



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

COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION 2014-15

TR'ONDËK-KLONDIKE World Heritage Project

Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, December 4, 2014

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Natural Resources (Lands) Conference Room, 12 noon

Members in attendance: Frank Blanchard (TH Resident), Dan Davidson (Dawson City Chamber of Commerce) Paul Robitaille (Klondike Visitors Association), Dick Van Nostrand (Resident), Lee Whalen (TH, Heritage), Paula Hassard (TH, Heritage, WH Project Manager)

Regrets: Greg Hakonson (Resident), Rick Lemaire (YG, Tourism & Culture) Debbie Nagano (TH, Heritage), Myrna Butterworth (Resident), Barb Hogan (YG, Historic Sites), Laura Mann (Dawson City Museum), Micah Olesh (City of Dawson), David Rohatensky (Parks Canada), Tara Christie (Klondike Placer Miners Association), Samson Hartland (Yukon Chamber of Mines).

Chair: Paul Robitaille

Recorder: Evelyn Pollock (Across the River Consulting - ATR)

Paul congratulated the Project Management committee and TH on securing funding and support for the project over the next 2-4 years.

Business arising from Minutes of September 25, 2014

Presentations and reports were given to the Elders' Council and TH General Assembly (GA). In addition, we Management Committee met separately with the Chair of the Elders' Council and also with TH's new Chief, Roberta Joseph to make sure we were approaching the messaging properly. All presentations went well, the resolution to continue working on the World Heritage proposal was passed, and generally everyone seemed positive.

The Committee noted that a few recent media editorials have contained negative comments about World Heritage Site status for Dawson, and that there are misconceptions e.g., articles referring to the WHS as a park. Paula noted that we did respond to some editorials, and there remains much work to do on communications. Part of the newly funded work will involve educating the general public. Over the last six months we were on a minimal budget, and focused our communications and engagement efforts on two major stakeholders, which were considered a priority. This left insufficient time and

human resources to do broad communications to the general public. Moving forward however, we will be contracting a communications strategy and implementation.

Business arising from Project Management Report of December 4, 2014

Presented. (See written report)

Paula summarized highlights such as the passing of resolutions by both the GA and Yukon Legislature, securing of consistent funding from YG and CanNor, and recent OUV and boundary refinements. Now we have 3-4 months to scope and complete a number of activities moving the project forward.

Tailing Piles

Paula noted that a separate group (led by Myrna Butterworth) are investigating the possibility of setting aside an area of tailings piles as a park. So far the response has been positive both from the public and Mayor and Council, but YG also needs to agree; and location choice may need further work as there is a subdivision plan for that area which has to be considered.

Buffer Zone Working Group

Committee discussed advantages/disadvantages of having separate working groups for TH and mining, instead of having everyone together in one room. Ultimately this format was meant to enable everyone to voice concerns and to feel comfortable at the critical early stages of consultation as we hope to understand each interest. The plan is to engage people gradually, and consolidate the group later.

Christophe Rivet indicated in his report that he felt that we did not have enough documented information on placer mining family history up to present day, and that bolstering this area will help us establish the story of outstanding universal value. Paula indicated that she anticipated this being a really valuable exercise from both a research and communications perspective.

Next steps

Paula acknowledged the pressure the Tr'ondëk-Klondike project is under to do this work on a compressed timeline, and discussion ensued about next steps. Planning for this fiscal year had been done and now the working group is prioritizing what we can do in the shortened time frame (i.e., by March 31st). Lee noted that the project will be hiring a position to assist Paula in the work going forward, but in the interim we have contracted Across the River Consulting to assist until that person is hired. We are hoping to fill the position in February.

Discussion of whether the timeline and funding as outlined would be sufficient to get the actual bid done and submitted to UNESCO. Committee determined to do the most and best work possible leading up to the deadline for submission.

Discussion re: Strategic Direction Report

Summary of the recommendations from consultant Christophe Rivet:

Primarily Christophe has honed down our geographic area, and reduced the number of themes that we compiled from talking with the community. Christophe suggested we use World Heritage terms and concepts, narrow the story, and narrow the geographic area so it is a concise argument and example, rather than trying to tell everything. As an analogy, it is like writing a short story instead of a novel. This is a struggle because the community will want to include everything the Tr'ondëk-Klondike story has to offer, but his advice reflects a strategic point of view; we need to ask ourselves what the World Heritage committee will look for, and what will bring us success?

It is possible (in a way) to put 'everything' into the dossier as background, but the part that will win the designation has to be a focused argument for outstanding universal value (OUV). The OUV has to be proven with a chain of evidence. Our role is to make sure it is an accurate and balanced story.

We have chosen the UNESCO criteria iv) and vi) to summarize the argument for OUV. Christophe recommends starting the story with the gold rush - taking that as the starting point for both land and cultures becoming transformed. Christophe's other point is that articulating the culture and the experience of this place through criteria vi), which is associated with living traditions, ideas or beliefs - could be done in reference to the 'frontier' culture that exists here today. Trying to define that aspect is complicated, but could be as simple as two cultures coming together in a place. This is a recommendation, and that the Project Management Committee can assess its usefulness, and accept it or not. If we define it within the Dawson experience as a special representation of a frontier it will work into definitions that the WH Committee can understand and compare globally.

A committee member noted that the Klondike was only a new frontier requiring adaptation for the miners, but for the Han [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in] it was their continuing established lifestyle. Discussion of the notion of 'and perspective ensued. Paula recalled Christophe's point that the academic debate around the concept of 'frontier' does not necessarily have to affect our understanding of the word. His use of the term was as 'a point of contact between distinct realities'.

Additional experts will be engaged to assess our project and provide recommendations at different stages, to provide different perspectives. A roundtable discussion is being planned for the spring to help refine our arguments further.

Discussion of Progress Report and Preliminary Draft Boundary

This report outlines work done from June to September 2014, and ends with a description that ties our story to the (draft) chosen boundaries.

Whether or not to include Forty Mile within the boundary is still being considered as it depends on how we formulate the story. Right now the argument for Forty Mile is that it includes more river, TH traditional land use, evidence of fishing and the actual Forty Mile heritage site. At the moment, Forty Mile is included in a buffer zone, because we have not decided whether it is part of the core story or an associated story.

The other change is including the Ridge Road. Discussions with KPMA and YCM representatives have led us to consider refining the goldfields boundaries. Continuing placer mining is an important part of the Tr'ondëk Klondike concept. Questions remain around exact boundaries - for example, do we cut up along the road from Granville, which meets the Ridge Road Trail. It is an old wagon trail, historically relevant, and something to consider. Whether this section is included or not won't affect the people there; it's just about whether it adds to the story, considering the mining district as a unit.

The boundary is meant to encompass the OUV, while the buffer zone can have various functions such as protecting from tourism pressures.

Date for Next meeting

The tentative date is January 15th, at noon in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Natural Resources (Lands) Conference Room.