



TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REDP)

COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION 2013-14

TR'ONDËK-KLONDIKE World Heritage Feasibility Project

Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 10, 2013

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Lands Board Room, 12 noon

In attendance:

Paul Robitaille (Klondike Visitors Association), Allie Winton (Dawson City Museum), Dan Davidson (Chamber of Commerce), Dan Beaulieu (Chamber of Commerce), Lee Whalen (TH, Heritage), Barb Hogan (YG, Historic Sites), David Rohatensky (Parks Canada), Elaine Rohatensky (Parks Canada), Micah Olesh (City of Dawson), Myrna Butterworth (Resident) Paula Hassard (TH, Heritage, WH Project Manager).

Regrets:

Jackie Olson (TH, Heritage), Laura Mann (Dawson City Museum), Jeff Renaud (City of Dawson), Greg Hakonson (Resident), Dick Van Nostrand (Resident)

Chair: Paul Robitaille

Recorder: Paula Hassard

Welcome, and membership changes

Paul Robitaille graciously agreed to chair the meeting.

Kylie Van Every has resigned as TH resident representative and a new submission has been sent to TH Council to request appointment of the other original applicant. A decision is expected tonight.

A warm welcome to Myrna Butterworth who has accepted the Resident representative position vacated by Molly Shore, who has left the territory.

Rick Lemaire has returned as the main representative for Yukon Government Culture and Tourism; Barb Hogan will continue as the alternate and member of the Project Management Committee.

Business arising from minutes of September 12, 2013

Paul asked about the budget issue. Paula clarified that some funds have been reallocated from the final report to the cover the higher cost for contractors.

Additional funds have been promised if required, and she was giving a 'heads up' that it may be needed. In terms of cost-cutting, Paul suggested that perhaps we could reduce the committee hospitality. David said he thought it was a nice way of acknowledging those giving their volunteer time and there was agreement that unless it becomes a 'make or break' item, status quo is fine.

Paul also suggested that the advertising budget could be reduced e.g., for North of Ordinary. Paula said the intent was to try to get some awareness articles written at no cost through our connections, as opposed to paid advertising. Barb queried how that could be done, and Elaine recalled that North of Ordinary had approached Parks about an article on Discovery Claim. The only non-discretionary advertising is for Expressions of Interest, and that has been done through local and Yukon newspapers. We are fortunate to have an imbedded journalist in Dan Davidson who announced that he has written a three-part series on Klondike World Heritage status that will appear in WhatsUp Yukon.

With regard to the architectural database, Micah noted that members of the Planning Board/Heritage Advisory Committee had been campaigning to get this done for 25 years.

Project Management Committee Report

Presented (see attached).

Paula summarized the month's activities - how the Project Management Committee and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) Chair Doug Olynyk assembled the group of experts and local resource people, and what happened at the Workshop #1 on Sept. 20-22nd.

On Friday the core group looked at the themes, places and people that could contribute to the OUV statement, and there was an excellent presentation by Dawne Mitchell on Jack London. On Saturday the group was joined by a local resource group and in the afternoon by the public at large. On Sunday the original group met to de-brief and were assigned written statements and to choose relevant criteria from their areas of expertise. This allowed Doug to see the commonalities, and give him confidence in synthesizing the material. A glimpse of the brainstorming results was included in the report, to give a base on which to build the value statements.

Paula thanked all those who participated and helped out. She indicated that there needs to be a way to contract, hire or borrow more assistance with event coordination.

Under Community Engagement, Paula highlighted the World Heritage Project Update presentation to the TH General Assembly, in which the overriding concern was about the land, environment, inherent rights and stewardship of the water. Feedback was given to the TH OUV working group, and followed up at

the Elders Council Meeting, at which Ronald Johnson promised to be involved in the next workshop.

Jackie suggested the 'Soup-and-a-Bun' lunchtime chat series at Cultural Centre, which are proving successful in bringing in more TH participation. Allie confirmed that it is really helpful to hear what people are saying, as the OUV group struggles to put TH perspective into the OUV, and that it's all very positive. Lee asked about documentation and Paula replied she has several audio recordings to transcribe. The chats also provide an opportunity for Jackie to convey her vision.

The 'World Heritage Sites I have seen' slide night for the general community was a good pilot for an ongoing series and engaging travelers and World Heritage enthusiasts.

Paula presented the updated work plan, with milestones such as the report on Workshop #1 which is due Nov. 15th. Workshop#2 tentatively scheduled for the following week. This would address Doug's synthesis of the OUV statements and start the discussion about places and boundaries.

Paul requested that Paula present an update on the World Heritage project at the KVA Fall Tourism Roundup, and KVA will ensure that the project will be mentioned at the Tourism Industry Association (Yukon) Fall Roundup.

Selection of New Co-Chair

Discussion occurred about the pros and cons of various individuals and arrangements. Paul nominated David but he felt it would be awkward, ruling out Government employees. David suggested Laura as a representative of a community institution, but she will not be available until December. Allie felt she should not take it on, as she is only an alternate for the Museum. Lee did not think it was appropriate for both Co-Chairs to be from the same organization. Paul volunteered.

Decision: Paul Robitaille will be the new Co-Chair. Lee Whalen will talk to Jackie Olson about his acting as the other Co-Chair when Jackie is unable to attend.

British Columbia interest in UNESCO WHS

Andrea Henning, Director of Strategic Alliances for Royal British Columbia Museum contacted Jackie about possible UNESCO status for the Gold Rush Route. Paula was asked to follow-up. Elaine said it sounds like they are casting a wide net, and that they are only looking at an association with us. It could be inclusive of a much larger group of jurisdictions, time periods and series of gold rushes. Barb thought it would change the whole focus of what we are looking at for universal values, the First Nations and gold rush story, and that we should indicate we are going ahead. David said he thought we could not even entertain the idea of such a fundamental shift without consultation with the

International Programs office in Ottawa. Dan Davidson and Paul agreed that it would be problematic. Paula has already sent Andrea a full reply with some links for more information, and has referred her to Rebecca Kennedy.

Decision: The Committee agreed that linking with the British Columbia proposal required consultation with International Programs advisors in Ottawa. Paula will notify Rebecca Kennedy about the British Columbia interest in UNESCO.

OUV Workshop – debrief, comments, suggestions

Paul was not in attendance and asked about the intent of the workshop. Barb explained that by the end of the Sunday session the core group members were asked to start drafting a statement (and choose criteria) that reflects the values identified in the brainstorming sessions. These values would be supported by physical places that can tell that story, and can be preserved. Dan Beaulieu reiterated that these must be tangible. Lee and Barb discussed how the designations had changed from the early inscriptions in the 1980's and 90's and how much broader the scope is in 2013. Barb said she had purchased Christina Cameron's new book on the history of the World Heritage Committee and will bring a copy to Dawson.

A member who had participated acknowledged the phenomenal effort taken, and was pleased with the turnout and representation from the community. He thought the Saturday morning session was productive and supportive for the initiative, and that there was much to digest. Others had heard from community members who had really enjoyed the process and were excited to be involved.

Some suggestions were made for the sessions involving the community resource members and the public. These included providing more support to the Chair by mixing it up, having different people up at different times to better engage the participants, and move along more quickly. One member commented that it was tricky to engage a large group of people with differing levels of time invested, and that smaller breakout groups with facilitators might be effective. Other ideas were to make language/content less technical and more accessible e.g., instead of 'values' talk about 'what's important', with a simplified introduction and overview at the beginning.

There were additional suggestions regarding the technical aspects. One member found that a lot of participants didn't speak loudly enough, and there was a suggestion that we have someone in the middle handing a mike to people as they speak. The mikes should be directly attached to the recorder to eliminate background noise. Another suggestion was that others could help with logistical tasks like writing on the flipcharts.

Decision: Paula will pass along kudos and suggestions to the Chair (Doug Olynyk), ask him for what kind of support he might need, and to join us at the next committee meeting on Nov. 14th (e.g., in person, by phone or skype).

Greg Hakonson's comments provoked an interesting discussion. He was not able to attend the meeting but submitted his thoughts by email and asked that the Committee consider them in his absence. Barb had provided a preliminary response in writing.

One of Greg's concerns was the slowness of the process, and that this should be expedited. One member acknowledged there was merit in moving the process along. Another pointed out that we are following a strategic plan, which lays out the various stages of the project (per the example of Grand Pré WHS). She cautioned that we need to look at the bigger picture, and must go through the sometimes labourious process of determining values, places, boundaries and ensure that everyone has a voice. By November there will be something more concrete to examine.

Greg also felt that the gold rush and First Nation stories were not unique and should be discarded in favour of the Beringia story, as evidenced by the wealth of paleontological remains. One member thought that while Greg had brought forward very good points, he was focusing on individual components (e.g., a gold rush also happened in California), and his analysis does not recognize that the whole is far more than the sum of the parts, and it all comes together in the Klondike in a story of extraordinary proportions. He reiterated that focusing on 'the bones' was worth exploring but was also a fundamental shift from what originally put us on the tentative list, and that we would have to go back to the starting point.

Another person commented that we need everyone in the community to support what is happening here, and narrowing it down to a finite perspective for expediency may leave people out. As a result we may lose that support e.g., from the community, the City, the First Nation etc.

Another member saw inaccuracies in the argument, particularly in the suggestion that the First Nation was overrun like many other indigenous people around the world. Tr'ondëk Hwëch' in would say they were not overrun (as evidenced by where we are meeting) and in fact one of the themes the Heritage Department OUV team is highlighting is the lasting relationship of TH with the land and the community, and how that relationship has really impacted how the community has developed. Someone else felt that this was a matter for the OUV Committee.

Other comments were that it is long process, there has to be a 360-degree perspective, consideration from all angles; even in a small town there are still people who have not had a chance to provide input, and this will take a long time. Another recalled a comment that when talking to others about the World Heritage Project we don't have the words- it was hard to describe what we were doing, and that this whole workshop helps us come up with those words.

The group applauded Greg's flow of ideas and thought it was a really positive thing. They agreed we have all been frustrated at times with the layers and

length of such a high-stakes, heavy process, but are moving forward with our milestones and new members need to beware we are following the necessary steps. Barb suggested that new members receive a copy of the draft strategic plan (which is not currently on the website as it could mislead the public about the scope of the project).

Decision: Follow-up discussion with Greg Hakonson will occur at the next meeting on Nov. 14th. Paula will forward the strategic plan to members who have not received it.

Date for Next meeting

Thursday, November 14th, 2013 at 12 noon – in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Lands Board Room.

Note that subsequent meeting dates are:

- Dec 12, 2013
- Jan. 9, 2014
- Feb. 13, 2014 – will need to change location
- March 13, 2014
- April 10, 2014