



## 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, November 14, 2013

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) Lands Board Room, 12 noon

#### Members in attendance:

Jackie Olson (TH, Heritage), 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) by phone, Rick Lemaire (YG, Tourism & Culture) by phone, David Rohatensky (Parks Canada), Micah Olesh (City of Dawson), Greg Hakonson (Resident), Myrna Butterworth (Resident) Paula Hassard (TH, Heritage, WH Project Manager), Frank Blanchard (TH Resident)

#### Guests in attendance:

##### In person:

Lois Smith (TH Resident)

Catherine Poole, Yukon Government, Regional Economic Development

Andrew Gaule, Yukon Government, Regional Economic Development

Erin Deacon, Yukon Government, Business & Industry Development

Michael Bloor, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Verdun Noel, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Mark Wickham, Project Manager for TH Regional Economic Development Plan Implementation on behalf of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

##### By Skype: from 12:40-1:05 pm

Doug Olynyk, Chair, Outstanding Universal Value Working Group

#### Regrets:

Elaine Rohatensky (Parks Canada), Laura Mann (Dawson City Museum), Jeff Renaud (City of Dawson), Dick Van Nostrand (Resident), Debbie Nagano (TH, Heritage)

**Chair:** Jackie Olson

**Recorder:** Paula Hassard

#### Welcome

Mark Wickham was invited to attend with representatives from our Can Nor and YG funders who were in Dawson for the KDO Community Economic Development Partnership Forum. Following roundtable introductions, Jackie welcomed Frank Blanchard and thanked him for putting his name forward as the new TH resident representative, to replace Kylie Van Every.

She also welcomed back Rick Lemaire, who joined us by telephone as representative for Yukon Government Culture and Tourism, along with alternate Barb Hogan.

### **Business arising from minutes of October 10, 2013**

None.

### **Project Management Committee Report**

Presented (see attached).

Paula outlined some highlights such as the success of the Outstanding Universal Value Workshop #1, and the recommendations from the Project Management Committee and the Advisory Committee.

She also noted that now that the OUV is underway, we are starting to look ahead to how it will feed into the Economic Impact study. Mark is going to contact the contractor who completed the preliminary work to see what is involved in updating the content and analysis. It is expected that the results will be more positive once the geographic area and boundaries are more defined, and we know the shared OUV story. The other element to consider is Jackie's vision for an expanded cultural centre that would serve as a portal for the heritage programming at Tr'ochëk, Forty Mile and the Dempster. Paula brought up Barb's comment that the report should emphasize that the social benefits of the community working together are almost as important as a potential designation. The report also needs to address concerns about tourists overrunning the land.

Paula reported on the response to her World Heritage presentation at the KVA Fall Tourism Roundup, and was pleased that it ended with Mayor Wayne Potoroka's championing World Heritage designation as one of the solutions for unifying the message and revitalizing Dawson.

### **Follow-up on Greg Hakonson's comments**

Greg clarified that he was talking about policy, and that the examples he used were for argument's sake. He found that developing the OUV before we had a target seemed backward and that it made sense to do it the other way. i.e., establish the key thing we are going to present in the application, and then determine the outstanding universal values.

Jackie acknowledged that we are exploring right now i.e., we need to ensure we have many perspectives on the table, filter them to see what the majority thinks, and by the end of March we would have a target to work toward. David spoke to the complexity of putting forward a compelling case for UNESCO designation, that there's no clear road map, and it's up to each community to define what is significant through healthy dialogue. Jackie said it is a huge job, a

three-four year long journey. Barb agreed that the intent of first workshop was to gather as much information as possible, and continue the selective process over the winter. Paul admitted he has felt frustration with all the processes and that anything we could do to make it happen more quickly would be great.

Greg responded that he never suggested excluding anyone in the community, but thought it would be more straightforward to figure out the target first before bringing it to the community for discussion. Paul noted that most World Heritage sites are about going to see a 'thing', not a value. Allie thought this is changing, for example in Laponia WHS, Sweden, the value is the long-term migration of the Saami people. Allie also expressed amazement at how long community engagement takes, in spite of all the communication efforts that are being made. Jackie concluded that the job of the committee is to move toward the OUV, keep the community aware and promote it wherever we can.

### **General Questions/Discussion**

David suggested inserting an agenda item and opening the floor to general questions from our visitors. The Committee agreed.

#### **Q. What is it you have to have done by the end of March?**

Paula responded that the goal is to define the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value with the geographic footprint – the themes and the places - as well as the economic and social impacts all rolled up into a recommendation about whether to proceed. It is a kind of mini-nomination exercise.

Jackie clarified that we are trying to accomplish a snapshot of what world heritage would look like for Dawson. A lot of the decision lies with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in who have had reservations, and we need to get everyone on board with our vision. The process is really important for TH continuing down the road and supporting this designation. The geographic footprint will impact Traditional Territory and TH is not open to millions of people are coming through e.g., are we looking at 60,000 – 80,000 that we can handle, or hundreds of thousands?

From Jackie's perspective, WH status is a great opportunity for the whole community as well as TH; it really has potential to keep Dawson sustainable and allow people to do what they love, and take the visitors on a new experience. Although mining is part of our fabric now, it goes up and down and is not as sustainable as tourism. If we bring in a new type of visitor she thinks it will do well for Dawson across the board if it e.g., "puts heads in beds beyond the festivals, because we're all struggling as a community". Speaking for the Klondike Visitors Association, Paul agreed that as tourism has lately levelled off or declined, WH status would open the door to sustain or increase our numbers. Dan noted that designation is not just about getting people here to experience the values, it is about protecting those values.

**Q. Let's say you get to the end of March, and you've got that snapshot and everyone says let's go for it, what is the approximate timeline from that point to the point where you've gone through all the hoops and hurdles and processes to where you potentially get a decision?**

Paula replied that the earliest submission could occur would be 2016 with possible designation in 2017-18. The World Heritage Committee takes about 18 months to review the application.

**Q. Re: the next World Heritage funding application, is the Can Nor program continuing in the future?** (from Rick Lemaire)

Michael Bloor from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency responded that they are very optimistic. Can Nor is going through the process of renewal, preparing the Treasury Board submission and an evaluation. It is expected that the first year will probably be a bit lean. The Target Investment program that currently funded our work is based on investment plan priorities in each of the territories. They are also developing an engagement plan to ensure they are consulting broadly.

Erin Deacon from Yukon Government, Business & Industry Development commended the group for trying to delve into something that is not clearly outlined but are still doing their due diligence. She noted that anything that is worthwhile is never easy, and that she wanted to recognize the efforts put forth so far and would try to provide as much support as possible from the YG side.

Jackie noted that at the end of the day we may not actually get the designation but it's the process that's most important. The fact that "we're all sitting here is an accomplishment right there. Even with the document we do create it's the unified voice that's come from this table, and we can work with that".

### **OUV Workshop #1 Update on results**

Doug Olynyk, Chair of the Outstanding Universal Value Working Group presented his report by Skype. (See Report, attached).

He described the members of his professional group, many from TH, YG and former Parks Canada staff and then outlined the process, strategies and general discussions that occurred during the positive OUV workshop that occurred Sept. 20-22<sup>nd</sup> in Dawson.

Brainstorming exercises with the heritage and community groups led to some initial lists of what is considered significant: 37 values e.g. from Jack London literature to archaeological resources to mining technologies and the meeting of cultures; 64 attributes e.g., from Moosehide to the Goldfields to Tombstone Park and the Midnight Dome; 69 people/characters e.g., from the discoverers of gold to George Black, to Bombay Peggy and other larger-than-life characters.

Doug reported that all contributors felt quite positive about the outcomes of the workshop and thought that WH designation would create a platform to tell our stories and relate community values. He highlighted some of the key observations and conclusions that came out of the discussions.

For example: the Goldrush is the nexus or hook that brought Klondike into the World Heritage conversation, but it is incorrect to assume that it steamrolled the First Nation. The Gold Rush was just a blip in the continuum of their life. The group agreed that the OUV has to position the Gold Rush in a continuum of FN heritage, the continuation of a mixed community, reconciliation of cultures, convergence and contestation of cultures and the conversations between cultures.

The OUV group felt that Tr'ondëk-Klondike offers a great opportunity to do something different and 'outside of the box' in terms of WH recognition, inspired by a reinvention of the Dawson story (as opposed to the previous reinvention by Parks Canada based on the European concept of nation-building), and that these views are evolving.

They agreed that we have full spectrum matrix of stories - a storied landscape - and that the OUV should reveal the full complexity of the combined story. They were generally impressed with the broad and diverse understanding of the complex heritage e.g., both cultures had mythic figures.

### **Interim work**

Following the workshop the working group members and teams developed own ideas for a OUV statement and put together background information, all of which has been distilled by Doug into a 3 page statement with criteria. This will be sent out shortly for comments, and includes a consideration of two additional criteria.

The goal is to draft something fair, balanced, pure and simple, which will have community members nodding their heads.

### **OUV Workshop #2 Planning**

At the next workshop in December, Doug will reassemble the OUV group to talk about the options for boundaries – a) a large cultural landscape b) a serial cultural landscape with nodes connected thematically c) a smaller cultural landscape reduced to site of the town. However Doug noted that the latter would hamper telling the FN story about the connection between people and the land.

They will also talk about the World Heritage filters of authenticity, integrity that have to be met, as well as comparative analysis with other similar UNESCO sites.

Doug commented that we are benefitting from the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning, which has developed an excellent synopsis of relevant geological and heritage information.

Paula indicated the dates for the next workshop are tentatively set for **Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>**. It will be on weekdays and will incorporate recommendations made by the Advisory and Project Management Committees.

Lois Smith inquired about the interconnection between land and FN, and whether we had any more stories about the TH and how they were employed e.g. on hauling goods and supplies, mining. Doug replied that there are a lot of stories about FN sharing their knowledge e.g., explorers and traders who could not have survived without their help. The OUV will reflect these details and stories in a broad way.

Doug explained that the OUV will describe where we are in the world – the fact that we live in a challenging subarctic environment, that we're digging frozen ground that has wealth that is not only monetary but has an archive of history of the ice age and climate change over millions of years. It will include the fact that there is a relatively healthy landscape altered by mining in the goldfields. He concluded that there is room within that description for all the stories, and it will be part of a package of information and maps that will fill a filing cabinet.

#### **Date for Next meeting**

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 12 noon – in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Lands Board Room. (Note this was subsequently changed to Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>).

Note that next meeting dates are:

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