

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as at April 11, 2022

Meeting date: April 8, 2022 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: Zoom web conference

Present:

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
Gordon Bose, Gorge Ski Tour Association
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Garfield Chursky, Shuswap Dirt Riders
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Patricia Danforth, Shuswap Naturalists
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewardship Society
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association
Janis Hooge, observer from Revelstoke
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter and Larch Hills Nordics (summer use)
Christina Lutterman, Chase Chamber of Commerce
Shoni Madden, Urban Systems (10:45AM to 11:00AM)
Eleanor Marshall, Gardom Lake/Mallory Ridge resident
Morgen Matheson, Shuswap Tourism and Shuswap Film
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics
Dawn McDonald, Shuswap Naturalists
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Carly Prosychn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation (to 9:50AM)
Janelle Rimell, Interior Health
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (to 9:50AM)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Shelley Witzky did an opening prayer, and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Note that quorum was not met.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Shelley taught us the Secwepemc word for helper - scwknucw – pronounced “SKOOF-noof”

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from January 21, 2022 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.

A topic from January's meeting was the status of motorized vehicle closures in areas of 2021 wildfires. A guest speaker from BC government was unavailable, but the following was shared:

- The areas are closed for 18 months, generally, due to safety concerns
- Applications for exemptions to the closure can be sought to allow access for disabled access, for activities required for assessment, maintenance and public safety, or for activities that otherwise support the goals of wildfire recovery
- More information about applying for an exemption is [here](#)
- Please contact staff at 2021Wildlife.closures@gov.bc.ca prior to applying
- See this [link](#) for a frequently asked questions document related to these closures
- See this [link](#) for a list of closures

Adrian noted that in discussions with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), they are attempting to open recreation sites and trails in any wildfire closure areas later this spring.

4. Annual Work Plan

Participants were reminded that the annual work plan of priorities and budget for the Shuswap Trails Roundtable is in the summary of the [Annual Meeting](#) held on November 24, 2021.

Jen provided an update on the financial situation for the Shuswap Trails Roundtable for 2022, which is still in a deficit. If clubs want to contribute again this year, that would be appreciated. She is also looking for a volunteer to follow up with Regional District of North Okanagan to secure funding and would encourage anyone living in that area to present to their board on the Shuswap Trails Roundtable's behalf.

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

Skimikin

- Linda noted that the [s.57 Forest and Range Practice Act](#) applications (2) are moving along, should be through and approved by August.
- Backcountry Horsemen did a major clean up of campground March 27 with CSRD support, 9 bags garbage taken away. They and others noted more garbage since COVID, there were 3 squatters at Skimikin over winter
- 4 signposts have been removed through vandalism unfortunately
- Meeting woodlot licensee today.
- April 5 met with Skimikin Seed Orchard manager Amy Vallarino for interpretive trail plants
- RSTBC meeting with CSRD mapping staff to review final map today
- Sue noted another s.57 coming on another set of trails later in spring. Existing trails around backside of lake, not authorized. One new trail for ATV to make a loop.
- Jen added – Chris Lynd did a rework around wet spot, they will submit a s.57 as well.

Gorge

- Gordon Bose noted that the Gorge Ski Touring Association (GSTA) has officially formed, consisting of 190 skiers and snowboarders, their goal is to create a winter non-motorized area. Not an official non-profit society yet. Taking the lead on having coordinated voice for non-motorized use.
- Motorized and non-motorized in Gorge area – want to share the resource and area for use of everyone. Want to create a non-motorized area for safety of their membership.
- Adrian – still a working group for Gorge meeting regularly; formation of GSTA is a result of that.

- Plan is to reconvene motorized and non-motorized Gorge Working Group later in spring...point of contention will be to establish a non-motorized area; Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club use area too. Phil recommended to use the strategy approach, engage all parties.
- Suggested next steps: Gordon, Adrian reconvene key leadership involved in the past; catch up on history what's been done to date; work through next steps; plan for next winter as well as longer term goals.

Sicamous Mountain Bike Park

- Carly noted there is a delay on project, s.57 won't be approved until late in 2022. Pump track pushed to 2023. Focus on what they can do.
- Sicamous also working on active transportation plan and a parks and trails master plan update with Urban Systems.

Kela7scen (Mt Ida) Recreation Management Plan

- Garfield noted that a Mt Ida working group are working with Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc (PteS) respectfully and hoping to meet again. Waiting for a reply for the request to PteS on the recreation management plan proposal and engaging with 4 bands. No reply yet. Kela7scen group meets again Tues April 12. Blaine added snow disappearing on lower slopes, doing some work in the area on clearing trails. Garfield added that BC Timber Sales and Tolko have contributed positively, they've reached out to him about history of trails and use in the area and maintaining trails to remove debris after forestry activities.
- Phil cautioned everyone that we are wading into tricky territory, balancing the social trails (i.e., unauthorized) with respect for PteS significance of the area and waiting for a response. He urged caution on how we proceed in the interim with jurisdictions, Secwepemc territory, City lands, etc. Reflections are that we're between a rock and a hard place; balance of historical social use of these trails with PteS/Secwepemc jurisdiction. Garfield referenced legislation on maintenance of trails; sensitive issue is colonial law with evolving Indigenous laws and jurisdiction.

West Bay Connector

- Ruth and Jen provided an update that an application for federal active transportation funds was recently submitted. City of Salmon Arm was successful for \$100K Rural Dividend funds in 2021, and some hotel tax funds. ALIB and Neskonlith are applying for \$50K each for planning funds. Almost enough to do the overall plan for the trail. Aiming to reconvene working group in spring.

Larch Hills Interpretive trail

- Pat Danforth noted a 2.1km established trail in Larch Hills already signed with 60 signs from 1970s, signs are outdated and broken, Shuswap Naturalists has funds to renew the interpretive signage that is more current and of interest to naturalists.
- Suggestions for funding? Content? They only hold current funds for sign production. Could use help with information to go on signs. Need approvals to put signs up. About half the posts are still there, some need to be replaced. Jen noted [HCTF](#) for smaller grants. For Indigenous referrals, go to [consultative areas database](#), it will list all the nations and how to contact them. Also PteS for referrals. BC Parks and RSTBC need to be involved. Content involving Secwepemc names and traditional use of plants exists. CSISS could provide information too. Secwepemc Landmarks opportunity. CSRD may have funds community COVID resiliency funds? RDNO may have funds since it is largely in their area)?
- Email [Pat Danforth](#) with ideas and suggestions.

Larch Hills Traverse – Ida View

- Adrian noted that they have assembled enough funding to complete the trail this year, by end of July. Links South Canoe to Rubberhead and Larch Hills Traverse. This was a 15 year project to get to this point, the s.57 has been approved for 3 years.

Loftus Lake universal (i.e., accessible) trail

- Ryan noted that this trail is at the Loftus Lake fen to west of Balmoral trailhead system, CSRD owned parkland. Developing a plan for 1.5km universal access loop trail, grant application submitted for \$139 500. CSRD area works funds for phase 2 for parking improvements and a dog park. Working with PteS and Celia Nord to address any consultation requirements, in progress. Design completed. Then go to tender later this year. Question: connector to lagoon trail? Answer: no, stays within CSRD owned park land. Lagoon is Shuswap Lake Estates. Could expand in future.

Glenemma

- Ryan noted that the Agricultural Land Commission made a decision about the portion of the trail in the Agricultural Land Reserve, a written response should be received by April 30. If it's positive, next step is for RSTBC to restart process that was midway through.

Sorrento Blind Bay Park accessible/universal trail

- One of biggest regional parks, grant funding through community works to construct looping trail around perimeter of park, 1.5m wide trail aggregate capped with gradual grades and slopes and amenities such as bench, toilets. STA crew will commence this year.

Reinecker Creek

- Ryan noted that the trail system is currently closed, past Upper Margaret Falls loop, Douglas-fir bark beetle logging at the woodlot on east side. Scramble for communication until completed. There was a section that traverses over private property, worked on a re-route but not likely approved this year so deferred to 2023.

South Shuswap Destination Trail Plan (entire peninsula)

- Phil met last week with PteS for direction, it's a planning project. Pre-referral package being developed. CSRD parks steering group to meet shortly (Patrick, Barbra) will get email from Phil. Consultation – open to public in person and online, in May.

Rail Trail

- Ryan noted that Splatsin submitted grant application to federal active transportation federal program \$12.5M for various works for whole length, through Indigenous Stream (100% funded). Supported by CSRD and RDNO too. Submitted on March 31.
- Two projects are funded for early development on portions of the trail (Enderby-Splatsin 2-3km). Moving forward. Active transportation grants from BC, CSRD Electoral Area E and District of Sicamous to do preliminary rough work on section from 0-20km at Mara, Urban Systems managing project.

North Shuswap Parallel Trail

- Ryan noted that the long-awaited meeting with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) happened on April 4, to review and discuss feasibility of Lawson Engineering's design work from Sept 2021. The consultant is incorporating the feedback, then next steps are to meet with Debbie and North Shuswap group. Then engage with Secwepemc leadership.

Larch Hills lighting project

- Keith (for Craig) – 2021 work on lighting interrupted due to fire hazard. Starting earlier this year, will be some disruption to access to south hub. See trail report on [LHN website](#). They finished the first section last season, final section going ahead this year.

Salmon Arm Active Transportation Plan

- Shoni Madden with Urban Systems, who are consulting to the City of Salmon Arm on the plan, gave an overview of the purpose, status and next steps in the City's Active Transportation Plan.
- The project website with everything you need to know is [here](#)
- Key contact if you want more information is Chris Larson, Senior Planner, City of Salmon Arm at clarson@salmonarm.ca or 250-803-4051

Little Mountain Wildfire Mitigation

- Dawn McDonald from Shuswap Naturalists expressed concern about impacts of wildfire risk reduction activities on the trails (debris left behind), as well as loss of habitat for frogs, ponds, wildlife habitat, berries and aesthetic impacts. It was suggested to contact someone at the City with concerns, even suggesting Councillor Tim Lavery.

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor – non-profit society development in progress, did two presentations to Naturalists and Gardom Lake Stewardship Society. Doing some trail tours. Contact [Eleanor](#) for a hiking tour.

Referrals and consultation – since the topic arose several times, the following was suggested as best practices and/or resources to utilize:

- Follow Shuswap Trails Roundtable Strategy's [pre-authorization processes](#) (Chapter 11, p.41)
- Some but not all Secwepemc communities use [Nations Connect](#) as a consultation portal
- The BC Government's [Consultative Areas Database](#) indicates which nations to consult and how
- Celia Nord did a [presentation](#) at the November 2021 Annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting on consultation and the structure of PteS
- When applying for funds for trail plans and development, build in costs for engagement with elders, referral time and fees, and costs for cultural heritage overview assessments, preliminary field reconnaissance, archaeological overview assessments and archaeological impact assessments

6. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

The following information was shared:

- Shuswap Trail Alliance – paddle guide coming out – paper guide hot off the press; [web page too](#) on Shuswap Trail site (area drop down). Further development of blueway access points is delayed.
- Shuswap Trail Alliance – chainsaw safety course May 7, only 2 people signed up. Trail building workshop on May 28, a few spaces left. Email info@shuswaptrails.com
- Shuswap Trail Alliance - Volunteer Day – South Canoe April 30, online sign up, contact Adrian info@shuswaptrails.com
- Interior Health – Janelle has written several letters of support for active transportation and met with local representatives about various local initiatives.
- Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewards – BC Wildsafe program, part of BC Conservation Foundation, has funding to hire a coordinator for CSRD Electoral Areas C and E. Good part time seasonal opportunity for someone. Contact [Barbra](#) if you want more info.

- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society – received HCTF funding and will be doing yellow flag iris removal over summer, plans being developed. Other weed pulls throughout summer. Webinars in May, ongoing training opportunities, see [website](#).
- National Indigenous Day June 21, Secwepemc Landmarks project will have the grand opening of main monument at Salmon Arm wharf.
- Salty Dog – 20th anniversary – 6 hour mountain bike endurance race – May 15
- Backyard Ultra Little Mtn park April 29-May 1.
- Friends of Mt Ida – Mother’s Day weekend, Silver Creek Ridge. Thornton grave site and mine site tours in April (no date set yet). Contact [Blaine](#).
- Shuswap Naturalists – various outings on their [website](#) for members.
- Armstrong-Shuswap Century Ride – road cycling, unsure of date. Fundraising for rail trail. 450 people. May 29.
- Foreshore trail closure, Salmon Arm Bay, dog closure May 1-June 30

7. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates (generally 3rd Friday of January, April, June, October):

- Friday June 17, 2022, 9AM-12PM
 - Discuss possible dates, agenda topics and feasibility of in-person annual roundtable meeting
- Friday Oct 21, 2022, 9AM-12PM

Annual Roundtable – date TBD, November 2022. Draft agenda:

- Referrals, engagement with PteS, Secwepemc communities

It was agreed to continue meeting online for the future working group meetings, and perhaps if there is funding and people’s comfort level allows it, to do the Annual Roundtable meeting in person.

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

| 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 |
| 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 |