



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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October 7, 2015

To: David Little, Executive Director
The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Terry Hall, Director Land Use and Sustainability
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest Territories

Catherine Conrad, Senior Director Environment and Renewable Resources
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Government of Canada

Delivered Electronically

Re: DRAFT Sahtu Land Use Plan Amendment Application for review

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (“SLUPB” or “Board”) is providing the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) approval parties a 60 calendar day period to review and comment on a DRAFT Sahtu Land Use Plan Amendment Application.

As you are aware, the SLUPB has undertaken a process to amend the Sahtu Land Use Plan (“SLUP” or “Plan”) following the creation of the Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve of Canada (NANPR). Section 2.2 of the approved Plan requires an amendment following a change in boundary, and engagement with the approval parties with regard to alternative zoning.

The Board has monitored the development of the NANPR and anticipated the need for an amendment for some time. When the NANPR came under legislation through an amendment to the *Canada National Parks Act* in December 2014, the Board recognized the change in the Plan boundary. In accordance with section 34 of the MVRMA, the Board updated SLUP GIS shapefiles and zone map products to show the new NANPR as an Established Protected Area. In addition, the Board initiated a process to consider SLUP amendments for rezoning the remaining lands in Zone 41 Nááts’ihch’oh Proposed Conservation Initiative (PCI).

The proposed process to arrive at an amendment application was described in the *Background Report: Amending the Sahtu Land Use Plan following the creation of the Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve*. This document was released in April 2015 for a 60-day public comment period. The Board received seven submissions, including comments from the GNWT-Department of Lands and AANDC. The SSI requested a presentation by the SLUPB Executive Director at its June 2015 meeting, but provided no written comments. The background report, comments



received, and other pertinent information to the process was posted to the SLUPB online registry. As proposed, the Board hosted 3 public meetings in July in Tulita, Norman Wells, and Yellowknife to gather additional public input. Presentation materials and a public input summary report were posted to the registry after the meetings.

In August, the Board met to consider all information provided through the process. The Board decided that sufficient information was available to propose amendments to the Plan that would rezone lands in Zone 41 PCI. The Board provided direction to its staff to prepare revised maps and text edits that would be included in the first SLUP amendment application. In September, the Board met again to prepare a DRAFT Amendment Application.

Moving forward, the Board has decided to present the DRAFT Amendment Application with Appendix to the 3 approval parties for a 60-day review. To clarify this is not a formal notice of application and not a submission for approval. Rather, much like the February 2013 SLUP review, the DRAFT Amendment Application is provided as early engagement with the approval parties and to identify potential issues that could prevent approval. A supplemental mapping document is enclosed with this letter to clarify the alternative zoning of lands. Detail from that document will not be part of the SLUP amendment application, but is supporting material from the Board.

Following the 60-day comment period, the Board will review any comments received from the approval parties and prepare a final amendment application accordingly. The Board will accept comments and recommendations of a general nature regarding the SLUP that are provided by the three parties; however, the Board will only consider comments that it determines are within the scope of this amendment process. Activities leading to Board adoption and party approval of any proposed amendment(s) will follow Part 6 of the SLUP Rules of Procedure and the MVRMA.

The Board requests party comments be submitted by **December 8, 2015**. Comments should be addressed to Heather Bourassa, SLUPB Chair and submitted electronically to my email address exec_director@sahtulanduseplan.org. Should you have any questions on the DRAFT Amendment Application or process, please direct them to me by email or phone at 867-598-2055.

Mahsi,

Scott Paszkiewicz
Executive Director/Senior Land Use Planner



Enc:

DRAFT SLUP Amendment Application with Appendix
Supplemental Mapping Document

Cc:

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Eric Binion, Senior Land Use Planner
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest Territories

Chris Morton, Land Use Planning and Conservation Analyst
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