

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Draft Meeting Summary as at Feb 3, 2016

Meeting date: January 29, 2016 10:10AM to 3:05PM

Location: Little Mountain Field House, Salmon Arm

Present:

Susan Abbott, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Gord Bushell, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club and District of Sicamous
Robyn Cyr, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (10:20AM to 2:50PM)
Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
Avis Deneault, Adams Lake Indian Band
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Susan Robinson, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith Council
Ellen Walker-Matthews, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Louis acknowledged Secwepemc territory and gave a prayer, and introductions were made around the room. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Regrets were noted from those who could not make this date work; also, last minute regrets were noted from Greg Witzky and Marcy Bennett.

2. Debriefing from Shuswap Trails Roundtable

People shared highlights of the inaugural Shuswap Trails Roundtable, held Dec 2, 2015 in Enderby: the cohesiveness of the group; the diversity and number of organizations working together; the energy in the room; collaboration; the symbolism of speeches and signing of the letter of understanding (LOU); and the group photo. It was noted that the event left a good impression on local politicians. It felt like this initiative is leading the way in building relationships with Secwepemc governments and recognizing title and rights; MLA Todd Stone has been made aware of this initiative by Village of Chase council.

Some frustration was expressed that the media release issued by Shuswap Trail Alliance did not get published. It was suggested to invite media to future Roundtable meetings.

3. Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy - Possible Updates

a) Cumulative Effects Assessment

After reviewing the content captured in the Dec 2, 2015 Shuswap Trails Roundtable Summary, the following was captured as common themes to further develop and update Chapter 9 of the strategy:

- Key features to assess to include: water; wildlife habitat; cultural features; economic; social
- Use CEA to look at the long term, with a holistic/integrated/upstream and downstream impact on the environment of a proposed development

- Use CEA for short-term tangible achievements too, not just long term ones
- After all uses of CEA, utilize the results to educate, raise awareness and inform people
- Consider using CEA to evaluate trails authorization requests, and report out at quarterly Working Group meetings
- Consider the costs of CEA - if we don't have the resources to use it everywhere, all the time, consider where to use the tool (e.g., certain geographic locations), or what's the threshold (e.g., close to population centres of x people)

Phil advised that he, Barry Wilson and Dave Nordquist have formed a subcommittee to explore next steps with today's input and an assessment of CEA resources, and draft an update for Chapter 9 of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy. This subcommittee is open to anyone else from the Working Group who wants to join it; no one present expressed interest.

b) Terms of Reference for Roundtable, and Working Group

Draft copies of a terms of reference, with elements for the Shuswap Trails Roundtable and the Working Group identified in one document, were distributed in paper copy to participants. Mike explained that much of the content comes from the Oct 2, 2015 version of the Strategy and therefore isn't changeable. Time was spent on the following: need for chair/co-chairs; meeting logistics; quorum; decision making process; budget and finances; staff support; and external communication.

See the following documents that capture the input received from today's meeting:

- *Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy WORKING GROUP - draft TOR.docx*
- *Shuswap Trails ROUNDTABLE - draft TOR.docx*

c) Standards and Tools

With Chapter 12 on screen, Phil described the need to raise awareness of, and use the various tools developed by the Shuswap Trail Alliance over the years. The other critical need is to compare the Shuswap trail standards (design, signage, maintenance) with provincial standards to make sure there are no inconsistencies.

4. Letter of Understanding

Phil holds the original copy of the LOU. It was noted that Neskonlith, Splotsin and Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) have not yet signed the LOU; Louis noted that will be added to their upcoming agenda.

5. Trails Authorization Requests

As referenced in Chapters 11, 13 and 14 of the Strategy, a standing agenda item for the quarterly Working Group meetings will be to review and provide input (not decisions) to trails authorization requests from local, First Nations and provincial governments.

a) Process

Discussion ensued about what an ideal process would be: an email referral process used by Interior Health Authority was described, but it was agreed the intent with trails was not to send First Nations an excess of paperwork and emails; circulation of material in advance of meetings was discussed, and some supported the concept of a Google Earth .kml file; some frustration was expressed with the lengthy delays of Front Counter BC; asking Secwepemc leadership if funds for capacity is a limiting factor, and whether this should be pursued. It was acknowledged that there may be a significant backlog of trails authorization requests to be dealt with in the near term.

The following was agreed to as a process for reviewing and providing input on trails authorization requests for the quarterly Working Group meetings:

- All trail authorization requests are of interest
 - Existing trails or new trails
 - Ones that are pre-submission to local government, First Nations or the provincial government; or ones that have been submitted
- Information to circulate to Working Group with the agenda package, one week in advance of Working Group meetings:
 - A Google Earth .kml file with some very basic information (e.g., who proposed it, what trails is to be used for)
- Discussion at Working Group meetings:
 - Present the information; ask if any concerns from those present; Working Group members suggest other people or sources of information
 - A decision or summary of recommendations is clearly documented in the Working Group meeting summary (e.g., no concerns were raised; a concern was raised about ____; it was suggested that the trail proponent contact ____).

b) Specific Trails Authorization Requests

Phil presented a one-page handout with 8 trails listed (see Table 1 below), in various phases of the authorization process. For the Mt. Baldy re-route, it was suggested that Phil follow up with Marcy. Otherwise, the information was shared as an update and there was no further comment.

Table 1: Trails for Review Pending Approval: for Roundtable Review/Input - January 28, 2016

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| <p>Farrell’s Field Park (CSRD Area F) - ice rink on existing license of occupation polygon; old existing trails also on property, but need to be cleaned up. CSRD Parks Commission interested in approval to clean up, sign, and manage properly. STATUS: Plan to be developed for review prior to submission for approval.</p> <p>Gayle Creek Loop (Salmon Arm) - short 300 meter section required on provincial land to connect an existing trail loop within City of Salmon Arm in Glen Eden. Links to short 450 m trail to Syphon Falls, which also needs to be formally approved. STATUS: Plan has been submitted to Band offices for review in 2015. Awaiting feedback prior to submitting for Section 57 approval.</p> <p>Glenemma (CSRD Area D) - Desire by local residents and CSRD Parks Commission to formalize, sign, and manage small section of existing trails on provincial land between Falkland highway and Forestry Road for hiking, equestrian nature trails, and ATV/Motorbike access to upper trails. Need for broader access management plan on wider trail system on upper FS Roads and old trails. STATUS: CSRD Parks has already submitted for Section 57 approval; but further planning underway by STA with CSRD Parks.</p> <p>Mt Baldy Reroute (CSRD Area C) - existing trail requires short 600 meter reroute to bypass upper access to Bulldog Gravel Pit. Reroute plotted. STATUS: Section 57 to be submitted for Rec Sites review and approval.</p> <p>Onyx Falls (CSRD Area F) - Existing social route into water fall from Crowfoot Snowmobile Parking Lot. Section 57 submitted by CSRD Parks several years ago, but no follow-up done due to limited funding. CSRD Parks Commission now interested in formalizing the trail for proper signage and management. STATUS: Section 57 approval status to be reviewed.</p> <p>Owlshead/Cummings Lake Access Management - management plan working group proceeding with plans approved in 2015. Includes access closures to Owlshead and Cummings Lake protected areas. Also includes route plotting to establish formal ATV routes to be approved for signage, and repair planning of historic Owlshead hiking trail. STATUS: Further proposals pending to be submitted for approval.</p> <p>Rubberhead Mountain Bike Trails - Climb Trail (STA, Shuswap Bike Club) - new 1900 meter climb trail was reviewed by regional leadership, First Nations, and Forest Licensees in 2013. Then submitted for Section 57 approval in March 2014. STATUS: Currently on Rec Sites and Trails BC’s desk awaiting final approval (pending). To be constructed in 2016.</p> <p>Scatchard Mountain - Rocky Road (Village of Chase) - 900 meter trail loop off Scatchard Mountain Road above highway 1 on south side of the Village of Chase. Plan has been reviewed with Adams Lake and Neskonlith leadership. STATUS: Awaiting formal agreement before submission for Section 57 approval.</p> |
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6. Annual Work Plan

The annual work plan was reviewed, and the following tweaks will be made:

- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) has made suggestions to the work plan regarding education opportunities - to be included in next update
- \$12 000 is available from CSRD Parks/Shuswap Tourism, not the original \$3000 listed
- Owner of Sprockets Motorcycle Museum suggested that a “where can I go dirtbiking” brochure or map be created, as he gets frequent inquiries

The following sub-regional updates were provided:

- Owlhead - multi-party working group have completed a few projects to do mitigation work on trails from motorized off-roading. Aim is to keep out of alpine, keep on logging roads. A trail approved by RSTBC in past for winter use only; got approval of Splatsin and RSTBC to open trail for summer use too to keep them out.
- Cummings Lake - Tolko has provided a machine to decommission old trail that had turned into 4WD trail. Started a parking lot that will have signage. Old snowmobile trail to access Owlhead cabin in Kingfisher ecological reserve, aim is to decommission that trail so that they can't get through. Using equipment in spring 2016 to decommission a walkway, put in small parking lot. BCTS took out a bridge on skyline; plan to decommission route to Owlhead cabin and armour with rock. BC Parks has committed funding for signage. RSTBC donating 4 kiosks. Follow up to Joss Pass, Eagle Pass, Revelstoke groups in the future.
- West Bay - lots of elections and turnover; difficult to get all people from the Lakes Division bands to show up.
- Mt. Ida - Brad Vickerson's group is working to inventory trails; opportunity to meet and present detailed inventory in the future.
- Adams River Pictograph project - Ravenstone Conservation and Masonry Inc. out of Victoria to do an overview summary assessment; quite a suite of phases to identify, protect and interpret the pictograph site on Adams River. Wes will share report in next couple of weeks. Looking at implementation in near future. Good local working group involved with Phil, Robyn, David Lepsoe and others.
- Shuswap Tourism Advisory Committee - will take to CSRD board for letter of support for pictograph project.
- Rail Trail strategy - Ellen and TOTA has been working on since September. Kettle Valley rail trail initial focus; scope creep. Applies to all rail trails. Boundary area doing lots of work; with ATV; also signage. Summerland-Penticton connections. Lots of moving parts. Need working group with Sicamous to Armstrong rail trail.
- North Fork Wild - approval from CSRD Area E director to spend \$80K to connect lower trail to upper trail; good collaboration. Construction of rain shelter - discussions underway.
- Healthy Communities coalition - STA involved and put a funding proposal forward. Allows to include healthy built environment which includes trails and active transportation.

7. Secwepemc Learning Opportunities for the Working Group

The following were captured from those present as topics to learn about and include in future updates to the Strategy:

- Secwepemc language - key words for intrinsic values of the natural world
- Historic trails, uses and their connectivity
- Place names, trails and signage protocols
- Training program for tour guides to include Secwepemc culture

- Have a field trip (either physical, or Google Earth) to village sites on Adams Lake, or Snoomish Narrows (spelling?)
- Secwepemc perspectives and definitions of health, what are the components, how do trails support health

8. New Information

a) Invasive Species

Phil noted that Robyn Hooper of the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) has made suggestions to the work plan regarding education opportunities, and Robyn has also offered to give invasive species best management practices (BMPs) for new/upcoming trail projects and collaborate with STA trail training/workshops/restoration events. She also offered if any Working group members or Roundtable partners would like educational resources or advice regarding invasive species within the CSRD, CSISS staff are available.

b) Trail Maintenance 101

April 8-9, Shuswap Trail Alliance is hosting a trails maintenance training session that is open to any trail steward.

c) Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

ORCBC is hosting an event in Salmon Arm on May 6, focusing on groups working together called "Share the Trails." There is a presentation opportunity to profile the work of the STA and this strategy, and a field visit on May 7.

9. Next Steps

Recognizing that it will be very difficult to find a common meeting date that works for the thirty-odd members of the Working Group, the following was proposed as a regular meeting schedule:

- **Rule** - third Friday of January, April, June (not July), and October, from 10AM to 3PM, rotating in different free venues around the Shuswap
- **Specific dates** - Fri April 15; Fri June 17; Fri Oct 21
- **Free venues to consider** - Interior Health Authority in Salmon Arm; CSRD meeting room (not board room)
- **Quorum** - aim to have at least one meeting with all four Secwepemc communities present

Future meetings and objectives:

April Working Group (Fri April 15, 10AM-3PM):

- To review and provide input (not decisions) to trails authorization requests from local, first nations, provincial governments
- Secwepemc learning opportunity
- Approve terms of reference for Working Group
- Review draft chapter on CEA; feedback
- Information sharing, communication and relationship building

June (not July) Working Group (Fri June 17, 10AM-3PM):

- To review and provide input (not decisions) to trails authorization requests from local, first nations, provincial governments
- Secwepemc learning opportunity
- Finalize chapter on CEA; feedback

- Start seeking a date, venue/location for Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting
- Information sharing, communication and relationship building

October Working Group (Fri Oct 21, 10AM-3PM):

- To review and provide input (not decisions) to trails authorization requests from local, first nations, provincial governments
- LOU addendum from provincial government is signed
- Information sharing, communication and relationship building
- To prepare for November Roundtable meeting, including:
 - Prepare annual report for current year, including monitoring and evaluation of strategy progress
 - Prepare annual work plan for next year for endorsement
 - Finalize draft Terms of Reference for Shuswap Trails Roundtable to present

The following ACTION items were agreed to (contact Mike or Phil if any clarification is needed):

| Task or activity | Responsibility | Timeframe |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Implement the Work Plan for 2016 | Working Group | Ongoing |
| Phil, Dave Nordquist and Barry Wilson have formed a CEA Subcommittee to draft an update to Chapter 9 on CEA with today's input and analysis of existing resources. Any Working Group members can join them | Phil, Barry Wilson, Dave Nordquist - others welcome | Report back on progress on April 15 |
| Form a Trails Standards Subcommittee to review Shuswap and provincial standards (design, signage, maintenance) | Phil to initiate | Throughout 2016 |
| Pass a band council resolution to sign the LOU - Neskonlith; Splatsin; then sign the original (Phil has it) | Ray Cormier, Splatsin; Louis Thomas, Neskonlith | Ongoing |
| Other organizations to sign the LOU if they haven't already done so - original copy if possible (Phil has it) | Ellen Walker-Matthews, TOTA; others | Ongoing |
| LOU addendum from provincial government - noting support for the strategy, acknowledging legal status of court appeal and inability to "recognize Aboriginal title and rights" | Provincial government representatives: Kevin Eskelin, Wes DeArmond, Peter Goch | By October 21 |
| Terms of reference (Working Group) - review and be prepared to finalize and approve | All Working Group members | By April 15 |
| Terms of reference (Roundtable) - review and be prepared to finalize to present at November Roundtable | All Working Group members | By October 21 |
| Provide feedback on meeting schedule of third Friday of April, June and October from 10AM-3PM | All Working Group members - to Mike | By Feb 12 |
| Proposed edits to the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add June 17, Dec 2 summaries as appendices ▪ Change Cumulative Impacts Assessment to Cumulative Effects Assessment ▪ Include draft chapter 9 - CEA ▪ Include the signed LOU; replace Appendix 8 ▪ Chapter 13, p.39, Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose - add a bullet to third item under last purpose ○ Add missing local governments ○ Add new organizations | Mike Simpson | Ongoing; before November roundtable |