



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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July 12, 2010

To: SLUPB Distribution List

Re: Release of Sahtu Land Use Plan – Draft 3

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 3 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan** for your review and comment.

The Board has focused its efforts on making the land use plan a central source of information with which to assist regulatory decision-making. The Board has worked hard over the last year to update and compile all available information for the Sahtu Settlement Area. The Draft Plan has been significantly revised to reflect this information and to address the extensive comments received (both oral and written) since Draft 2. The Board is very proud of this Draft and believes it will be a valuable source of information and direction for land use in the region.

The Plan will be available for download on the Board’s website at www.sahtulanduseplan.org within the next few days. We will be distributing CDs of the Plan and associated documents to over the next few weeks as well. Hardcopies will be distributed to community organizations only.

Draft 3 of the Plan is supported by 3 external documents, which are also available on the Board’s website:

1. **Background Report** – The Board was asked to put all information not required for implementation of the Plan into a separate report. The Background Report is the former Chapter 2 from Draft 2. It has been heavily edited and updated and provides a comprehensive overview of information related to the social, cultural, ecological and economic values within the Sahtu Settlement Area considered in the development of the Sahtu Land Use Plan.
2. **Draft Conformity Requirement Implementation Guide** – This is a new draft report describing information requirements, criteria and considerations related to implementing the Plan’s Conformity Requirements. The Board will be refining this over the coming year in discussion with regulators and other planning partners. A future version of this report may be included as an appendix in the final Plan to be submitted for approval.
3. **Table of Comments and Responses** – This table describes key oral and written comments made to the Board following Draft 2 that were considered in developing Draft 3, and the Board’s response to those comments through Plan revisions. Interested readers are referred to this table to see how the Board responded to comments in general.



In addition, the Board will be posting GIS files of the Draft 3 Land Use Zones to its website for download.

We invite you to submit written comments to the Board on Draft 3 by October 1st, 2010.

Comments should be emailed to Heidi Wiebe at heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca or mailed or faxed to:

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The Board has made significant changes to the overall structure and content of the Draft Plan in response to comments, and to improve clarity, consistency and ease of reference. With these changes, the Board believes that the Sahtu Land Use Plan is close to completion. The Board offers the following suggestions to make your comments more constructive at this stage in the process.

1. Focus on significant outstanding issues. Describe issues in detail, providing any context, rationale and reference materials necessary for the Board to understand the issue, and propose options to resolve the issue.
2. Please be specific and refer to section numbers and headings, page numbers or other locators in reference to your comments.
3. Please refrain from making broad generalizations (e.g. the Plan should do "X") without providing supporting details. Such statements make it difficult for the Board to determine if the author is simply stating a goal, or trying to imply a shortcoming that must be addressed. If such comments are included, then also identify if the Plan has met the goal, and if not, where the Plan is deficient so we can address it (e.g. The Plan should do "X". Section "Y" on page "Z" does not meet this standard and should be revised as follows...).
4. Please do not include minor editorial comments (e.g. identifying typos and grammatical errors). The Board will do a final editorial review before submitting the Plan for approval.

In particular, the Board is requesting that the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI), the Minister of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories (ENR, GNWT), and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) conduct a comprehensive review of this draft, and clearly identify any significant outstanding issues that may present challenges for Plan approval in their written comments.

The Board would like to highlight some key changes to assist in your review of Draft 3.

- **Integration of Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan (GBLWMP):** In their comments on Draft 2, INAC and the GNWT stated that there can only be one Plan for the Sahtu Settlement Area and the GBLWMP must be integrated into the Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP). The Board met with Déljñe, SSI, the GNWT and INAC in February



2010 to discuss document integration (all documents are available on the Board's website). The Board made significant changes to the SLUP to integrate the spirit and intent of the GBLWMP into the SLUP as much as possible.

- **Integrate over 12 years of work on the Plan:** The Board made a concerted effort over the last year to review historic Board data and planning documents and integrate that work with more recent work wherever possible so that the final plan reflects the efforts of all who have worked on it over the last 12 years.
- **Comprehensive update of GIS (mapping) information:** Key “decision layers” have been updated or developed using the best available information to provide a comprehensive overview of the location of significant ecological, social, cultural and economic values and features in the Sahtu Settlement Area. These are presented in the Background Report and provide much of the information in the Zone Descriptions. Those maps required for implementation of specific Plan requirements are reproduced in the Plan. The Board is requesting that any errors or omissions in this information be brought to our attention so it can be fixed.
- **Refined zone boundaries and designation:** Zone boundaries were refined based on the updated GIS data to ensure that Special Management and Conservation Zones accurately capture the values they are meant to protect and are defined consistently. The designation of some zones was changed to better reflect the range of values and purpose for establishment. The “Heritage Zone” designation was removed from the SLUP. Neregah (North Shore) is now designated as a Special Management Zone which protects its heritage value in the same manner as the Heritage Zone designation. The Zone descriptions have been significantly revised based on all information gathered. The Board is requesting feedback on any information that may have been missed, especially economic information which is still under-represented in zone descriptions.
- **Revisions to CRs and their application:** All of the Conformity Requirements in the Plan have been revised in some way to address comments or provide more clarity. Many that were previously associated with Special Management Zones have move changed to apply throughout the Sahtu Settlement Area in response to comments directing such a change. As a result, Special Management Zone conditions have been revised to focus regulatory emphasis on protecting the values for which these zones are established. This provides a direct link to the zone descriptions where such values are described in detail.
- **Separation of project-specific conditions (Conformity Requirements) and non-regulatory Actions and Recommendations:** The Board has separated Conformity Requirements (prohibitions and conditions for land use authorizations – Chapter 4) from Actions and Recommendations (requirements and suggestions intended to advance regional goals outside of regulatory authorizations – Chapter 6) for ease of reference.
- **Establishment of Sahtu Working Group:** The Board proposes to establish a Sahtu Working Group with broad planning partner representation to advance key Actions outlined in the Plan for the five-year review (see Chapter 6).
- **Legal review:** The Board conducted its own legal review of the Draft 3 SLUP which resulted in improved clarity and consistency in wording, and stronger linkages to the



Board's mandate as established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.

- **List of CRs, Actions and Recommendations:** The Board has summarized the Plan's Conformity Requirements (Appendix 3), Actions (Appendix 4) and Recommendations (Appendix 5) for ease of reference.

Next Steps

The Board will consult with communities and planning partners on Draft 3 in August and throughout the fall. The final consultation schedule will be posted on our website and advertised in the coming weeks. All consultations, including those in communities, will be open to all planning partners to promote open dialogue between participants. We encourage you to attend all sessions of interest to you and take advantage of this opportunity to discuss the plan with the Board and other planning partners.

Subject to approval of the necessary funding, the Board intends to hold a **Public Hearing on Draft 3 of the Plan November 22-26, 2010 in Norman Wells.** The Hearing will focus on significant outstanding issues identified in comments received by October 1st and will be structured to enable participants to contribute to solutions for those issues.

In addition, a **Plan Implementation Workshop** is being planned for later this year to work out final implementation processes with regulators and other interested planning partners. More information will be distributed on these two events in the next few months.

Following the public hearing and regulatory workshop, the Board will make any final changes it deems appropriate (Draft 4) and will adopt a Final Draft Plan that will be submitted to SSI, the GNWT and Canada 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 upcoming consultations. Should you have any questions about Draft 3 or the planning 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 'J. Wright-Bird'.

Judith Wright-Bird
Chairperson
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

Attachments: Draft 3 Sahtu Land Use Plan
Background Report
Draft CR Implementation Guide
Table of Comments and Responses