

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of April 24, 2024

Meeting date: April 19, 2024 9:30AM to 12:00PM

Location: CSRD Boardroom, Salmon Arm

Present (in person):

Fiona Barton, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Gordon Bose, Gorge Ski Touring Association
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, Shuswap Chapter
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Kyra Evans, Hunters Range Snowmobile Association
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewards
Kristina Flackman, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association (WLRA)
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, Shuswap Chapter
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park
Morgan Matheson, Shuswap Tourism/Shuswap Film Commission
Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society
Celia Nord, Skwłax te Secwepemc
Brian Pratt, 4WD Association of BC
Jeromy Schuetze, District of Sicamous
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce
Jamie Sherlock, District of Sicamous
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith
Emma Wiebe, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society

Present (virtual)

Linnea Baker, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) (to 10:30)
Gord Canfield, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Andrea Heath, BC Parks (to 11:00)
Steve Horton, Sled Sicamous/Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
Kelsey Knoll, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (to 10:30)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, acknowledged unceded Secwepemc territory and thanked Columbia Shuswap Regional District for hosting today's meeting. Louis Thomas did an opening prayer and encouraged us all to take care of the land. Derek Sutherland, Team Leader, Protective Services, CSRD thanked everyone for attending and for the work we are doing. A round of introductions took place. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Early departures were noted.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Louis taught us é7elkst-ken (I work) and elkst-k (you work) (spelling from the Secwepemc language app).

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from January 19, 2024, was approved. Many action items are related to trails initiatives and will be covered later in the agenda. Many are standing items; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version.

[Post-meeting note: the updated version of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy, approved at the January 19, 2024 meeting is now posted online [here](#).]

4. Trails Authorization Requests, Trail Planning and Sub-regional Planning Updates

Skimikin

- Linda noted new signage being installed currently and working on kiosk for new map and Secwepemc background. Suzanne at CSRD working on maps and final edits.
- Big community cleanup of garbage was undertaken in early April, people residing in the rec site moved out to higher ground. Thank you to CSRD for free dumping of 11 truckloads garbage and 2 truckloads propane tanks, burnt out vehicles were also removed.
- New Moose Trail (grant) will be worked on by Backcountry Horsemen of BC Shuswap Chapter and STA
- Sue noted that Canoe Forest Products sent an email about harvesting in Notch Hill area that is starting April 18, but no map. Does that affect where Tappen landmarks sculpture will go? Likely not as it has s.57 approval; and Kelsey noted she would have received a referral if it overlapped.

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor noted an on-site meeting was hosted April 13 by Fiona Barton as part of the CSRD feasibility study followed by a hike where great conversations continued. 30 stakeholders attended with expertise and interests in Zoology, Birding, Plants, Biology, Wetlands and Trails. Also in attendance were Directors of Societies /groups and community members including those living adjacent to the Proposed Park. All shared their passion for Mallory Ridge from their perspective.
- On May 4 an ecology and soils expert will host a hike to look at things on the ridge, contact Eleanor for more details. Eleanor is also willing to take anyone on a hike anytime.
- S.56 and s.57 was submitted, First Nations referrals underway. CSRD is looking at feasibility of protected area status; no funds in budget for this in CSRD this year. Referrals back from OKIB and Splatsin, will be doing preliminary field reconnaissance (for archaeological values) (PFR) and Splatsin requested a cultural heritage overview.
- Kelsey noted she hasn't seen it this application yet, it's all in pre-work phase.

North Shuswap Parallel Trail

- Grant application to BC Active Transportation was successful, but this is no fully public yet.
- Fiona noted it is an ambitious timeline to have full completion including construction on a 2.4km parallel trail by March 2025. Need to do archaeological works; will likely need an extension. Need to respond to the Agricultural Land Commission and will do some requests for proposals (RFPs) to archaeological consultants. Will likely in Dec 2024 reach out to funder for extension.

Mt Ida/Kela7scen

- Adrian noted the Kela7scen/Mt Ida Working Group will meet again on May 16. A piece of research getting contacted out to O'Leary & Associates, as per the 4 band's direction, purpose is to collate all past studies, existing plans and ideas about Mt Ida to be the foundation for a new stewardship plan that is Indigenous led. O'Leary and Associates with engage Louis Thomas and others, and Louis is willing to participate and share knowledge.
- Brad Vickerson noted they're working on cleaning blowdown on trails at Mt Ida
- ACTION: Fiona wants to be involved, invite her to the Mt Ida Working Group.

Sunnybrae

- Barbra noted few things underway, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewards (SCPS) are couple years old; doing lots of community engagement and want to be more active. After fires, focused on community resiliency and want to convene community discussions. Looking at "The Test" movie premiered about Logan Lake and firesmarting; part of Steering Committee for South Shuswap Destination Plan
- They want to facilitate dialogue and community engagement about a parallel trail in Sunnybrae area; as well as FireSmart work around Herald Park and development of Reinnecker Cr.
- Barbra sees tourism opportunity with initiatives such as BC Bird Trail (mechanism to support birding), opportunities with shoreline in the whole Shuswap area and protections in place; as well as water health, IR land, West Bay trail, etc. and connecting the dots with all of these initiatives. A private property in Sunnybrae in conservancy now, has 170 birds counted.
- Anyone interested being involved can connect with Barbra
- Morgan noted that Shuswap Tourism is already part of BC Bird Trail; could expand to other areas in Shuswap.
- Morgan noted as Shuswap Film Commission can help bring film "the Test" in
- Kristina noted that CSRD Sunnybrae park has had big problems with garbage dumping and suggested that CSRD work with SCPS

Reinnecker Creek

- Adrian noted that they've received s.57 approval to construct with CSRD and have funding in place; bird nesting season, modified to keep crews busy during summer. Will want to engage with volunteers in fall but will likely carry over to 2025. Didn't get approval to reconstruct bridge on North end; need to amend the approval to do that.
- Jen added that they are doing bird nesting surveys to work within what's allowed.

Sicamous Mtn Bike Trail

- Jeromy noted that there was nothing to report and asked about the status of the s.57 application.
- Kelsey is trying to get the application out for formal referrals and working with clerks within BC government. Kelsey waits for comments to come in for that; close to getting it out. Likely a 60-90 day referral. Jeromy noted pre-referral was done through Nations Connect.

Owlhead/Blue/Cummings

- Brian noted they met with Kelsey recently about the decline of the application for the connector. Gord Canfield said it was great to have Kelsey added to the working group meeting about s.57 application; Kelsey added she needs some second opinions about what's in the way to get things done.
- Kyra noted they had good discussions, also had Kayla Gunner and Michael W. from Splatsin there. Things were discussed and cleared up. Action items taken away, nothing pressing, but follow ups to do with RSTBC and Splatsin.

- Hunter's Range had the temp warming shelter in place this winter and they hope to still be able to have that as a temporary shelter until they hear about the nominal rent application; discussed with Splatsin.
- Marshall K asked about lower bridge access, update on that (Owlhead side), got stuck on what's an FSR vs. a permit. Kyra noted it's an action item they discussed.
- Mara fire lookout – Kayla was going to take this back to Splatsin Chief and Council and suggested a mutual maintenance agreement for the fire lookout.

Chase Creek Falls

- Adrian noted that works are starting on May 7. Secwepemc landmarks project got funds to build a trail to creek/falls. Will be complete by end of May. Landmark won't go in until June.

Scatchard

- Jen noted funds applied for through Pacific-Can (fed-prov funding) \$10K to do First Nations engagement on expansion of the Scatchard Mtn trails. First phase engagement with elders and knowledge keepers meetings. Best case scenario is for meetings to happen in this fall if grant is successful.

Trails in wildfire burned area – Mt Baldy, Scotch Cr Hlina

- Kristina noted she reviewed report that Forsite on 2023 wildfire impacts to these trails. Kristina has rapattack BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) crew doing danger tree falling right now. Next piece is geo-stabilization, looking at companies to see who is best fit to do that work (making sure ground is safe and stable). There are some funds in CSRD budget to do this; could then get STA out there rebuilding.
- Adrian noted that BCWS has been a bit slow on danger tree assessment (DTA) and removal; there were some recommendations in Forsite report about best practices for creeks, gullies and stability.
- Kelsey noted that this trail rebuilding is eligible for Disaster Relief Fund (DFAA) funding, even for the report. Trails are officially closed. Kelsey suggested starting with just the linear trail corridor (3m).
- Barbra noted a Sorrento trail (Mt Baldy) is in that report; there's a high degree of interest in condition of that trail; community members want to help with any recovery aspect. Adrian noted there is a volunteer day scheduled for May 11 but dependent on safety status, may change date.

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) referral on Balmoral and larger area

- Fiona shared a map on screen of the referrals of proposed timber harvesting cutblocks
- Balmoral trail system (east of Blind Bay) has 4 BCTS cutblocks proposed that overlap CSRD trail system. Will recommend non-support to CSRD board of directors.
- Scotch Creek Hlina area has wildfire impacts and concerns
- Patrick noted block WL011 is north of White Lake, butts up against Perry Creek Park; block WL013 is selective logging. Big concern for water quality.
- **ACTION:** individual organizations can connect and coordinate responses with others around the table; but the STR WG won't take a position or have a collective response. Adrian can help with comprehensive responses and potential.

West Bay

- Louis has a project at the Salmon River delta with City, CSRD and Rotary, also working on Ducks Unlimited and Ministry of Environment involvement. A prelude to West Bay trail to beautify it and bring back plants culturally important plants, and he wants to develop harvesting of potatoes and remove invasives such as hawthorn. Working on bringing awareness around this and taking care of the land. Would like to work with Veda again.

- Jen added that STA are close to finalizing the RFP for the works City to put it out, there are enough funds (\$315K from ALIB, City, many other sources) for archaeological, environmental, design and feasibility assessments and plans to start this year.

Harper Lake

- Jen noted the Harper Lake collaboration is something Clr Brad Arnouse is raising, it's a demonstration forest block with Tolko to demonstrate indigenous knowledge in forest practices. Neskonlith led with O'Leary Associates, want to put trails in for access, STA to work on trail plan. Being developed with Forest Circle meetings. Phase 2 to help source funding and do the planning. Between Chase and Neskonlith in the West Shuswap area.

Glenemma

- Kristina noted she walked parking lot with contractor yesterday and declared the project complete. It's ready to go but closed until works are fully completed and insurance for the contractor is cleared. She noted that delineation of lines on gravel surfaces is hard, so she wants to develop a map to delineate 3 various uses. Map as a kiosk.
- Adrian noted the novice loop it's finished.

Rail Trail

- Fiona noted it is moving forward, pilot completed in Enderby last year. Grand opening on May 10 between 10AM-12PM, check [here](#) for more details
- Gabe at Splatsin Dev Corp created a video <https://youtu.be/dLaGljH4>
- 1.5km work started just south, 4.5km and moving north. District of Sicamous rezoning last week to park zoning allows work in their jurisdiction to advance this year.

Tsútswecw provincial park

- Andrea noted she is filling in for Wes De Armond who is on 6 month leave
- Andrea noted getting safety things completed after 2023 wildfire impacts; lots of impacts that are devastating, won't open Upper Flume Trail for foreseeable future due to danger tree impacts. Need long term plan to do recovery work; relying on BCWS to help with that and be fallers.
- BC Parks is short staffed. BC Parks can do danger tree assessment (DTA) but not falling.
- Lower Flume Trails – looking to re-open this summer, need to do DTA (out there today, next week) to do that work and falling and bucking, then P.Eng to assess bridge. The community wants to see it reopened. Andrea engaged with Skwlax te Secwepemc frequently to address ecological and cultural concerns before lots of people back in the park.
- Have BCWS crews clearing along the trail up to winter house and beyond to pictographs, should be complete by end of April. Can open when ready and when Skwlax ready.
- Main plaza area and trails to viewing area have been DTA'd (danger tree assessment), lots of processes to remove the directed order for closure. Working with Skwlax on that.
- Conservation lens – Stephanie Russell RPBio working on recovery for ecological values; will dictate opening of trails too, nesting birds screech owls.
- BC Parks has never seen this significant of wildfire impacts to a busy well used park. Looking at interpretive walks with ARSS. Some illegal camping underway. Seasonal rangers getting trained this week, also engaging Skwlax guardians to help with enforcement and land stewardship.
- **ACTION:** Andrea to share BC Parks post-wildfire checklists with Fiona, Adrian to compare their resources and processes.

- Q – Patrick Frank re: BCTS referral of a cutblock and Holding Road, is BC Parks responding? Andrea not familiar with referral. Stephanie is BC Parks expert that may have received it. **ACTION** – Andrea, Patrick and Stephanie to connect.
- Q – Louis and Parks Canada and work on plants that are disappearing (also Ag Canada), can more protection of traditional plants in BC Parks? Andrea noted that Stephanie Russell RPBio at BC Parks are working with Skwlax community; actively looking to support the harvesting aspect and protection.

Forest Operations Map

- Adrian noted that the approval process for Cutting Permits and Road Permits has changed as of April 1st and it now requires licensees to complete a public feedback loop. This is being done through an online mapping portal that the government is maintaining – the Forest Operations Map [here](#).

5. Roundtable of New Information (non-trails)

WildSafe BC

- Barbra noted that CSRD Electoral Areas F, G and City of Salmon Arm are participating again this year
- Coordinator is Olivia Lempke columbiashuswap@wildsafebc.com also on Facebook

BC Trails Day Spring Celebration

- Jen noted celebration at South Canoe Trailhead June 1, 4-8PM with Shed Kelly performing, with beverage garden and food trucks, \$25 for adults, free for 18 and under, more info [here](#)

White Lake Turtle Festival

- Patrick noted White Lake Residents Association had 2nd annual turtle festival last weekend, 700 people

Sicamous Pump Track

- Jamie noted expecting completion of pump track in June, Carly Procyshyn got it on the pump track circuit.

Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)

- CSISS is working with BC Parks on an invasive plant management plan, as well as invasive plant monitoring and management at BC Parks throughout the Shuswap and North Columbia in 2024 (part of Shared Cost Agreement)
- Jess noted their Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation application was declined; they don't have funds for yellow flag iris work. They will do community weed pulls this year though.
- Working with City Salmon Arm on invasive plant control
- Waiting to hear on sampling for invasive mussels.
- Whirling disease detected in Emerald Lake in Yoho Nat Park, trying to highlight this. More info [here](#).
- Emma added general outreach planned, they have many best practices resources for many activities. Use the invasive species app. [Contact them](#) if you want presentations or training.

Shuswap Tourism

- Morgan requested for people hosting events wanting to raise awareness to submit them to the events page at Shuswap Tourism [here](#)

Larch Hills Nordic Society

- Keith relayed on behalf of Craig McBride that they received funds for a new tracksetter

Adrian noted they rec'd funding from Tolko to have power for South Canoe parking lot and meadow.

7. Next Steps

Working Group: future meeting dates, 9AM-12PM (rule is 3rd Friday of January, April, June and October):

- Friday June 14 – Falkland Community Hall, followed by afternoon field tour of Glenemma
- Friday October 18

The following **new ACTION** items were noted:

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Consult with elders and Chief Atahm School on the proper use, spelling and pronunciation of Y'icwetsutce	Shelley	By November 2024
Send edits, typos or corrections on the Shuswap Trail Guide and online maps to Hannah maintenance@shuswaptrails.com – map edits by March 31, print edits by end of 2024	Everyone	March 31
Look for ACTION items in earlier portion of this summary	Everyone	Before June 14

The following **ongoing ACTION** items are noted:

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Start hut to hut opportunities , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range.	Louis, others	Future meeting
Work with Shuswap Tourism or current organization to publish and advertise authorized trails	Everyone	Ongoing
Organizations to sign the LOU if they haven't already done so – original copy if possible (Phil or Jen have it)	Any groups that haven't signed LOU	Ongoing
Send any GPS/GIS linework on trails to Adrian at Shuswap Trail Alliance, adrian@shuswaptrails.com	Everyone	Ongoing
Trails groups – send suitable berry picking sites, locations of cultural plants of interest (highbush cranberry, hazelnut, yellow avalanche lily, spring beauty/Indian potatoes, soopalalie, saskatoon) as trail reports to trailreport@shuswaptrails.com – intent is that Secwepemc governments are seeking this information, it will be shared only with them	Everyone	Ongoing
Send any reports of erosion or trail damage from heavy rains to trailreport@shuswaptrails.com	Everyone	Ongoing
Seek support letters for funding applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do cumulative effects assessment on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing
Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards - order from Georgia Jules at Neskonlith Education Centre by email educationassistant@neskonlithec.net	Everyone	Ongoing
Download the Secwepemc language app for your smart phone	Everyone	Ongoing
Consider doing media releases when projects are complete (e.g., South Canoe Parking lot, Sorrento Blind Bay perimeter trail, Skimikin)	Jen, everyone	Ongoing
If doing a clean-up event , contact Ben van Nostrand at CSRD about up to \$500 in support for meals, supplies and waiving of tipping fees	Trail stewardship groups	Ongoing
Consider joint applications/working collaboratively if future big funding calls come out . Need time to be strategic.	Everyone	Ongoing
Secwepemc Landmarks – sentinel structures: contact Jen or Adrian if your group wants to undertake this for one or more in their areas	Everyone	Ongoing

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Morgan requested for people hosting events wanting to raise awareness to submit them to the events page at Shuswap Tourism here	Anyone hosting events	Ongoing