



TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REDP)

COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION 2014-15

TR'ONDËK-KLONDIKE World Heritage Project

Project Management Report – for September 25, 2014

The Project Management Committee met several times to prepare for the site visit by former Grand Pré project manager Christophe Rivet from August 27th to 30th. We also addressed further funding matters and commenced and made progress with the Buffer Zone working group, meeting with both TH and Mining representatives throughout the month.

Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) Work

We sent the latest OUV drafts and key reference materials to Christophe Rivet, and made arrangements for 3 1/2 days of field trips and discussion about the OUV and geographic boundary/buffer zones of the potential UNESCO site. The objective was to look at how places connected within the concept of 'cultural landscape'.

Activities included:

- Orientation to the TH Heritage Department
- Tour of the Cultural Centre
- Vehicle tour to view mining operations along Bonanza, Discovery Claim and Dredge No. 4
- Tour of Bear Creek with Parks Superintendent
- Evening drive up the Dome
- Boat tour to Tr'ochëk with TH elders and Heritage Officer
- Boat tour to Moosehide with TH elders, TH Heritage Director, and additional sites such as Sternwheeler graveyard, Fort Reliance, fish wheels and other current activities in the landscape pointed out along the way
- Visit and lunch at Forty Mile
- Tour of the Commissioner's Residence and Robert Service Cabin (Parks Canada)
- Scenic drive up the Dempster Highway to Black City, accompanied by a TH elder who told stories of the area. On the way back we stopped briefly at Tombstone and at the Land of Plenty to witness traditional land-use activities at the hide-tanning camp
- Chat with TH Executive Director about her vision for TH in the World Heritage proposal
- Meet n' Greet at Klondike Kate's restaurant
- A drive around Dawson streets to see the architecture

Christophe delivered a draft report: '*Strategic Direction for the Tr'ondëk-Klondike WH Proposal*' on Sept. 12th. The Project Management Committee met to discuss and send comments and we are now in the midst of reviewing a second draft.

Suggestions from Christophe include:

- Using terminology and concepts that UNESCO people in other countries would understand and find meaningful e.g.,
 - under criteria iv), using terminology such as 'the "'impact"' of the gold rush' on both cultures to frame such ideas as resilience, changing ways of life, and maintaining traditional land use.
 - under criteria vi), introducing the concept of the 'North American frontier'
 - using the term 'settler' instead of 'newcomer'
 - using the term 'land-use' instead of 'way of life'
- Narrowing the boundaries to a more immediate area - a representative example that still has the chain of evidence to tell a complete story, rather than trying to capture everything
- Focusing on salmon fishing as an example of an ongoing TH land-use
- Focusing on the tradition of placer mining as an example of a continuing non-indigenous land-use

These are only suggestions, and are by no means final. Christophe also provided an excellent 'Brief description' section about the geographic place to give someone who has never been here a mental image of the property. The draft sections are framed in the language of world heritage, with valuable guidance in boundaries and buffers, and quotations from the Operational Guidelines to explain the rationale to our Ottawa advisors.

The Project Management committee will consider the expertise and direction provided for the next boundary and OUV iterations to help strengthen our argument and guide our future work.

Mining Industry Participation

After the presentation to the Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM) on July 15th, we followed up with a letter from the Advisory Committee clarifying the type of participation we were requesting, and Barb and Paula gave a presentation to KPMA Board of Directors on Sept. 5th.

Letters have now been received from the YCM and KPMA indicating that their representatives will participate on the Advisory Committee as well as the geographic working group. These are not to be interpreted as letters of support. It is recognized that there will be opportunities for stakeholder endorsement of the project at later stages in the process as the work evolves. These letters have been submitted to our funders for consideration.

Buffer Zone Working Group

Once key places are identified that illustrate the OUV of a World Heritage site, boundaries are established and buffer zones must be considered. Buffer zones are transition areas outside the boundary that provide an extra layer of protection for a site's values or to retain its quality. Types of buffer zones include those that maintain important views and settings, manage traffic impacts or visitor pressures, make connections to achieve positive community or economic benefits, and protect elements related to OUV attributes (e.g., that are part of a system). The entire site does not have to have a buffer around it; certain areas can have buffers, while others may not. A rationale must be provided as part of the nomination proposal.

A Terms of Reference for a Buffer Zone Working group was prepared and distributed with other reference material on world heritage buffers and boundaries. To start the process there are currently two sub-groups, one with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in representatives, and another with mining industry representatives.

For the **Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Buffer Zone Working Group**, committee representatives had a preliminary discussion with TH Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife staff on August 21st. This was followed by a working group meeting on August 25th. Initial TH concerns include the impact of tourism on traditional use such as fishing/trapping habitat, restrictions on TH rights and development, and that we ensure economic benefits go to local contractors and TH citizens, right of first refusal and including an aboriginal training clause (per Chapter 28) to build capacity. There was interest in the emphasis on a sustainable economy.

For the **Mining Industry Buffer Zone Working Group**, a preliminary meeting was held on August 6th, and we are preparing for a working group meeting on Sept. 24th. Initial mining industry concerns include access roads, whether there would be a significant enough economic benefit to make the effort and expense worthwhile, and that in spite of our statement that there would be no new regulations, YESAB might interpret the values differently than we intended. There was great interest in learning about other mining-related world heritage sites; the fact that there are no other mining WHS continuing to operate would add to our uniqueness. World Heritage designation could also raise the profile of miners and mining in the Klondike.

Current Resource Situation

- Interim Yukon Government SID funding is in place that covers June 1st to Sept. 31st 2014. This is to make progress on the OUV, buffers and boundaries, and obtain input from the mining industry.
- The CanNor funding application for April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2016 has been approved pending contributions from other sources.
- A 4-year Yukon Government application for is in the system. We have been informed that due to the size and multiple years of the proposal, it must be

assessed through management committee, and this may take until the end of November before a decision is made.

The Project Manager position ends on September 31st, and will be extended again once we hear back about the above funding.

Community Engagement

- TH Communications: Paula prepared a project submission for the TH September newsletter.
- World Heritage was featured as the key initiative among nine bundled community-based projects in a presentation by Jackie Olson and Monina Wittfoth at the 'Council of Northern Economic Development' Conference held in Dawson on Sept. 11th.
- Paula represented World Heritage at the 'Action Canada' Leadership program gathering on Sept. 19th