



VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT



August 10, 2012

Chief Joe Linklater
Vuntut Gwitchin Government
Box 94
Old Crow, YT Y0B 1N0

The Honourable Brad Cathers
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Chief Linklater and Minister Cathers:

Re: North Yukon Land Use Plan Implementation Annual Report.

We are pleased to provide you with the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan Annual Report on 2011 implementation activities. When the report has been accepted by you, a copy will be forwarded to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council in accordance with the UFA and related MOU (below).

The North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan was approved by the Parties in July 2009, followed by a *Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan* (MOU) signed in January 2010.

Pursuant to the terms of the MOU, the Directors have prepared this memo and attachments for review and comment as the 2011 Annual Report describing the following:

1. The year's implementation activities and issues;
2. The Parties' priorities for the subsequent year;
3. Plan amendment or review procedures and outcomes, and
4. Cumulative effects reporting results.

1) 2011 Implementation Activities and Issues: The detailed activities and issues discussed during the quarterly reviews are summarized in the attached *Intergovernmental Implementation Framework*, which is included as attachment 1. Highlights for the 2011 activities are as follows:

- Protected Area Planning is progressing for the Whitefish Lakes, Summit Lake and Bell River, as recommended in the Plan;
- Two projects related to the surface and linear disturbance bench marking are nearing completion;
- Project conformity checks were successfully conducted on four YESAB projects within the planning region in 2011 as summarized in attachment 2;
- A mapping update to reflect the removal of the interim land withdrawal has been completed as per attachment 3, and posted on the YLUPC and YG websites.

2) Parties' Priorities for 2012:

- i. Continued progress in the protected area planning for the Whitefish Lakes, Summit Lake and Bell River areas;
- ii. Continued progress on the surface and linear disturbance bench marking and baseline project which will assist in future cumulative effects management;
- iii. EMR will continue to assist VGG with their community forest management planning;
- iv. Investigating further over-wintering fish habitat research;
- v. Review status and planned work on aggregate mapping by EMR, YG;
- vi. Investigate initiating a wind energy project in Old Crow.

3) 2011 Plan amendment or review procedures and outcomes:

Mapping updates were completed on the "Land Use Categories and Integrated Management Area Zones" mapping of the 2009 North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan (Map #1) to reflect the removal of the interim land withdrawal. The updated map included as attachment 3 has been posted on both the YLUPC and YG EMR websites.

4) Cumulative Effects Reporting:

No additional disturbance was reported during the reporting year as reflected by the attached 2011 North Yukon RLUP Project Conformity Check Summary table.

Baseline disturbance levels continue to be developed. EMR will continue work on the surface and linear disturbance baseline to aid in future cumulative effects management. Background information and field data from LMU 9 has been gathered and analysed in order to develop a recovery classification system for rating regenerating vegetation. This will lead to a ranking system for calculating when previous disturbances are to be considered recovered.

We look forward to continue working together under the MOU to implement the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan.

Sincerely,



Pauline Frost
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
Vuntut Gwitchin Government



Shirley Abercrombie
Assistant Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

Attachments:

1. North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan Intergovernmental Implementation Framework
2. North Yukon RLUP Project Conformity Check Summary for 2011
3. North Yukon RLUP Map 1: Land Use Categories (Updated for January 2012)
4. North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan Quarterly Review minutes for October 4, 2011
5. North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan Quarterly Review minutes for February 2, 2012

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
<p>GOAL 1: Sustainable Development</p> <p>Promote Sustainable Development by ensuring that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner</p>	<p>1.1 As a general guideline for decision makers and land users, in the Integrated Management Area the amount of surface disturbance in a landscape management unit should be maintained below the cumulative effects indicator levels indicated in the plan (5.1.1)</p>	<p><u>1.1.1 Surface and Linear Disturbance Tracking and Reporting</u></p> <p>a) YG will track new surface and linear disturbance on public land designated as Integrated Management Areas pursuant to the Plan. Specifically, YG will track existing, new, and recovered disturbance levels in these areas through the use of proponent-supplied information and computer-based modeling software. Initial research efforts in respect of existing and recovered disturbance levels will focus on identified areas off the Dempster Highway, as well as the Eagle Plains, Whitefish River-Cathedral Rocks, and Richardson Foothills eco-regions (see also item 1.3.1).</p> <p>b) VGG will track new surface and linear disturbance on Settlement Lands which are designated as Integrated Management Areas pursuant to the Plan.</p> <p>c) The Parties will provide the cumulative effects reporting results to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Annual reports</p> <p>1. Contracted to show estimated surface disturbance.</p> <p>2. Analysis of data started Nov 2011 to review & determine if gaps exist in data (mostly LMU 9).</p> <p>3. Estimation of recovery rates drafted Dec 2011.</p> <p>4. Next steps: include fill in gaps & set bench marks.</p>	Ongoing
		<p><u>1.1.2 Joint Technical Meetings</u></p> <p>The Parties will meet if a proposed cautionary indicator level is reached. These meetings serve as a forum for sharing information and formulating recommendations to assist respective governments' management of public and Settlement Lands in compliance with the approved Plan. The Parties may, in consultation, adopt management actions to minimize and mitigate impacts on key ecological values within the target Land Management Unit (LMU).</p>	<p>Information and recommendations to decision bodies</p>	As triggered
		<p><u>1.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding</u></p> <p>YG and VGG will develop a Memorandum of Understanding governing the joint technical meetings referred to in 1.1.2. The MOU will define clear guidelines and process links to the Yukon Environmental Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the YLUPC in respect of the cumulative effects framework.</p>	<p>MOU</p>	COMPLETED

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
<p>GOAL 1: Sustainable Development</p> <p>Promote Sustainable Development by ensuring that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner</p>	<p>1.2 Site closure/remediation plans should be developed, implemented and monitored for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects that create significant surface disturbance (5.1.2.1)</p>	<p><u>1.2.1 Site Closure/Remediation Plans</u></p> <p>In consultation with VGG, YG will implement site closure and remediation plans as per standard practices for review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects requiring such site closure and remediation plans. YG to monitor the applicable site closure/remediation plans on public lands, VGG to monitor on Settlement Lands.</p>	<p>No activity on site closure or remediation was initiated during the reporting year.</p>	<p>On-going</p>
	<p>1.3 To provide a benchmark for the monitoring of cumulative effects indicator levels, the status of existing surface disturbances should be documented (5.1.2.1)</p>	<p><u>1.3.1 Bench-marking</u></p> <p>The Parties will quantify existing linear and surface disturbance throughout the region. Initial research efforts to this end will be focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas that have the highest possibility of experiencing future disturbance. • areas where existing disturbances are providing winter access for hunters off the Dempster Highway. Specifically, the Parties will conduct fieldwork to document disturbance levels in this area, excluding the 2km Dempster Corridor established by the Plan. • the Eagle Plains, Whitefish River-Cathedral Rocks, and Richardson Foothills eco-regions. Specifically, in consultation with VGG, YG will use ground-truthed computer models to derive benchmark disturbance levels for these regions. <p>Prior to deriving benchmark disturbance levels, the Parties will utilize existing and available data regarding historical surface disturbance and linear density throughout the region.</p>	<p>Historical surface disturbance and linear density data</p> <p>Also see comments for 1.1.1</p>	<p>- Satellite Imagery Capture & Interpretation: Spring 2011</p> <p>-Dempster Highway project: unknown Summer 2011</p>
	<p>1.4 In the North Yukon Planning Region, potential climate change impacts should be considered in all land management decisions (5.1.3)</p>	<p><u>1.4.1 Main-streaming climate change</u></p> <p>YG will implement this recommendation by fulfilling its obligation under the YG Climate Change Action Plan. The Parties may work in partnership with the Climate Change Secretariat and Northern Climate ExChange to fulfill this recommendation, and will apply best scientific knowledge and adaptive management tools to incorporate climate change considerations into land management decisions in the region.</p>	<p>Climate Change is considered in all project evaluation and planning exercises.</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
GOAL 1: Sustainable Development (Cont.)	1.5 Due to the potential cumulative effects of climate change and land use impacts, sensitive wetland habitats and Porcupine Caribou Herd habitats at risk of significant change should be managed more cautiously, and with a high level of conservation focus (5.1.3)	<p><u>1.5.1 Approve Plan</u> By approving the Plan, sensitive wetlands and critical Porcupine Caribou Herd habitat, included in zone I and II, will be managed with a high level of conservation focus.</p> <p><u>1.5.2 Manage Herd</u> Ongoing implementation of the Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.</p>	As per 2010 Annual report, Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan was signed by all eight Parties.	Plan Approved July 2010 On-going
GOAL 2: Wildlife Maintain terrestrial habitat in a condition required to sustain regional wildlife populations	The plan does not contain any recommendations in respect of this goal. It does, however, outline a number of best practices.	<p><u>2.1 BMP Development</u> Government agencies and project review panels are continually developing and updating BMPs. The Parties acknowledge that consideration is given to the BMPs identified in the Plan, noting that some practices may be surpassed in future, but will not require plan revision.</p>	BMP's ongoing for areas of trappers, invasive plants, wetlands, caribou, Green House Gases.	On-going
GOAL 3: Fish Maintain aquatic habitat in a condition required to sustain regional fish populations	3.1 To minimize potential impacts to regional fish populations, in-stream and lake over-wintering habitat should be identified in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.4)	<p><u>3.1.1 Over-wintering Research</u> YG will complete identification of in-stream and lake over-wintering habitat throughout the planning region.</p>	Prior over-wintering project noted. Poster of 2006-08 results produced.	TBD
		<p><u>3.1.2 Permitting - Fish Habitat</u> YG will implement as per current practices for review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects. Impact on fish is a consideration in project assessment conducted by the responsible agencies (i.e. DFO, Water Board and YESAA).</p>	No permits issued in North Yukon Region, therefore no action required. (No change)	On-going
	3.2 Water withdrawals in sensitive fish over-wintering areas should be prohibited (5.2.4)	<p><u>3.2.1 Water Withdrawal Prohibitions</u> This is a consideration in existing project assessment and is to be considered collaboratively by all orders of government with jurisdiction in the North Yukon region. The Parties will implement as a matter of practice noting that compliance to this recommendation may not always be practical.</p>	No permits issued in region, so no withdrawal prohibitions were necessary. (No change)	On-going

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
GOAL 4: Wetlands, Lakes and Rivers Maintain the integrity of wetlands, lakes, rivers and sensitive permafrost areas	4.1 To minimize potential impacts to regional wetlands, an assessment of wetland hydrology and connectivity should be conducted in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.5)	<u>4.1.1 Wetland Hydrology Research</u> YG will apply the Canadian Wetland Classification System to assess hydrology and connectivity of wetland systems within the planning region. This research will inform the YG's work to develop BMPs for each wetland type, in consultation with VGG.	Wetland inventory, classification and assessment. Noted that wetland BMP are underway & drafting committee struck	April 1, 2011
		<u>4.1.2 Permitting – Wetland Hydrology</u> YG will fully consider wetland hydrology in the review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects.	No new related projects or permits issued in region, other than existing operations. No concerns raised. (No change)	On-going
	4.2 Water withdrawals in ecologically sensitive wetland areas should be prohibited (5.2.5)	<u>4.2.1 Withdrawal Prohibitions</u> The recommendation is a guiding principle to be evaluated under specific circumstances by the Parties.	No permits issued in region, so no withdrawal prohibitions were necessary. (No change)	When Triggered
GOAL 5: Heritage and Culture Recognize, conserve and promote the heritage and cultural resources and values of the Vuntut Gwitchin, other affected First Nations, and the Yukon	5.1 Management guidelines for identified routes and sites within the Integrated Management area should be developed jointly by the Vuntut Gwitchin and Yukon governments (5.3.1.1)	<u>5.1.1 Management Guidelines</u> Most existing routes have been identified and management guidelines or BMPs are/will be jointly developed by the Parties as circumstances require.	Management guidelines or BMPs. Heritage resource BMPs have been developed for Oil & Gas, Mineral exploration, Placer Mining and Wilderness Tourism.	On-going
	5.2 Known historic camps/cabins, historical fish trap locations, archaeological sites and other heritage resources should be identified prior to exploration and development activities, and protected from disturbance (5.3.1.2)	<u>5.2.1 Permitting – Historic Sites and Resources</u> YG will implement as per current practices for review and permitting of projects which address known historic sites and resources. This item to be reassessed at the first plan review.	Management Guidelines development is ongoing . During 2011, a permit was issued for the Heritage Resource Impact Assessment of the Proposed Old Crow Water Pumpouse.	On-going

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
GOAL 6: Economic Facilitate economic development opportunities and activities that results in socio-economic benefits to the community of Old Crow, other affected First Nations and Yukon as a whole, and that meet the sustainable development criteria established by this Plan	6.1 In recognition of the strategic importance of the Dempster Highway and its designation as a Northern and Remote route under the National Highway System, surface disturbance and linear density indicator reporting and evaluation are exempt within a distance of 1 km on each side of the highway centre line (2-km total corridor width) (5.4.1.1)	To be re-evaluated at first plan review.	N/A	
	6.2 An all-season access road to Old Crow is not required at this time (5.4.1.2)	To be re-evaluated at first plan review.	N/A	
	6.3 In advance of significant levels of energy sector activity, an access management plan should be developed for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin (5.4.1.3)	<u>6.3.1 Access Management Plan</u> YG and VGG will jointly develop an access management plan for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin. Within two years of the Plan being approved, the Parties will draft the terms of reference establishing the factors to be considered in developing the access management plan for this area.	Terms of Reference VGG reviewing internally and will update Yukon on their decision	Fall 2010 Awaiting response from VGG
	6.4 To support maintenance and growth of Old Crow, the Community Area (CA) should be exempt from surface disturbance and linear density indicator monitoring (5.4.2)	<u>6.4.1 CA Location</u> VGG, in consultation with YG, will determine exact location of the CA. Until such time that the Parties finalize the CA location, the CA shall be defined as a 5-km radius from the centre of Old Crow. The area is not expected to include lands across the Porcupine River from Old Crow.	CA boundary delineation centered on the VGG admin building. Noted that the 5 km radius is adequate for now.	When capacity and resources permit
	6.5 To mitigate potential impacts to significant and/or sensitive ecological or cultural resources and values, the identification and mapping of potential sources of aggregate should be undertaken in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.4.7)	<u>6.5.1 Aggregate Mapping</u> YG will continue to map potential aggregate resources in the North Yukon region in consultation with VGG.	Aggregate maps Some field work is planned for 2012. (No change)	On-going

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
<p>GOAL 6: Economic</p> <p>Facilitate economic development opportunities and activities that results in socio-economic benefits to the community of Old Crow, other affected First Nations and Yukon as a whole, and that meet the sustainable development criteria established by this Plan</p>	<p>6.6 A future Old Crow Forest Management Plan should maintain community fuelwood and forest harvesting opportunities within the identified fuelwood and forest harvesting area shown in Map 3, Appendix 1 (5.4.8)</p>	<p><u>6.6.1 Community Forest Management Plan</u></p> <p>VGG and YG will develop a Community Forest Management Plan for Old Crow as provided for in s.30 of the <i>Forest Resources Act</i>, to provide accessible forest use for local residents.</p>	<p>Community Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Noted that that the CFMP was raised as an issue in community. Copies of YG Forestry information was shared in 2011.</p>	<p>When capacity and resources permit</p>
	<p>6.7 Renewable energy options and solutions for the community of Old Crow should continue to be researched and promoted (5.4.9)</p>	<p><u>6.7.1 Energy Option Research and Promotion</u></p> <p>VGG will lead the energy options research initiative, with initial focus on improving the energy efficiency of existing and new houses and government buildings in Old Crow and the use of heat energy from Yukon Electrical Company's power generators to support other community infrastructure. In consultation with VGG, YG will conclude a technical analysis of renewable energy options for Old Crow.</p>	<p>Energy options research report</p> <p>The Old Crow Solar Monitoring project & renewable energy resource database were noted.</p>	<p>When capacity and resources permit</p>

	Stand-Alone Item	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
1	Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.1 Whitefish Lakes: LMU 8A, Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes, a sub-unit of Whitefish Wetlands, should be designated as a Protected Area category.	<u>i. Designations and Withdrawals</u> YG will withdraw (via OIC for 5 year term) the public land portion of LMU 8A and manage the land in accordance with the Plan until a more detailed management plan for the Whitefish wetlands is undertaken and adopted within the term of the OIC. VGG will designate the Settlement Land portion of 8A as a protected area.	OIC withdrawal and VGG designation	Completed
		<u>ii. Management Planning</u> VGG will lead the development of detailed management plan for the Whitefish Wetlands. <i>Updates: YG and VGG have started work on a fish and wildlife management plan. The Community-based Fish & Wildlife Work Plan is expected to be completed in mid-2012.</i> <i>YG and VGG continue to work together to define the type of protected area mechanism, under YG legislation, that will be applied to the area until such time as VGG develops a Lands Act that will enable VGG to designate the area (expected 5 year timeline).</i>	Protected area management plan. YG and VGG continue to work together on the management planning.	April 1, 2011
2	Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.4.2 Summit Lake: LMU 4C, Summit Lake-Bell River, a sub-unit of the Northern Richardson Mountains and Foothills, should be designated as a Protected Area category	<u>i. Withdrawal</u> YG will withdraw (via OIC for 5 year term) the proposed study area until final boundaries are defined and management plan is completed. After the management plan is complete, area within redefined Protected Area will be permanently withdrawn.	OIC withdrawal	Completed
		<u>ii. Resource Assessment</u> YG will complete the resource assessments for the identified Summit Lake area. <i>Updates: EMR YGS mineral potential assessment came out in August 2011. YG Environment has been reviewing it internally during 2011 and interdepartmental review by YG will take place in 2012.</i>	Resource Assessment Reports. Mineral Resource potential report produced in 2011	Summer 2010 & 2011
		<u>iii. Boundary Delineation</u> The Parties in consultation will delineate the finalized boundaries of the Summit Lake Area. <i>Updates: YG Environment has been reviewing information internally during 2011 to develop potential scenarios. Interdepartmental review by YG will take place in 2012, followed by discussions with VGG.</i>	Boundary agreement	2012
		<u>iv. Memorandum of Understanding</u> The Parties will conclude an MOU regarding the legal designation of the finalized Summit Lake Area.	MOU	2012

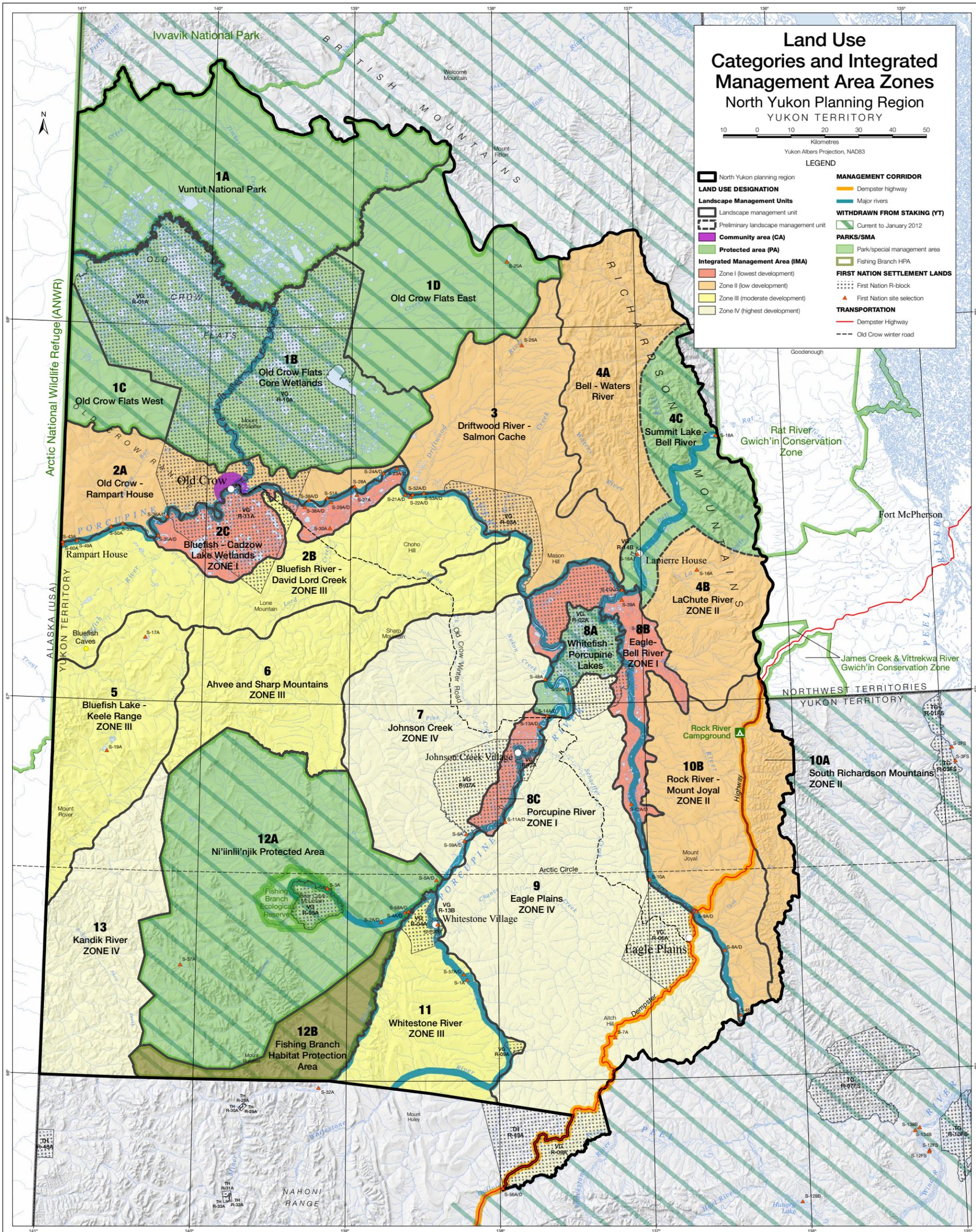
	Stand-Alone Item	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
2 Cont'd	Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.4.2 Summit Lake (continued):	<p>v. Protected Area Planning</p> <p>The Parties will undertake protected area planning within the term of the OIC. Protected area planning to include options for an access corridor to the North Slope. During the interim period, management direction will rely on the Regional Land Use Plan.</p> <p><i>Updates: Environment received the Yukon Geological Survey report in August 2011 for review and analysis. Once potential boundary scenarios have been vetted by senior management, interdepartmental discussions will seek consensus on potential scenarios. Noted that VGG would like to become involved in the discussion on the boundary once YG has reached consensus on one or more potential scenarios.</i></p> <p><i>Environment let a contract this September to VGFN to ID cultural heritage values within the Summit Lake- Bell River study area. This information will contribute to the boundary assessment work. The report is due March 31st 2012 and is funded through implementation funding allocation.</i></p>	Protected area management plan	Between 2012 and 2014
3	<p>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.4 North Yukon Withdrawal:</p> <p>Should the applicable authorities decide to lift the North Yukon Land Withdrawal at a future date, LMU 2A and LMU 4A should be considered for Integrated Management Area Zone III designation</p>	The Parties will develop a consultation plan in respect of the North Yukon Land Withdrawal. Pursuant to the consultation plan, YG will amend the existing withdrawal order so as to remove LMUs 2A, 3, and 4A from the order, and extend the order to apply to the study area for the proposed protected areas (Summit lake – Bell River and Whitefish wetlands). The land use designation IMA Zone II will be applied to LMUs 2A, 3 and 4A.	Consultation plan and withdrawal orders	Completed
4	<p>Landscape Management Unit #12B Fishing Branch HPA</p> <p>a. The Fishing Branch Committee of Managing Agencies should consider applying the land use designation concepts and criteria used in this Plan to the Fishing Branch HPA at the next HPA management plan review</p> <p>b. Further delineation of the Fishing Branch HPA southern boundary should also be considered during the next HPA management plan review.</p>	<p>The Committee of Managing Agencies conducted a review of the HPA management plan in 2009. This recommendation was tabled and discussed. It was determined that the Landscape Management Unit (LMU) will not be classified as a zone I, II, or III similar to other LMU's in the planning region. Rather, the management plan will take precedence regarding activities and land use options contained within since it provides a much more focused description and explanation of land use parameters. The acceptance and use of Cumulative Effects Indicators was not discussed but will be tabled at the next Committee of Managing Agencies meeting, which is expected to occur during the winter of 2009/2010.</p> <p>Once the VG/TH Traditional Territory overlap is resolved, the Fishing Branch Committee of Managing Agencies will work to establish a watershed-based boundary for the southern part of the HPA. <i>Dawson Planning Commission to be made aware of this item.</i></p>	N/A	Completed
5	Suggested Research Priorities, Appendix 4	Appendix 4 of the Plan provides a summary of various research suggestions made throughout the Plan. The Parties will review, agree to, and develop a timeline for undertaking research priorities commensurate with available resources.	Research timeline and products	June 2011-2014

	Stand-Alone Item	Action Steps	Results Expected	Start Date
6	<p>Plan Implementation, section 7.1</p> <p>The Parties will develop a detailed Plan implementation strategy concurrently with, or subsequent to, the approval of a Final Land Use Plan</p>	YG and VGG will update the Intergovernmental Implementation Framework annually.	Updated Intergov. Implementation Framework	On-going
7	<p>Plan Revision, section 7.2</p> <p>Plan Reviews will occur on an agreed-upon schedule, or whenever the Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments agree it is required. Methods and timelines for changing the Plan will be developed as part of the detailed implementation strategy</p>	VGG and YG will jointly develop a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the plan revision schedule and triggers thereof. The Memorandum of Understanding will address whether such reviews are mandatory or discretionary, and shall clarify any applicable public review processes.	MOU	completed
8	<p>Best management practices</p>	Government agencies and project review panels are continually developing and updating BMPs. The Parties acknowledge that consideration is given to the BMPs identified by the Plan, noting that some practises may be surpassed in future, but will not require plan revision.	BMP's are being developed on an ongoing basis. Also see 2.1 and 5.1.1	On-going

North Yukon RLUP Project Conformity Check Summary for 2011

	<u>YESAA #</u>	<u>Project Proponent</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>LMU</u>	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>Conformity</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	2011-0046	Yukon government – Community Services	Old Crow Water System Upgrades at the existing operational well for Old Crow	2A	CA	Yes	This proposal raises no concerns at a regional scale.
2	2011-0131	Yukon government – Community Services	Old Crow Water License renewal, for collection and deposit of waste water into the existing sewage lagoon.	2A	CA	Yes	This project raises no concerns at a regional scale.
3	2011-0254	The Yukon Electrical Company Ltd.	Air Emissions Permit Renewal for the Old Crow diesel generating facility	2A	CA	Yes	No increase in the footprint of the activity.
4	2011-0294	Chris Toleman	Eagle Plains Solid Waste Disposal Facility - continued operation and management of the existing facility	9	IMA - Zone IV	Yes	Pre-existing operation, not considered a new or different land-use.
5	2011-0317	Yukon government – Community Services	Solid Waste Disposal Facility (SWDF) - Old Crow	2A	CA	--	Project review in progress, adequacy review extended.

North Yukon Land Use Plan: Map 1 (Amended January 2012)



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Data sources:

Base data: 1:250,000 National Topographic Database (NRCAN); seasonal roads (EMR), 1:250,000 toponomy, 90m shaded relief (Yukon Environment)

Thematic data: 1:250,000 recommended land use designation, 1:250,000 integrated management area zones, 1:250,000 management corridors, 1:250,000 planning regions (NYPC); First Nations site selections, 1:250,000 provincial boundaries, 1:250,000 & 1M parks/protected areas (Yukon Environment); First Nations settlement lands (Rblocks) obtained from NRCAN 1:30,000 maps and recompiled against 1:250,000 NTDB (Yukon Environment); 1:250,000 Yukon areas withdrawn from staking (Geomatics Yukon); Gwich'in Conservation zones - Northwest Territories (Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board)

Data disclaimer:

This map is a graphical representation, which depicts the approximate size, configuration and spatial relationship of known geographic features. While great care has been taken to ensure the best possible quality, this document is not intended for legal descriptions and/or to calculate precise areas, dimensions or distances. We do not accept any responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this data.

Note: The Yukon Land Use Planning Council updated the Commission's original map in order to portray current areas withdrawn from staking.

Digital copies of this map may be obtained from the Yukon Land Use Planning Council website at:

www.planyukon.ca

**YG-VGG North Yukon Implementation, Directors Meeting
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
October 04, 2011**

Present: Lance Nagwan, Director (VGG)
Manon Moreau, Acting Director (EMR)
Jen Meurer, Senior Land Use Planner (EMR)

1) **Review of Agenda**

2) **Review of Meeting notes from April 18, 2011**

3) **Benchmarking**

- a. Satellite imagery was shot during the summer of 2010 and is almost finished being geo-referenced. Once done it will be shared with VGG.
- b. The current step in the “surface and linear disturbance benchmark” project is the contract issued in 2011 to create a chart showing the estimated surface disturbance levels in each applicable LMU.
- c. An estimation of recovery is to be carried out next month.
- d. A two day analysis is planned, which will bring everybody in to review and determine if gaps exist in the data (most from LMU 9).
- e. The next step would be to fill in the gaps and to set the bench marks.
- f. This project is expected to be in draft form by early 2012.

4) **Whitefish Wetlands and Summit-Bell Updates**

- a. Whitefish Wetland Inventory Project
 - There was discussion between YG Environment and William Josie VG Natural Resources earlier this year about potentially starting work on a joint fish and wildlife management plan this fiscal year – likely November or soon afterwards.
 - A draft letter was received from VGG about what type of designation (HPA or other) they wanted to pursue. Environment will follow up at their committee meeting planned for November. YG Environment will continue to work with VGG to determine the type of protected area mechanism, under YG legislation, that will be applied to the area until VGG implements its Lands Act that will enable VGG to designate the area (expected timeline is five years).
- b. **Summit-Bell**
 - Related to the park planning for Summit Lake-Bell River, Environment’s Park Planning Unit receiving the Yukon Geological Survey report in late August with direction to review it and provide an analysis to the VGG

Director of Natural Resources upon his return. The mineral potential assessment is still being reviewed and discussed internally at his time.

- Yukon Parks has previously developed potential boundary considerations, from the perspective and mandate of Yukon Environment. Those scenarios still need to be reviewed by senior management in the department before YG interdepartmental discussions begin, at which time we'll seek a YG consensus on potential scenarios (No change).
- It was previously noted that VGG intends to become involved in the discussion on the boundary after the initial related YG internal discussions.
- Yukon Parks let a contract this past September to VGFN to ID cultural heritage values within the Summit Lake- Bell River study area. This information will contribute to the boundary assessment work. The report is funded through Implementation funds.

5) Yukon Government Updates

- Highways and Public Works has expressed an interest to have discussions with VGG to begin Access Planning for the Eagle Plains Basin. The initiative is being reviewed at the VGG political level and they will update Yukon on their decision.
- Energy Solution Centre update noted two related components:
 - Old Crow Solar Monitoring project – partnering with the VG and KZA (Architects) to monitor and report to the public on the performance of two solar electric PV systems installed in the community of Old Crow.
 - Renewable Energy Resource database - to maintain a Yukon renewable energy resource map on the ESC website with data on wind, solar and hydro resources in the territory.

6) Vuntut Gwitchin Government Updates

- The contaminated site at Tija Creek where Whitefish Lake drains out will be cleaned out this summer and the barrels moved to the winter road for removal next winter. This is a funded project.
- There are a number of capital projects occurring in Old Crow in the near future, all within five kilometers of the town site.

7) Intergovernmental Implementation Framework

The updated framework document forms an attachment to these minutes. The following changes resulted from department/branch update reports.

- Update to Goal 1.1.1 – “Surface and Linear Disturbance Tracking and Reporting” project: recent contract and analysis results were noted.

- Update to Goal 1.3.1 – Bench-Marking: see related updates from 1.1.1.
- Update to Goal 1.5.2 – PCH related meeting in McPherson on Oct 26-28th.
- Update to Goal 2.1 – BMP Development: BMP work noted as progressing in areas of trappers, invasive plants, wetlands, caribou and Green House Gases.
- Update to Goal 4.1.1 – Wetland Hydrology Research: Noted that wetland BMP are underway.
- Update to Goal 5.1.1 – Management Guidelines: Tourism has developed heritage BMPs. Currently in the design phase and are working with EMR for a common look.
- Update to Goal 6.3.1 – Access Management Plan: VGG will review and respond.
- Update to Goal 6.4.1 – Old Crow Community Area Location: Noted that the 5 km radius is working.
- Update to Goal 6.6.1 – Community Forest Management Plan: noted that the need for such planning was raised as an issue by Old Crow residents to identify fuel wood and cabin log areas.
- Update to Goal 6.7.1 – Energy Option Research and Promotion: the Old Crow Solar Monitoring project & renewable energy resource database were noted.
- Update to Recommendation 4.2.1 – Whitefish Lakes management planning: Fish & Wildlife Branch updates as also were noted above in agenda item #4.
- Update to Recommendation 4.4.2 – Summit Lake Planning – Yukon Parks updates as were also noted above in agenda item #4.

ACTION ITEM: Update of all land withdrawals completed.

ACTION ITEM: Update timelines to reflect other previously completed items.

8) **Plan Revision**

When a sufficient number of updates are ready to justify an amendment to the plan, the Directors will provide recommendations to the Senior Liaison Committee, who in turn, will recommend the necessary plan amendments to the Parties.

Potential updates for future consideration will include:

- Community Use Area around Old Crow: Further discussion will be needed to determine if the current five kilometer radius serves as a sufficient boundary, or if further and more specific delineation will be needed. It was noted that to date, the 5 km radius is working (See 6.4.1).
- North Yukon Land Withdrawal status: Minor updates to the LMU descriptions to reflect the change will be required (See 4.4).

- Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes designation as a protected area: work continues to define the type of protected area mechanism that will be applied to the area (See 4.4.1).
- Summit Lake- Bell River designation as a protected area: further boundary assessment work on the study area is ongoing (See 4.4.2).

9) Review, Final Comments and Next Meeting

Next meeting of the directors will be scheduled before year end.

Attachment: Intergovernmental Implementation Framework.

NORTH YUKON RLUP QUARTERLY REVIEW MEETING

Teleconference Meeting Minutes February 02, 2012

Participants:

Lance Nagwan, Director of Natural Resources, VGG

Erika Tizya, Lands Manager, VGG

William Josie, Fish & Wildlife Coordinator, VGG

Manon Moreau, Director of Corporate Policy & Planning, EMR

Randy Lamb, Senior Land Use Planner, EMR

1. **Review of Agenda:** Accepted as presented with no additions.
2. **Review of Meeting Minutes:** The October 4th minutes were accepted as is.
3. **Conformity Check Reports:**

The most recent review was for the Yukon Electrical Company (YECL) Air Emissions Permit Renewal for the Old Crow diesel generating facility – YESAA project 2011-0254. The conformity report was posted by YLUPC on the YESAB Online Registry on Nov 23rd. The project conformed to the Regional Land Use Plan with no increase in the footprint of the activity.
4. **Benchmarking Update (Linear Disturbance Baseline):** There are two recent contracts nearing completion on this project.
 - a. In November the three member technical team gathered for several days to consolidate and analyse their field data collected on the floristic, forest and soil attributes of the selected research plots. This review included defining floristic units and developing a recovery classification system for the regenerating vegetation.
 - b. A separate contract is reporting on disturbance and recovery classification within 13 specified Integrated Resource Management Zones. The report is summarizing and ranking the field data and photo information from 22 paired plots studied in LMU 9 based on past seismic work there. The information from this work is being used to determine a recovery classification that can be applied to disturbance on the landscape.
5. **Whitefish Wetlands Update:**
 - a. Earlier this year there was discussion between Environment Staff and William Josie about potentially starting work on a fish and wildlife management plan this fiscal year – likely November or soon afterwards. The fish & wildlife management review meeting took place last week and the Community-based Fish & Wildlife Work Plan should be completed in mid-2012.

NORTH YUKON RLUP QUARTERLY REVIEW MEETING

- b. Environment (Tess McLeod and Bruce McLean) is working with VGG to define the type of protected area mechanism that will be applied to the area under YG legislation until VGG develops their Lands Act to designate the area accordingly. A letter to the minister is being drafted by VGG, indicating that they are interested in designating the Whitefish Wetlands as a Habitat Protection Area (HPA). Work will start in the new fiscal year and a 5-year work plan will be completed. VGG is aiming to have their Lands Act implemented by then.

6. Summit-Bell Updates:

- a. The Yukon Geological Survey report came out in late August, and the mineral potential assessment is still being reviewed and discussed internally at his time.
- b. As reported in October in relation to park planning for Summit Lake-Bell River, Environment's Park Planning Unit has received and is analysing the Yukon Geological Survey report. Potential boundary considerations from the perspective and mandate of Environment were still being reviewed and discussed internally at the end of 2011. Once reviewed by their senior management, the next step will be to undertake interdepartmental discussions to seek YG consensus on potential scenarios.
- c. Also noted previously, it has been acknowledged that VGG would like to be involved in the discussion on the boundary once YG has reached consensus on one or more potential scenarios.
- d. Further to the Yukon Parks contract to VGFN to ID cultural heritage values within the Summit Lake - Bell River study area, the report is due March 31st and the information will contribute to the boundary assessment work. Heritage assessment work was done this last summer by Megan Williams and Mary Jane Moses of VGG. There is a related meeting on cultural values scheduled for Feb 13-14th.

7. YG Department Updates

- a. **Community Forestry Plan:** Copies of the most recent forest inventory information in the Old Crow area was gathered from the Forest Management Branch of EMR and forwarded to VGG. This included inventories, mapping and a detailed listing of the types of community-needs information required to determine their needs within a community plan. Although FMB will not be writing the community plan for Old Crow, they are willing to provide guidance and technical expertise to assist them with their planning efforts.
- b. **Best Management Practices:** Kirstie Simpson is working on the BMP's for EMR. As noted in past minutes, a number of BMP's are underway or have been completed for trappers, invasive plants, wetlands, caribou, greenhouse gases, wetlands and heritage management topics.

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- c. **Access Planning for the Eagle Plains Basin:** Wally Hiding of Highways and Public Works contacted VGG Lands last March to discuss the VGG interest in developing an access management plan for the Dempster Highway. Further discussion between Lance and Wally took place during the RLUP conference in Dawson this January. The initiative is being reviewed at the VGG political level and they will update Yukon on their decision. (Action: Manon to email Lance Wally's contact information)
- d. **Energy Solutions Centre:** The two previous points discussed during the last teleconference were brought up as a recap. No new updates:
 - 1. the Old Crow Solar Monitoring project – Partnering with VGG and Kobayashi + Zedda Architects (KZA) to monitor and report to the public on the performance of two solar electric PV systems installed in the community of Old Crow.
 - 2. A Renewable Energy Resource database to maintain a Yukon renewable energy resource map on the ESC website with data on wind, solar and hydro resources in the territory.

8. VGG Updates:

- a. **Access Management:** VGG will be able to address this after the Peel planning is implemented (Dempster management plan proposed). Lance was able to speak with Wally during the Dawson conference in January.
- b. **Energy Projects:** Nothing new. Lance is waiting to contact the Energy Solutions Centre. Carl previously worked on the file, now it is Erika's. They are looking to initiate some wind projects with help from the Energy Solutions Centre
- c. **Tija Creek:** As an update on the contaminated site project at Tija Creek, VGG went there and the barrels were gone. Not sure who removed them.
- d. **Forestry:** Erika will start working on her new forestry file starting May 1st.
- e. **Community Plan Revision:** The 5 km radius currently used is adequate for now. Community use in up-river areas is not captured so VGG may want to revisit the subject at a later date.
- f. **Fish and aquatic habitat:**
 - i. Lance noted that they were finding what looked like salmon fry in the freshwater outflow from the tertiary treatment wetlands below their sewage lagoon. They had concern over the water being fish-bearing waters which may factor into the water licence renewal for the sewage lagoon. They plan to collect a fry sample in the spring to send out for official identification by DFO. (Action: Randy to identify a DFO contact)
 - ii. Lance indicated that VGG would also like a more comprehensive survey done on the over-wintering fish habitat research in the region and to add on lakes to the assessment done by Dorothy Cooley in

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2006. (Action: Randy will get an update on over-wintering fish research performed by Environment.)

- g. **Aggregate Mapping:** This subject is a current priority for VGG, and they would like to get an update. YGS is the lead for YG and an update on their activities will be requested. (Action: Randy will contact YGS)
 - h. **Fishing Branch HPA:** It was asked if there were any updates regarding the activities described in the NY RLUP Implementation Framework. (Action: Randy will check with Environment for an update.)
9. **Intergovernmental Implementation Framework:** The minutes from this meeting will form a part of the annual report for 2011. As per section 2.5 of the MOU, an annual report will be produced within 60 days of the annual meeting, and submitted by the YG and VGG directors upwards to their principals (via SLC) and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council for review and comment describing:
- a. the year's implementation activities and issues;
 - b. the Parties' priorities for the subsequent year;
 - c. plan amendment or review procedures and outcomes; and
 - d. cumulative effects reporting results
10. **Regional Plan Revision Updates:** the North Yukon mapping amendment to reflect the lifting of the withdrawal areas was completed this winter. The revised "Map #1: Land Use Categories and Integrated Management Area Zones" is now posted on both the YLUPC website at: <http://www.planyukon.ca/index.php/documents/nypcdocs/plans/approved-plan.html>, and the Yukon government North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan web page at: <http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/nyrlup.html>.
11. **Next Meeting:** Proposed for April.