



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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April 30, 2009

To: SLUPB Distribution List

Re: Release of Sahtu Land Use Plan – Draft 2

Dear Planning Partners,

On behalf of the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB or “the Board”), I am pleased to announce the release of Draft 2 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan. The Plan is available for download on the Board’s website at www.sahitulanduseplan.org. We invite you to review Draft 2 and submit your comments to the Board by July 31st, 2009.

The Board will be presenting the Plan to communities and planning partners over the next few months, to highlight changes, answer questions and get direct feedback on outstanding issues. The consultation schedule will be posted on our website and advertised in the next few weeks. We encourage you to come out and take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the plan directly with us.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few things about Draft 2.

Draft 2 is in many ways a transition draft. We have had substantial changes to Board and staff membership since Draft 1 (a list of current Board and staff members is attached). New members bring fresh eyes and new perspectives to the process, while departing members take a significant amount of knowledge and experience on the project with them. It will take time for the new team to rebuild that same level of knowledge.

Draft 2 represents the Board’s best judgement of what is appropriate for the region, based on the information available to us. It was developed from a compilation of various reports and drafts, including reports from the early research period (1998 – 2002), the Preliminary Draft Plan (2003), Draft 1 (February 2007), and Working Draft 2-Section 1 (August 2007). Current members were not involved in that historical work, making it difficult to know what to keep, what to change and how best to move forward. The Board relied heavily on comments submitted on Draft 1 and Working Draft 2 to set a new direction that we hope will result in a plan that is approvable by the three Parties – the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SS), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada. At the same time we have strived to capture the essence of the work that has been done before. The Board will conduct extensive consultations and follow-up in the coming months to determine if we got it right and where we go from here.



Specific Feedback

Draft 2 includes a lot of new sections that the Board would like specific feedback on.

Vision and Goals: This is new, compiled from earlier reports. Given the importance of the vision and goals in guiding the overall direction of the Plan, we need agreement on these statements.

Grandfathering Existing Uses/Rights: The Board has proposed new wording for discussion. We recognize that existing resource rights must be respected. We also recognize that the Sahtu region has a high level of existing rights. If all of those rights were completely exempted from the Plan as has been done in other regions, this document would have little to no effect for many years to come. The Board is looking for appropriate language to ensure that rights are respected and activities related to those rights can continue, while applying the terms of the Plan to those activities as much as possible.

Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan (GBLWMP): A separately funded, comprehensive planning process was conducted for the Great Bear Lake Watershed, resulting in a separate plan being completed in 2005. That process had no legal authority of its own. Instead, the Board was asked by Deline and INAC to give legal force to that plan by including it in the Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP). The Board included a number of terms from that plan in previous drafts of the SLUP, but not the document in its entirety. The Board received many comments from Government and other planning partners that identified many of these terms as inappropriate and unapprovable. So the Board is faced with a dilemma – conflicting comments from Government to include and give legal force to a plan that we have been told contains terms that are not approvable.

For this draft, we have included a statement in the Plan that when approved, will give legal force to the GBLWMP as requested. We now ask government and other planning partners to review the GBLWMP in detail, to determine if it should be a legally binding document. If the conclusion is that it is not approvable as is, then we would look to INAC to either re-open that planning process to revise it and make it approvable, or to propose an alternative solution to the Board. The GBLWMP is available for download on the SLUPB website.

This is a significant issue which requires immediate attention. The Board will call a meeting with Deline, INAC and the GNWT as soon as possible to address the GBLWMP and its inclusion in the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Terms: The Board received many comments on Draft 1 and Working Draft 2 that the terms were overly prescriptive, unnecessary, and did not adequately reflect the role of the plan within an integrated framework of resource management (available on the Board's website). The Board was asked to use goal- or objective-based terms instead; terms that identify the goal and leave the method of achieving that goal open. The Board has attempted to comply with this request, recognizing that a plan must find the right balance between flexibility and clarity. In addition we've provided more structure to the terms, differentiating requirements, actions and recommendations for added clarity. Your feedback will be helpful in determining where further work is required.

Of course, we are looking for feedback on any and all aspects of the Plan so please do not be feel limited to commenting on only these sections. A Plan is made stronger by the active participation of all of those affected by its implementation.



Time Constraints and Further Work

The Board had to spend a considerable amount of time rebuilding aspects of the organization over the last year, following the departure of previous Board and staff members, leaving only a few months to complete Plan revisions. While a considerable amount of work was completed in a very short time, general time constraints restricted the amount of follow-up and work that could be done on Draft 2. As such, Plan revisions are very much a work in progress, with Draft 2 representing a snapshot of where we are now. In this regard, if you have previously submitted comments that do not appear to have been addressed, this is likely an indication of time constraints rather than disagreement. We urge you to submit similar comments again if they are still relevant for the current Draft.

Our goal is to provide enough information in this Draft to act as a foundation for discussions about where we go next. In many cases, we have identified where further work is planned, either in the body of the text or in footnotes, to give readers a sense of where we plan on taking future revisions. This may change as a result of consultations on this document. Key areas where further work is planned for Draft 3 are highlighted below.

- **Zoning:** While Conservation Areas are fairly well defined, further work is required to delineate where Special Management Zones are appropriate. This will likely result in changes between Special Management Zones and General Use Zones in the future.
- **Saoyú-?hdacho :** The final establishment of Saoyú-?hdacho as a National Historic Site was announced on April 14/09. While it was still in the process, it was subject to the Plan. Now that it is completed, the Plan no longer applies within this area. The Board was finalizing Draft 2 when the announcement was made. The status will be updated for Draft 3.
- **More maps:** Chapter 2 discusses some values and aspects of the Sahtu region for which the Board was unable to secure spatial data in time. We will endeavour to provide additional maps in Draft 3 where information is available. In addition, we will include individual zone maps as part of the zone descriptions.
- **Mineral Potential Mapping:** The Board has included the Mineral Potential Map from Draft 1 as an interim map only. The Board was recently notified that it did not pass internal review. The Board is working with INAC and the NWT Geoscience Office to develop a more appropriate map of mineral potential for use in the planning process.
- **Analysis of Zoning:** Draft 3 will include additional analysis of the zoning in relation to regional values and resources to assist planning partners to determine how the Plan affects their interests. In the meantime, GIS files of the Plan's zoning are available for download on the Board's website to allow our planning partners to conduct their own analysis. The Board is interested in receiving any analysis done for consideration in Plan revisions.
- **Economic Values in Zone Descriptions:** This section is very incomplete for all zone descriptions due to the issues in sorting out mineral potential mapping and general timing constraints. It will be a focus of Plan revisions for Draft 3.
- **Cumulative Effects Management:** The Board conducted a workshop on cumulative effects management in November 2007 and contracted follow-up research on this over the last year. A draft report was just received and is under review. Once it is completed, the Board will be incorporating the results into its consultations with Planning Partners to determine how to approach cumulative effects management through the land use plan.
- **Dene Place Names:** The Board has heard that many of the names used previously were incorrect or used incorrect spelling, owing to differences in dialect. The Board will work with



communities to ensure correct names and spelling are identified and are used consistently throughout the document.

- Background Information, References, Definitions, etc: The Board needs to do further work to compile a history of Plan revisions and consultations, compile references, complete definitions, provide summaries of terms, and other detailed work that is required to substantiate the decisions and make the document more user friendly.

Next Steps

The Board will conduct consultations on the Plan in June/uly to discuss many of the topics we have highlighted here with communities and planning partners, and seek input on Plan revisions for Draft 3. Written comments can be submitted to the Board by fax, email or hardcopy by July 31, 2009.

Hardcopy or faxed comments should be sent to:

Edna Tobac, Executive Director
P.O. Box 235
Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0H0
Fax: (867) 598-2545

Emailed comments should be sent to:

Heidi Wiebe, Plan Development Lead
Email: heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca

Following the comment period, the Board will review comments and begin following up with planning partners as required to seek clarity, additional information or direction on plan revisions. The Board will spend the fall and winter compiling revisions into Draft 3. The Board anticipates holding a Public Hearing on Draft 3 to gather final input in the planning process in the spring or summer of 2010. Following the public hearing, the Board will make any final changes it deems appropriate (Draft 4) and will submit that document to SSI, the GNWT and Canada for approval. Barring major challenges, setbacks or lack of funding, the Board expects to complete the Sahtu Land Use Plan by the end of 2010 and submit it for approval.

We thank you for your interest and participation in this process and look forward to discussing the future of the Sahtu Land Use Plan with you during our consultations. Should you have any questions about the Plan or the process, please contact Heidi Wiebe, our Plan Development Lead at (403) 984-3916 or heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JWB' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Judith Wright-Bird
Chairperson, Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

Attch: SLUPB Board and Staff List



Current Board Members

Judith Wright-Bird, Chairperson
Bob Overvold, Government of Canada nominee
Danny Bayha, Government of the Northwest Territories nominee
Stephen Kakfwi, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated nominee
Collin Bayha, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated nominee

Current Staff and Technical Support

Edna Tobac, Executive Director
Heidi Wiebe, Plan Development Lead
Ida Mak, Communications Coordinator/Planner
Murray McKnight, Board Advisor
Benita King, Office Manager
Peter Lennie-Misgeld, Administrative Support

GIS services are provided by Phil Spencer, GIS Specialist for the Sahtu GIS Project, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, Norman Wells