices are at all-time highs. Requirements for a healthy mining industry are: mineral potential, access to land, clear and timely regulatory process, geological database, skilled workforce, and infrastructure. Interest in gold, copper, tin, tungsten and uranium It is a long process to get a deposit to the development stage: exploration, financing, environmental review, access, tenure, construction, mining, milling, closure and reclamation. There was \$50M in exploration in the Yukon last year. There will be \$3-5M in exploration in the Peel next summer. The Peel is relatively inaccessible, currently. Notable mineral interest in the Peel includes: Crest iron deposit, Wernecke Breccias, low ash bituminous coal in the Bonnet Plume. The Crest iron deposit is the largest in the world. It is also very inaccessible. There is still 	

Agenda Item #6: Presentations and Discussions	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<p>potential given the current high price of iron. The most likely way of getting the iron out will be barging it out on the Mackenzie River. The only other countries with significant iron deposits are: Canada, Brazil, Australia and Russia. It is in only the large, rich deposits that will get developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Doherty provided the Commission with an electronic copy of his presentation. <p>b. Porcupine Caribou Management Board – Deanna Lemke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCMB would like a closer link between their board and the PWPC. In the PTOR the PCMB is listed as a group but they would like to be a key partner with elevated status. The PCMB would like to review any recommendations regarding the Porcupine Caribou first. • Commission requested that the PCMB submit their concerns and vision regarding the health, habitat and harvesting of the caribou. The information gathering stage is an ideal time to have input and the Commission looks forward to a written submission from the PCMB. • The Commission may call on the PCMB during the data gathering stage. 	

Agenda Item # 7 Potential Mineral Development - Contract	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contract was awarded to Gartner Lee to assess the potential mineral development scenarios in the Peel. The funding for the contract is coming from the Yukon government, Regional Economic Development Branch. The first phase of the report is due at the end of March 2006. 	

Agenda Item #8: Data Collection Update	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Johnston reviewed the data collection timetable and work plan schedule. • John Ryder presented some NYPC data to show Commission members what the PWPC data may 	

Agenda Item #8: Data Collection Update	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<p>look like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission members had questions martens, musk ox, migration corridors and soil testing. • John Ryder replied that a range of tools will be used that are relevant and available. A key feature of the biophysical map is soil and terrain. Marten are everywhere but not well understood. 	

Agenda Item #9 PWPC and YESAB – links and responsibilities	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Cruikshank reviewed the YESAB process. • The question is how does YLUPC step into the Commissions role after the life of the Commission and still live up to the agreement. If YESAB says no to a proposal but the decision bodies say yes, do you modify the plan to conform to the decision? • The decision bodies are DAP, YG and FN governments. However, the review process is outside of government. • The Commission members expressed a desire to see that the land use plan has “teeth”. • Ron Cruikshank added that the plans will have limited “teeth”. There is the expectation that the approval bodies and decision bodies will honour the recommendations in an approved plan, though they have some flexibility to stray from the plan recommendations if they choose. 	

Agenda Item #10: YTG – Environment: Request for position on SMA’s	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Johnston reviewed letter from the PWPC to the YTG, regarding their position on the creation of new Special Management Areas in the Peel watershed. • No comments or questions. 	

Agenda Item #11: Update on PWPC “Unknowns”	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred until next meeting 	

Agenda Item #12: Review and Approval of Work Plan and Budget	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Johnston reviewed the Work Plan and Budget with Commission members. He hopes to reduce the time line for the data collection phase in order to meet the current schedule. Commission members would like to see more traditional knowledge in the data collection phase. Brian Johnston noted that the First Nations heritage departments would be collecting some of this, and that a workshop was held in Dawson in December 2005 and another is scheduled in Fort McPherson in March, gathering local knowledge about traditional land use and wildlife knowledge. The Commission will also have access to the Season Use Maps that were drafted for the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea Land Use Plan in the 1980s. Commission members requested that the “Gwich’in Tribal Council” instead of the “Tetlit Gwich’in” be referenced in the Work Plan. <p>Motion #3: To accept the Budget and Work Plan with corrections as noted. Moved: Sam Wallingham 2nd Steve Taylor All in Favour Passed by Consensus</p>	

Agenda Item #13: Staffing and Planning Operations	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Johnston reviewed the status of staffing and planning operations in the PWPC office. No comments or questions. 	

Agenda Item #14: Correspondence	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian reviewed the incoming and outgoing correspondence with Commission members. • No comments or questions. 	

Agenda Item #15: Financial Update	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen Zimmer reviewed the financial update with Commission members. • No comments or questions. 	

Agenda Item #16: Next Steps	
Discussion Topic	Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting will be in one of the communities. No date was set. 	

Meeting adjourned at 4.35 pm		
Approval of Peel Watershed Planning Commission Meeting # 6 Minutes (February 8, 2006 Whitehorse, Yukon)		
_____	_____	_____
Chair	Senior Planner	Date