

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of June 14, 2025

Meeting date: June 13, 2025 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: North Fork Wild park

Present:

Richard Anderson, District of Sicamous Development Corporation
Lynnea Baker, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC)
Fiona Barton, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Anita Ely, Interior Health
Kyra Evans, Hunters Range Snowmobile Association
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe-Point Stewardship Society
Evan Houle, Interior Health
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, Shuswap Chapter
Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society
Paula Martens, RSTBC
Phil McIntyre-Paul, STA
Brian Pratt, 4WD Association of BC
Veda Roberge, CSRD
Jamie Sherlock, District of Sicamous (DoS)
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Jan Thingsted, CSRD
Hannah Treleaven, STA
Kayla Wright, Carl Kuster Mountain Park

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Phil acknowledged Secwepemcúl'ecw and a round of introductions took place. The agenda was accepted as presented and early departures were noted.

Phil, Veda and Jan provided background on the history of North Fork Wild (see more info [here](#)) and Peter Jennings who lived on, cared for and donated the property for conservation and education purposes. CSRD are managing the property according to the master plan, which includes demolition of the house, installation of a rain shelter and exploring overnight stay opportunities for school groups.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Jamie noted the term ____ (pronounced "KEET-lic") which means to come together.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from April 11, 2025, was approved with one minor edit noted. 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.

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

Ida View

- Canoe Forest Products talking with Adrian about utilizing part of an existing trail for industrial use, Lynnea is also engaged in the discussion

Larch Hills Traverse – Sicamous Trailhead

- Adrian has confirmed access limitations to the Sicamous end of Larch Hills Traverse with Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) during construction of Hwy 1 this summer

Chase Harper

- Jen and Adrian are working with Neskonlith and O’Leary and Associates on trails planning for this area, which has potential to connect with Scatchard and trails in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)

Sicamous Bike Park

- Almost complete, lower section will be rideable by end of June

Reinneker West

- Upper bridge on west end is almost complete, half done the tread on west trail
- BC Parks supportive of an information kiosk at Herald Bay Provincial Park

Mount Baldy-Scotch Creek-Hlina Trails

- Salvage logging is awarded and underway, concern noted about geohazards
- Disaster Financial Assistance funding exists

Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail

- Almost 20km of total 50km is now completed in 3 different sections
- Ongoing challenges are easements for adjacent farms, Agricultural Land Commission/Agricultural Land Reserve restrictions and decisions, “semi-waterfront” property owner docks and enabling access to the north end in Sicamous given Hwy 1 construction

Onyx Falls

- Shelley is engaging Secwepemc elders and knowledge keepers for input to manage recreation then engage with the broader community

Scatchard Mountain

- Shelley is engaging Secwepemc elders and knowledge keepers for input to manage recreation then engage with the broader community including Chase

Balmoral

- Planning initiated for 2 mountain bike trails including a climbing trail to White Lake lookout and another in McArthur Heights

Skimikin

- Sue noted that 12 “you are here” signs are being installed at major trail intersections

Larch Hills Link Trail

- Keith noted that Shuswap Outdoors and Larch Hills Nordic Society are finalizing plans to adjust things where trails meet on a steep grade
- Keith also noted that Tolko is laying out and referring proposed partial cuts in Larch Hills

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor noted concern with BC Hydro and motorized user impacts in the area and the ongoing lack of any kind of protection or status for the area
- Eleanor is pursuing a membership drive

CSRD Update

- Fiona noted that a parks master plan will be developed for each of the CSRD electoral areas commencing this year with electoral areas A (Golden area), D (Ranchero-Deep Creek including Mallory Ridge) and F (North Shuswap) proceeding first, anticipating completion in 18 months
- In response to Eleanor, Fiona suggested that development of a parks master plan and securing status of Mallory Ridge could potentially proceed in parallel

West Bay Connector

- Jen has assisted with the application for \$57M on behalf of the project partners

RSTBC Update

- Lynnea noted that Kevin Eskelin has moved onto a new position within RSTBC. Bree Matheson is temporarily in Kevin's old position.
- The recreation area tenure concept was shared via email after the last meeting is in the text box at the side

MOTT update

- Anita relayed that MOTT is pursuing "integrated transportation planning" to explore the concept of "complete connected communities" addressing highways connections with trails and crossings of trails on MOTT roads and highways
- Sicamous is an initial community they are working with
- Anita has a draft guide that can be shared, final version will eventually be online

1. What is a Trail-Based Recreation Area (TBRA)?

A **Trail-Based Recreation Area (TBRA)** is a new recreation designation under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). Unlike traditional recreation trail designations, which usually apply to a single trail, a TBRA covers an entire **area (polygon)** that includes multiple connected trails. This designation is ideal for managing **trail networks** used for activities like mountain biking, cross-country skiing, or off-road vehicle use—especially where the trails are concentrated in one area.

2. Why was a new recreation designation needed?

Many communities and recreation groups are developing large, concentrated trail networks near populated areas. The existing designations (recreation sites, trails, and interpretive forest sites) weren't designed to cover these kinds of areas and have led to **management and administrative challenges**.

For example:

- Speed limits that apply to recreation sites don't make sense for off-road or mountain bike trails.
- Managing complex trail networks as many individual trails is inefficient and confusing.
- Trail networks change often, and managing them individually doesn't reflect how they function as a whole.

The TBRA designation:

- Allows for **more flexible and effective management** of entire trail networks.
- Makes **long-term recreation planning easier**.
- Improves how the province **tracks and manages recreational trails**.

5. Annual Meeting Planning

The following initial thoughts were generated for the annual meeting.

When: Most ideal date is Wed Dec 3, with possible back up Wed Nov 26 (which conflicts with District of Sicamous COTW and council meeting)

Where: Possible locations include Sicamous Health Centre, Shuswap Lake Estates gymnasium, or the Gardom Lake Bible Camp. Quaaout Lodge was ruled out as too expensive.

What: the following ideas were shared:

- Outdoor opening ceremony then move indoors?
- BC government – MOTT integrated transportation planning; RSTBC or BC Parks updates
- Local government – CSRD parks master planning, seeking input and sharing what's underway
- Secwepemc governments – overall approach that Shelley and others are taking to engage elders and knowledge keepers, then engage others with examples being Onyx Falls, Scatchard, Chase Harper initiatives
- Other – BC Recreation and Parks Association, concepts of co-management
- Other – wildfire resiliency, utilization of trails as access for wildfire suppression; build on concepts presented in April Outdoor Recreation Council webinar or local initiatives underway with [Shuswap Community Wildfire Roundtable](#)
- Subregional discussions – have these as always, but assign a facilitator in advance to enable all voices to be heard, consider more focus, or having questions in advance and seek feedback; IH could provide trained facilitators

Next steps – Jen and Mike will work to finalize a location, a date and initiate registration in September. More detailed discussion on agenda at Oct 17 WG meeting.

6. Roundtable of New Information (non-trails)

Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CISIS) events on their [website](#).

Sicamous – July 1 road hockey tournament, strong man competition on July 19, October 2026 will host a national ticket for Backyard Ultra world championship. Contact Jamie for more information on all.

Plan H funding is open see website [here](#).

Rubberhead Enduro race – June 21

7. Next Steps

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

- Working Group – Fri Oct 17, location new Sicamous Health Care Centre
- Annual meeting – tentatively Wed Dec 3 (could also be Nov 26)

The following **ACTION** items were noted:

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Consult with elders and Chief Atahm School on the proper use, understanding, spelling and pronunciation of Y'icwetsutce and whether it's the right word (explore dialects)	Brad Arnouse, Shelley Witzky	Delayed
Explore concept of planning framework for North Shuswap , build on South Shuswap Destination Trail Framework, and dovetail with CSRD Parks Plan for Electoral Area F process	North Shuswap	Ongoing
Share MOTT integrated transportation planning material with group	Anita	Mid-June
Look for other ACTION items in each item update in summary	Everyone	Ongoing

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	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	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 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
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
Engage Interior Health team for a "health benefits perspective" for funding applications or overcoming barriers for projects	Local governments	Ongoing