

SRRB Meeting

February 10-12, 2009

SLUPB Update and Next Steps

Background

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board was created by the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (Section 25.2) and empowered by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (Part 2). The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board is responsible for developing and implementing a land use plan for the Sahtu Settlement Area. The land use plan shall provide for the conservation, development and use of land, water and resources. It will outline what types of use or activities are appropriate, where they are appropriate, and under what conditions. The purpose of land use planning is to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Sahtu Settlement Area having regard to the interests of all Canadians.

The Land Use Plan must be approved by the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the Territorial Government (Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT), and the Federal Government (Minister of INAC). The Plan takes effect on the date of its approval by the Federal Minister. Once the Plan is approved, authorities with the jurisdiction to grant licenses, permits, or other authorizations relating to the use of land and water must conduct their activities and operations in accordance with the Plan.

Board Members

There are five members on the Board. Two members are nominated by Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, one member is nominated by the Territorial Minister and one member is selected by the Federal Minister. The Chairperson is nominated by the other four Board Members.

The current Board members are:

- Judith Wright-Bird, Chair (January 2009)
- Stephen Kakfwi, SSI nominee (January 2009)
- Danny Bayha, GNWT nominee (April 2008)
- Bob Overvold, Canada nominee (April 2008)
- Collin Bayha, SSI nominee (May 2007)

Staff

The Board is actively recruiting an Executive Director to manage its operations. In the interim, Peter Lennie-Misgeld of Jacques Whitford AXYS has been contracted to manage the Board's administrative responsibilities and find a permanent Executive Director. Benita King is the Office Manager in Fort Good

Hope. Heidi Wiebe is the lead on Plan development. The Board has just recruited Ida Mak as the Communications Coordinator/Planner to assist with communications and plan development. She will be starting in mid-March and will be based in Fort Good Hope. Murray McKnight continues to assist with Plan development part time.

Plan Development

Draft 1 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan was released on February 16, 2007. Twenty-two organizations, including industry, government and non-government organizations submitted comments to the Board. The Board completed partial revisions to address significant comments over the summer of 2007, resulting in "Discussion Draft 2, Section 1" in August 2007. The Board conducted community consultations on the discussion draft in the fall of 2007. A number of changes have been made to the land use zones as a result of these discussions. Further meetings were needed with Tulita and Colville Lake to revise the zoning in their areas. These are now complete.

Government and industry raised major issues with the terms and structure of the Plan. The Board will be making a lot of changes to the plan to address the most important issues. The Board will complete Draft 2 in April 2009. It will be distributed broadly for review and discussion. We will hold consultation meetings on Draft 2 with communities, government, industry and others to get detailed comments and direction for future revisions.

Draft 2 will contain broad changes in the structure and content of the Plan. There will need to be a third draft to address the detailed issues and concerns that are outstanding. This coming fiscal year (2009-2010) the Board will prepare and consult on Draft 3. We will be working closely with SSI, the GNWT and Canada to ensure that they support the changes we make because they are the ones who have to approve it. We will also work closely with communities to ensure the Plan protects and promotes their well-being as required under the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. We will consult with and solicit input from the regulatory Boards and other regulatory authorities who will implement the Plan, as well as industry, businesses, non-government organizations, and others who are interested in or affected by the Plan.

Following the completion of Draft 3, the Board will hold a public hearing to get final input on the land use plan and discuss outstanding issues. The Board will make any final changes it deems appropriate (Draft 4). At this time, the expected timeframe for completion of the Sahtu Land Use Plan is late 2010. The completed Plan will be submitted to SSI, the GNWT and Canada for approval.