



# Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake)

LOCAL AREA PLAN

## STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT #1

November 16, 2021 Meeting

Prepared by



**GROUNDSWELL**  
PLANNING

**November 2021**

*Image credit: John Meikle*

## 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 first meeting virtually on November 16, 2021.

## ATTENDEES

Kathy Elliot (YG member)

Jane Koepke (Facilitator)

Jocelyne Leblanc (YG member)

Larissa Lychenko (YG staff)

Margaret McKay (KDFN member)

Roy Neilson (KDFN staff)

Bengt Pettersson (YG member)

Steven Shorty (KDFN member)

**Regrets:** Jasmine Bill (KDFN member)

## MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce Committee members to one another and begin to establish group rapport and team work;
2. Ensure that Committee members are oriented to the key sections of the MOU;
3. Ensure that Committee members understand how local area planning generally works and the Fish Lake process may be structured; and,
4. Allow Committee members to establish best practices and expectations for their work together.

## DISCUSSION

### Local Area Planning 101

- **Objectives** – Jane reviewed Section 3 of the MOU - Plan Objectives.
- **Plan Documents** – Larissa shared the Carcross Local Area Plan as the most recent adopted plan in Yukon and provided an overview of its key components – background information, vision, values, objectives, actions, land use designations (including map) and policies. The Committee briefly reviewed Section 5 of the MOU - Plan Content. Plans are adapting over time to become more publicly accessible documents that honour different forms of knowledge through stories, illustrations, graphics, etc.
- **Two Ways of Knowing** – Roy spoke to Section 4, Two Ways of Knowing, which is a new addition to local planning MOUs and outlines the principles of incorporating Indigenous knowledge into the process. Roy explained that previous processes have typically seen YG take on more of a leadership role than participating First Nations. KDFN was determined to assume a leadership role in the Fish Lake process and this is reflected in the time and resources being dedicated to it.

## Roles & Responsibilities

Committee members discussed their own **roles and responsibilities**, which included:

- Listen to everyone
- Hear all perspectives (stakeholders, interested parties, etc.) – even if we don't agree!
- Ensure that the plan is developed and delivered to decision makers
- Provide guidance and oversight to the process
- Advise the public and decision makers
- Represent the interests of community members and try to ensure those interests are met
- Ensure that the many different communities of land users are recognized in some way
  - First Nations emphasize sharing, not ownership, and respect unspoken boundaries for hunting, fishing, using the land
  - We don't formally ask permission but we inform one other about our intentions and communicate sharing

Committee members also shared their understanding of staff member roles and responsibilities:

- Help bring out people's interests in all aspects/areas of Fish Lake to facilitate use by different interests, including First Nations
- Receive Committee member direction and channel that direction towards an adopted plan
- Act as a bridge between the Steering Committee and governments
- Help Committee do the work needed for the official process
- Undertake fact-finding or information gathering missions
- Keep Committee on track

Roy and Larissa reiterated their supporting role. They will communicate the interests of the governments for Committee consideration and decision-making. Steering Committee members represent community interests, not the interests of YG or KDFN governments.

## Good Planning Process

Committee members shared their hopes and expectations for what a good process would look like (regardless of the final plan contents), including:

- Inclusive and balances different interests
- Keeps in mind the best interests for First Nation and public use (i.e., recreation, etc.)
- Respectful
- Creates a plan with flexibility over time (plan still works in the future)
- Forward-looking – not just about accommodating desires right now



## Good Committee Process

Committee members shared their thoughts around desirable member practices and behaviours, including:

- Listen and be respectful
- Try to understand by asking questions
- Understand one another's perspectives and try to walk in their shoes (or boots!)
- Recognize that we're all new to this, finding our way and doing the best we can

## Work-to-Date

- **Background and Summary Reports** – Jane shared an update on these documents. The background report was the original deliverable for Phase 1 of the process. The report will create a shared understanding of past and present use, values and characteristics, and key planning issues.

Due to the significant amount of information, and the level of detail and clarity desired, the draft report is about 90 pages long. Planning staff decided to create a shorter summary document (around 10-20 pages) that would serve as the main public-facing report. Both documents are in the final stages of edits and internal approval and should be ready for Committee review in January.

- **Visual Identity** – Larissa shared the work that Aasman Brand Communications had undertaken to create a visual identity for use in all planning process communications and key documents. The visual identity was inspired by planning area characteristics, including heritage and nature, and details specifics such as fonts, colours, and use of imagery. A logo blending the physical outline and namesake species for Fish Lake has been created as well.

Steven suggested that other key animal species be incorporated into the design work. Larissa indicated that Aasman was working to collect and use images of many different Fish Lake species.

## NEXT STEPS

### Overall Process

- Roy shared a graphic illustrating the typical sequence of steps undertaken during a local area planning process:



## Next Meeting

- Roy and Larissa plan to reconvene the Committee the third week of January to review the background report documents. Ideally the meeting will be in person, but this will be COVID-dependent.

## Action Items

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

- Draft and send out meeting minutes to Committee (Jane/Roy/Larissa)
- Schedule next meeting with Committee members (Roy/Larissa)