

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of June 17, 2024

Meeting date: June 14, 2024 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: Falkland Community Hall, Falkland, BC

Present (in person):

Richard Anderson, District of Sicamous Development Corporation

Trina Antoine, Splatsin

Fiona Barton, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)

Denise Ackerman, CSRD

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)

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

Gord Canfield, Shuswap Backcountry Riders

Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors

Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders

Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewards

Sue Ghattas, Vernon Outdoors Club

Andrea Heath, BC Parks

Steve Horton, Sled Sicamous/Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club

Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, Shuswap Chapter

David Lepsoe, Village of Chase

Morgan Matheson, Shuswap Tourism/Shuswap Film Commission

Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society

Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance

Brian Pratt, 4WD Association of BC

Jeromy Schuetze, District of Sicamous

Jamie Sherlock, District of Sicamous

Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)

Brad Vickerson, independent motorized trail user

Present (virtual)

Ben Grove, BC Parks

Kelly MacDonald, Interior Health

Sarah Megyesi, BC Parks

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and acknowledged unceded Secwepemc and Syilx territory. A round of introductions took place. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Early departures were noted.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Trina taught us the word *tsul7llcwa* (phonetic pronunciation “chu-ULTH-kwa”) which means come in, as when someone knocks on your door.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from April 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.

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

Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club – Queest new s.57 on existing Forest Service Road (FSR)

- Maps and information were shown on-screen and are distributed with this meeting summary, see file named *EVSC Queest Snowmobile Trail - Section 57 Amendment.pdf* and google Earth file named *EVSC QUEEST SECTION 57 AMENDMENT.kml*
- Steve Horton noted that the proposed amendment to the trail starts in Malakwa and follows the Simms Creek FSR for 21 km, intersects with the 2500RD on the upper section of the existing trail, and continues for another 4.6 km to the Queest Cabin. The total length of the trail will be 25.6 km. This route is on an existing FSR and will not require the creation of any new roads. The reason for the amendment is to avoid conflicting use for the first 6km on the existing 1800RD by logging trucks.
- It was confirmed that this is in CSRD Electoral Area E, and that Steve intends to submit the s.57 application as soon as possible.
- If anyone wants to submit a letter of support send it to Steve at admin@sledsicamous.com and it was suggested to get letters of support from adjacent private landowners.

Blue Lake

- Dave Crowfoot noted they are still waiting for snow to melt to assess connector options, following the formal response from RSTBC which didn't support the s.57 application made about 2 years ago as it is 2 sections of forestry road that connects.
- Small WG for this project (with Tolko, BCTS) – action is opportunity to look at in field with RSTBC and forest tenure holders, see what status of permit roads are, if deactivated or how to modify the s.57 application. Not dead, need to be snow free to assess options. Two other items in the response from RSTBC as well. Steve H added that Tolko indicated these issues arise all the time around BC, FSRs connecting with permit roads. Can't put a s.56 on a permit road. BC government needs to solve this.

Owlhead/Hunters Range

- Phil noted a small Owlhead/Hunters Range Working Group (WG) with a variety of representatives including Splatsin, Splatsin Dev Corp, BC Parks, Tolko, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) has continued to meet since it was re-established in January, will get in field to look at things.
- Trina suggested that by designating “no-go” zones, it piques people's curiosity and may encourage them to go there. Maybe just map out “go” zones only, be creative about how to inform people generally about culturally sensitive areas but not provide specific content.

- **ACTION** – Phil to send notes from the Owlhead/Hunters Range WG.
- **ACTION** – need someone to chair next meeting, Phil is away.

Owlhead Bike Park

- Adrian noted this has been sent for referral from Front Counter BC.

Sicamous area opportunities – Bayview to 2 Mile area trails

- Richard asked about opportunities for recreation in the larger Sicamous area, Sicamous Creek Falls to 2 Mile towards Owlhead. Adrian noted lots of planning work has been completed in the past and there are many concepts “sitting on shelves”
- Bayview area has a waterline connector which is used to connect motorized to Lizard mtn bike trails. Conceptual trail design was created. Connecting Bayview subdivision to town of Sicamous. Hasn’t gone to forest companies or Splatsin yet. Work waiting to happen. Significant opportunity to manage recreational use in the area, managing impacts.
- **ACTION** – Richard Anderson, Adrian, Phil, Trina and Splatsin, CSRD Parks (hold agreement), DoS Jeromy, Sic Dev Corp. Bring together old concepts and plans, determine next steps.

Skimikin

- Sue noted this past week a small group went to look at the Secwepemc Landmarks sculpture at Tappen Bluffs to see access road to it and signage. Planning to do unveiling of naming project on Skimikin trails and landmark sculpture in September. Sue noted the map of trails is finally done and on STA website. And will be on Avenza maps too.
- Linda noted Moose Trail 3.9km for which grant was received is done, signage up, ribbon cutting in fall once all cleaned up. Came in under budget. Finding split cedar rails challenging for cedar zig zag fence on arch site to prevent people going into dry riparian area is going up. Logging happening at north slope of Skimikin on woodlot licence, they weren’t aware that would happen. Can’t find a logging management plan on the government website. Linda to follow up with Kelsey Knoll about being in contact with woodlot licensee.
- Questions – partnership agreements and timelines; Linda noted it was just renewed starting this year for 5 years. Shuswap Backcountry Riders renewal is coming due in July and they haven’t heard from RSTBC; Dave to follow up with Kelsey.
- Phil got a call from a trapline holder, he noted that he’s been monitoring encampments showing up. He noted ones at Skimikin, Mt Ida. Phil will share this fellow’s contact info to the Skimikin people, Jen, Adrian and will put in these notes.
- Linda noted a huge cleanup done May 6, cleared out, then a couple moved back in after, now on Landmark Road. Currently no squatters in lower valley.

Kela7scen/Mt Ida

- Jen noted the small Kela7scen WG met early June, Neskonlith has taken the lead for the project, hired O’Leary Associates with \$50K of BC government funds. They are pulling together all the existing plans from last 20 years or so and compiling next steps. They will bring in recreation groups, and keep STA in the loop. 4 band accord to work together. To be completed by March 2025. Adrian noted this is a big step forward. Next steps a stewardship plan.
- **ACTION** – Jen to share Kela7scen WG notes.

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor inquired about any updates; Fiona noted not much has moved yet. CSRD parks capacity is increasing. High priority for 2025 budget planning that will start in July. Feasibility study could be an initial step. Application about 10 years ago for licence of occupation for the area, wasn't finalized, not granted. Complicated history since about 2008. In holding pattern waiting for CSRD who are now in the lead. Phil suggested conservation park budget could be considered to look at the trails in the area.

Scatchard, Chase Creek Waterfall, and larger Chase & Secwepemcúl'ecw area opportunities

- David Lepsoe noted \$2.2M of potential trails working with MOTI to put pullout and parking lot, walk to waterfall, Secwepemc landmark. He also indicated Village of Chase council has allocated \$150K for more trails and wants to transfer this to STA.
- Rocky Road trail getting brushed out right now.
- Adrian's STA crews working into a type 2 accessible trail at Chase Creek Waterfalls, not quite universal access. Sculpture hopefully by end of June. Working with MOTI to re-establish parking lot; Tree Top flyers zip line in the area, a group wants to take it over but there is too much uncertainty with MOTI upgrades. Need some group to take over washrooms.

Eagle View campground

- STA was approached by private landowner in Eagle River (past Blind Bay, not Sicamous), wants a trail plan for campground being developed, Adrian gave them a budget. Needs CSRD approval for appropriate zoning. Denise can help out.

Chase Harper Collaborative

- Jen has been working with O'Leary and Associates on the Chase Harper Forest Circle (west of Chase, south of Harper Lake) with Secwepemc governments and they want trail plan, trails, traditional use and knowledge for demonstration blocks. Build trails. Tolko involved. Still reconnaissance to be done. Happening quickly. Develop trails using skid roads from logging demonstration.

Larch Hills Traverse (LHT)

- Adrian noted lots of planning to tie in existing roads to get off road networks and from LHT down to rail trail. Preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) work, and potentially s.57 authorization to be initiated this fall.
- Richard asked whether highway construction could impact trailhead. Adrian noted that's an ongoing concern and question. STA working with District of Sicamous on that and that there are limited options. Goal is to have access into and from Sicamous.

South Canoe Mountain Bike Trails

- Adrian will initiate for next summer construction above KC trail, tie into top of the Sweet Tears climb. At very top of trail network, past Coffee Time.

West Bay

- Jen noted good progress final agreement Adams Lake Indian Band and City of Salmon Arm signed, City is leading project management for the \$325K project and request for proposal (RFP) has been online, closes end of June. Advisory Cttee to review in early July. Work this summer

with 2 options for feasibility with level C costing. Trail connecting to Salmon Arm along lake area all the way to Tappen (eventually). Looking at 2027 for completion at best.

BC Parks Infrastructure Update

- Andrea Heath noted they met with capital team last week, bridges have reached end of life cycle at Albas Falls Park (near Seymour Arm). Will get done in 2 years. How to make the trail more protected from erosion, there have been injuries and a fatality. Consulting with First Nations and bringing an interpretive component. Will put bridge out to tender in fall.
- Tsútswecw (formerly Roderick Haig Brown) provincial park is mostly closed due to wildfire, east side is open. Phil Renniker trail is open to where Adams River Salute to the Sockeye Society has cabin. Small parking lot close to beach. Mushroom picker problems recently. Rest of park opening they've done danger tree assessment and falling from viewing platform to Wade Road parking lot up to Pictographs past winter house. Need more discussion with ALIB, Skwlax and Neskonlith. Lower Flume trail has had BC Wildfire Service in there to fall danger trees. Lower Flume hoping to enter in fall, waiting for disaster financial assistance federal funds for bridge analysis after Bush Creek wildfire. Hired someone this week to look at Loop Trail and other bridge assessments. Will activate funding once assessment completed.
- Question – status of Upper Flume Trail? Pretty devastated, BCWS has cleared, but highest severity burn in that area. No plan yet on status; closed indefinitely.
- Question – huge opportunity for Village of Chase. Please contact Museum in Chase to have signage that connect; education opportunity on history of the area, flumes.
- Adrian noted he's been approached by kayakers about where to park? River is open for boating but no solution for parking; only suggestion is go to east parking lot.

Glenemma

- Adrian noted that CSRD has completed parking lot upgrade, Trevor Timmer and STA created a 50cc novice motorcycle loop. Lower trails established with s.57 and working on a few connector trails throughout the summer. No feedback from local landowners = good news.
- Linda noted it looks amazing. Staging area is now open. Bit of signage to take care of. Horse trailer parking needs to be communicated.
- After the meeting, 14 people toured Glenemma to see the work completed



Reinneker

- Adrian working with CSRD, RSTBC and BC Parks, loop along north side, approvals and funding in place this spring, crew starting this summer. Bridge to build on north end also this summer.

Rail Trail

- Fiona noted she and Phil are working on a Sept deadline of 8km loop starting at 0.5km Bruhn Bridge. Closed until rail trail ownership group figures out staging and parking area. Need to work with District of Sicamous on that for active transportation part. South end about 1km trail needs

to be built by Sept 30 or will lose funding. Getting approvals to start in July. Everything in between subject to federal grant that Splatsin is finalizing. Drawings and design to be complete by Sept 2025.

- Sue Ghattas noted culverts used in their area; Phil noted there's a wetland so MOTI requires a grade separated crossing. Class C estimate \$2.5M.
- Jess noted that CSISS did a full invasive species inventory of rail trail over last few weeks, will be a weed pull in August.

5. Annual Meeting Planning

Initial planning for the annual meeting (see 2023 meeting summary [here](#), agenda in Appx 1, evaluation comments Appx 5) captured the following ideas:

Topics and/or presentations

- Authorizations, FSRs and permitted roads, issuing s.56, ongoing challenges
- S.57 updates and process from RSTBC
- Outdoor Rec Council – how do they communicate and work with government, strategy and working with BC Parks and RSTBC, talk about their grant program. Andrea Heath could help connect with people.
- Roadside pullouts, signage, Secwepemc content and best practices, garbage, influencing human behaviour, squatter camps? Psychology of signage, what influences behaviour. Best practices, etc. Maybe someone from BC Conservation Officer Service. Jamie has a suggestion from BCParks and Rec Association conference and how to deal with these items.
- RSTBC standards – trail, mtn bike, kiosk standards.
- Wildfire recovery and recreation – trails, BC Parks, etc.
- Secwepemc speaker or project – guardian program, one for each community.
- Resign LOU – and/or new additional signatories
- Have a visual or slide show of these projects to highlight.

Format, Venue/Location, Budget, When

- In person only, no virtual option.
- Invite MLAs, MPs (they're on contact list), noting Oct 2024 provincial election
- Money – Jen has \$4-\$5K for the meeting.
- Venue options – Quaaout likely too expensive but worth asking. Possibly ALIB gym. Malakwa community centre gym would possibly work.
- A Wednesday in mid-late November or early December (Nov 13, 20, 27 or Dec 4)

6. Roundtable of New Information (non-trails)

Future Events

- Morgan requested for people hosting events wanting to raise awareness to submit them to the events page at Shuswap Tourism [here](#)
- Screening of the movie [The Test](#) about Logan Lake's FireSmart journey and Tremont Creek wildfire at Sunnybrae Hall July 3, 6PM
- Pump track in Sicamous done and will be ready in early July. Qualifier event Sept 7 and Sept 8 will teach new people on how to use pump track.
- Eleanor always willing to offer hikes at Mallory Ridge

- 4WD Association of BC installing new outhouse at Grassy Lake on June 22, renovating outhouse and new picnic table at Elbow Lake (both in Mabel Lake area).
- Neskonlith hosting traditional pow-wow June 21-22
- Splatsin hosting Indigenous Day events June 21, will be canoe demo, Randy Williams storytelling
- Mt Baldy clean up day June 15, danger tree assessment and falling complete along trail
- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society: Rail trail project weed pull towards end of trail system, August no exact date yet; weed pulls Shuswap Lake Park Aug 23, Herald Park Aug 3, annual Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society (SABNES) Aug 21, hoping to co-host workshop on invasive species at Tsútswecw park Sept 26 (in the works).

Funding Opportunities

- Plan H Grant: Community Connectedness, deadline July 4th, \$5,000: PlanH Grants Application Guide – BC Healthy Communities
- Climate Adaptation Grant: >\$1million, deadline August 14th, Implementation projects: Adaptation in Action | Green Municipal Fund
- Enabling Accessibility: >\$125,000, deadline July 23: Enabling Accessibility Fund – small projects - funding program - Canada.ca

Fundraising

- Provincial backcountry horsemen \$25K cash bchorsemen.org draw date Nov 29. Funds towards trails and education.

Programs

- Wildsafe BC operates in 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

Past Events

- Gardom Lake Stewardship Society recently hosted show and tell with Kurt Friese from BC Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship.

7. Next Steps

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

- Friday Oct 18 – suggested to be fully outdoors with a weenie roast. Location and logistics TBD.

The following **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 for print edits by end of 2024	Everyone	Dec 15
Plan for annual meeting – secure venue, confirm date, draft an agenda and line up speakers based on input heard today. Send save the date and initiate registration.	Jen, Mike	By mid-Sept
Look for ACTION items in earlier portion of this summary related to specific trails initiatives	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 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
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