



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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August 10, 2011

To: Distribution List

Re: SLUPB Plan Development Update and Next Steps

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Since the Board's Public Hearing on the Draft 3 Sahtu Land Use Plan in May 2011, the Board has received a few follow-up submissions from Parties, and has issued its own response to the approving parties' legal arguments regarding the inclusion of mandatory Actions in the Plan. All of these documents are available on the SLUPB's website at www.sahtulanduseplan.org under the Public Comments section.

The Board has reviewed all comments received since Draft 3 was released, both oral and written, and has begun the process of Plan revisions. As previously indicated, the next formal draft that the Board produces will be the Plan that the Board adopts and submits for approval to SSI, the GNWT and INAC. The Board recognizes that there are outstanding issues with the current draft and approach, which must first be addressed in order to produce a final draft that the Board can submit for approval.

At the Hearing, the Board heard clearly that all parties support the intent of much of the Plan's contents, and the outstanding issues are mainly of a technical nature to ensure effective implementation of the Plan. Accordingly, the Board will undertake a series of technical workshops this fall. To assist with these discussions, the Board is currently developing a "Discussion Document" outlining the key technical issues, and proposed revisions to address them. This document will be released to all Parties in early September to enable participants to consider the Board's approach and come prepared to the workshops to discuss solutions. We anticipate beginning technical discussions in early October.

The purpose of the workshops is to facilitate open communications between all parties involved in Plan development and implementation to identify common solutions to the outstanding technical questions. Key areas for discussion will be the structure and wording of the Conformity Requirements, Actions and Recommendations, the scope of authorizations subject to the Plan, grandfathering, and implementation processes. To the extent possible, implementation processes and test cases will be examined in the final workshop (this was the intended content of the Board's separate "Implementation Workshop", which is now being rolled into these meetings).

These meetings will not be used to re-examine Plan content. Rather, they will focus on achieving clarity and effective implementation of the proposed content. These workshops will be used to examine issues/constraints and explore options. The Board will not commit to final wording at these meetings. The Board will decide on final revisions following the workshops.



We anticipate 2-3 technical workshops of 2 days each, spaced a month apart to allow time for the SLUPB and all participants to carry out work and analysis in between meetings. The first meeting will be held in Yellowknife and will focus on setting out the overall goals for the workshops and reviewing the Discussion Document. Subsequent meetings will build on the first and may alternate between Norman Wells and Yellowknife to share the burden of travel costs between Sahtu- and non-Sahtu-based participants. Unfortunately, the Board does not have funds to cover travel costs for any participants. Tentative dates are:

October 4-5th, Yellowknife
November 1-2nd, Norman Wells
November 29-30th, Location TBD

The Board is looking for broad representation from parties involved in the development and implementation of the Plan to ensure balanced and informed discussions. The Board requests that **organizations interested in participating in these fall technical discussions contact Heidi Wiebe at (403) 984-3916 or Heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca no later than Sept 2nd, 2011** to identify who will participate for your organization. Ideally, the Board would like to keep the group size to around 20 people. The Board will work with all interested organizations to ensure appropriate representation for our discussions. Should the proposed dates be problematic, please suggest alternative dates. The Board will do its best to accommodate interested participants.

Following technical discussions and the Board's analysis of the results, the Board intends to meet with the three approving parties to present and discuss its approach for final revisions. The Board announced this intention at the public hearing and invited comments. INAC and the GNWT have indicated support, and no parties have expressed any objection. The tripartite meeting will give the Board the clarity it needs to submit a Final Draft Plan that the three approving Parties will consider favourably for approval. The Board will then undertake final revisions resulting from all these discussions.

The Board looks forward to working with all planning partners to resolve outstanding questions and complete the Sahtu Land Use Plan. If you have any questions about the Fall Technical Meetings or any other aspect of Plan development, please contact Heidi Wiebe, Plan Development Lead as above.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Wright-Bird', written in a cursive style.

Judith Wright-Bird
Chairperson
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board