

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of June 21, 2026

Meeting date: June 19, 2026 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: Sicamous Community Health Centre, Sicamous and virtual

Present (for at least a portion of the meeting):

Richard Anderson, District of Sicamous Development Corporation
Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Adrian Bostock, STA
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, Shuswap Chapter
Gord Bushell, District of Sicamous
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Helen Dalin, Chase Fish & Game Club
Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
Justin Englot, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
Kyra Evans (Casorso), Hunters Range Snowmobile Association
Al Gerla, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, Shuswap Chapter
Sue Ghattas, Vernon Outdoors Club
Murray Hinds, Vernon Outdoors Club
Deanna Holt-Scmitt, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
Robyn Hooper, CSISS
Quinn Howard, Urban Systems
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase
Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society
Phil McIntyre-Paul, STA
Jenna Robins, Salmon Arm Economic Development Society
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce
Jamie Sherlock, District of Sicamous
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Jamie Stevens, grad student
Jan Thingsted, CSRD
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith
Hannah Treleaven, STA
Brad Vickerson, Shuswap Dirt Riders

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

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

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Louis shared the term ____ (phonetic pronunciation "ta-AS-ee") that means today's a good day.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from April 17, 2026, 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. CSRD Parks Planning Update

Justin Englot introduced himself as the new Manager of Community Services at CSRD. Quinn Howard is with Urban Systems, who have the contract for developing the new Parks and Recreation Plan for CSRD.

Generally, Quinn noted that they are currently doing public engagement and First Nations engagement. There is an online survey open for people unable to attend an open house. The timeline for finalizing the new Parks and Recreation Plan is late 2027. See website [here](#) for more information and link to [survey](#) which closes on July 17, 2026.

Questions and discussion noted that all background work of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable and other past initiatives is being reviewed and considered, that the focus of CSRD parks and trailheads, and therefore the plan, are non-motorized but to keep in mind that there are other land jurisdictions that provide motorized access; but that it would be useful to hear interests of motorized use in the survey.

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

The overall Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy map, and 7 subregions, identifying many of the locations discussed is available [here](#); scroll down to “Print Maps.”

Skimikin

- Linda noted that work on trails on south side is proposed and they are sharing info through Nations Connect
- No vandalism to the Secwepemc landmark installed as of last Monday

Glenemma

- Al noted his background in trail development in Kananaskis and Canmore, and that he’s working to have a motorized trail loop in Glenemma and Kelly Mountain to keep motorized use separate from horsemen and non-motorized users. He has mapped out some ideas and would like input.
- Hannah noted that Brad V and Trevor Timmer have started a motorized plan for this area.
- **ACTION:** Adrian or Hannah continue to connect Al with other initiatives, people and plans

Lee Creek Bluff Trail

- Jim noted that this project has been proposed since 2005, he was concerned when he saw the April WG notes suggesting planning was needed. Hannah clarified that the planning relates to recent impacts from the 2023 wildfire, and this builds on what she and Jim discussed in a field visit in 2025.
- Jim noted that the CSRD Electoral Area Director Jay Simpson has funds in this year’s budget. Jim is willing to be the local champion and can reach out to Skwlax te Secwepemculecw when needed. Jim noted that there is a public road now in place, that hurdle is gone.

- **ACTION** – Justin or Jan, is there budget, it's not in work plan for 2026. Justin noted that the CSRD parks manager for that area is on leave.

North Shuswap – multiple initiatives

- Debbie noted that the North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce has received funds from CSRD and another grant to begin a North Shuswap Destination Trail Plan, Lee Creek Bluff will be part of that. First part will be to create a Working Group and identify priorities.
- Debbie added that work is moving forward on the Ross Creek pathway with Scotch Creek connecting trails. Community is raising funds to build the trail, total distance to connect is 2.5km. STA is holding the funds raised by community, tax receipts issued for >\$20.
- Justin added that for the Ross Creek piece it is with engineers and archaeologists right now, those pieces should be finished in next few weeks. There is overlap with MOTT rights of way, land issues; also working on 90% design to go to MOTT for approval. Need final copy of arch report then put it to MOTT.
- Angle Mountain Co-op is a new group in North Shuswap aiming to put in hiking, skiing, snowsports below Angle Mountain, including a chairlift, Garth Whelen is the contact, we should connect him into this. July 9 AGM coming up; connect them into STR. Also Leo Labelle with another group for Crowfoot area plans.

Owlhead/Bayview

- Adrian noted they are working through authorization for phase 2, Splatsin doing cultural heritage overview, have put in referral for Bayview Trail plan which will connect to Sicamous Creek Falls and into Owlhead mountain bike trails. Timeline for phase 2 of Owlhead is ideally this fall, or spring 2027.
- Gord thanked the STA team for all their work on this.

South Canoe

- Adrian noted that a trail construction was completed recently, next will be the 2023 development plan, next will be a climbing trail to link Flipside to Sweet Tears.

Rubberhead/Larch Hills

- Adrian noted that he has been working on a Rubberhead master plan that connects to/overlaps with Larch Hills, there are a lot of backcountry ski trails that are no longer authorized, need to connect RSTBC. Keith noted that those ski trails were established and built in 1977-78 with permission of Ministry of Forests, they did signage but not a lot of planning in advance. Old documentation wasn't carried forward. Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) noted they are considered non-status trails.

Hunters' Range

- Kyra noted there is lots going on from applications to approvals, LaForge cabin application was accepted after 3 years, but no timeline for construction. Moving into next phase of First Nations and public consultation. Doesn't align with ministry goals so not a priority, timeline is uncertain.
- S.57 for Cook Creek trail extension was approved, no work needed as it is a trail over snow that is already brushed, need to do wayfinding signage
- Main chalet needs new roof, original was 1981, got offroad vehicle grant funding hired a contractor to replace tin roof

- Kyra noted they are in the early stages of exploring becoming a recreation district or recreation association, as although they were originally a snowmobile area there is use and demand for all season use. They would like to create something that creates multi recreation use, they have [put a survey out to public for interest](#) in this. Intent is to capture those other groups to fund upkeep of infrastructure, not necessarily manage the summer recreation. There is some private land access for first 7km of road network, makes it tricky.

Scatchard Mtn.

- Adrian noted that they are working through development of Odin's trail, did an engagement with Shelley W, had Indigenous Plants protocol, Jamie Stevens is developing this. Also went to referral to various First Nations and getting input on that.
- Jamie added that this is part of her research at UVic, and will expand this, added on to what Hannah does for EA on trails, to add culturally important plants in inventory. Hannah noted that she Jamie and Adrian walked a trail line and trial it. The long term intent would be propagating material from when trails are built.
- Brad noted that the Scatchard FSR is still multi use on a phone app; Phil noted it's a MOTT road but doubles as a recreational use.

Shorts Creek – Vernon Outdoors Club

- Murray noted that they have a calendar list of hikes, this Sunday is Shorts Creek, last Sunday was Terrace Mountain. Request was made to bring small clippers to clear any brush and email VOC (see [website](#)) or call Al Watson 250 938 6868 for maintenance needs.

Scotch Creek Hlina and Mt Baldy

- Hannah noted that she and Adrian went out with Trevor Timmer to repair Hlina loop and what work is needed, came across BC Wildfire Service doing some cutting and assessments which will expediate trail repairs. Will get started right away. Timeline end of summer.
- Jan noted that slope assessments were recently completed at Mt. Baldy hoping to get on it and get it done by late summer.
- Robyn suggested to let them know of invasive plants in the area.

Gorge

- Adrian noted that he has heard that the Gorge Road will not be plowed for winter 2026/27 season, talking with PWT Canoe and K3 about short term parking lot maintenance at 3km; however Jamie Sherlock heard about logging up Gorge this coming winter and road would be open. Gorge Ski Touring Association is now a society and things are underway, Adrian is president. Considering designated parking lot for long term through RSTBC. Challenge is access and parking with K3 and ski touring use and challenges of unauthorized camping.

Mallory Ridge

- Louis worked with Agriculture Canada for 4 years to get their people back to using traditional foods, when he met Eleanor they explored having Mallory Ridge as a pilot harvesting area. There is another pilot area through Parks Canada at Revelstoke. Louis might be approaching other groups to identify other harvesting areas, such as huckleberries, blueberries and more, want to re-learn that technique to manage traditional foods.
- Eleanor noted that Mallory Ridge protection work started before 2008, was flagged as a high priority, 1-2 years, not done, making lots of noise now to get it as a conservation park partnered

with Gardom Lake Stewardship Society. She recently attended the CSRD Parks and Recreation planning focus groups and open houses.

- Phil noted there are some very rich meadows with diverse plant populations in the area.

Swansea Point and Cambie Solsqua

- Phil noted that Derek Sutherland of CSRD have asked STA while Parks and Recreation planning is underway to gather a bit more detailed related to walking and biking safety. One is Swansea Point and the other is Cambie Solsqua. Gathering information through a simple questionnaire, current state of concern and to collect past history of information. Phil leading this, get it back to CSRD parks staff and Urban Systems team for the planning work. Won't post this survey until July in alignment with Urban Systems survey for larger parks initiative.

Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail (SNORT)

- Phil noted that a news release is imminent for official opening of next section of rail trail from Rosemund Lake to the south. End of Mara Lake to Grindrod is almost officially open. Still a work in progress. Erosion work to be done in September, with closures that month.
- Grindrod crossing still waiting on MOTT permitting, in process to put a crossing light and re-route through the community, there will be some confusion as you need to self-navigate through there
- Grindrod to Enderby – officially closed – once those final pieces are in, expect it to be officially opened in the next 2-3 weeks.
- Sicamous Ec Dev society have cards, QR codes, updated map, and will need to be updated again.
- New trailhead at Mara Hall, currently also one at Grindrod Park.
- Final chunk to Spallumcheen not officially opened, still waiting on permitting and zoning changes.
- Question about accessibility – future maps will show what's accessible; Sicamous ferry is NOT accessible; it's in riparian so can't adjust the area to make ferry landing site accessible. Mara Hall will be accessible, not Grindrod, and Enderby trailhead is.

6. Annual Roundtable Meeting

Budget: generally OK, can afford to have similar price to 2025 meeting, nothing expensive

When: Wed Nov 18, 9AM-4PM

Where: TBD, suggested locations were Splat sin Centre, Gardom Lake Bible Camp again (central), North Shuswap Community Hall

Agenda and content:

- Secwepemc initiatives, updates
- CSRD Parks and Recreation Plan status, update
- Provincial government updates and new things:
 - Outdoor Recreation Strategy – get John Hawking to present it
 - MOTT and integrated initiatives, update for SNORT and Bruhn Bridge access; West Bay connector update
- Bigger picture things, non-governmental:
 - Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

- Trans Canada Trail
- BC Adventure Smart, Sandra Riches
- Environmental Stewardship
 - Environmental screening process update – Hannah, Adrian, Jeremy Ayotte
 - CSISS and what they do
- Afternoon – business piece (report, financial status, etc.) then subregional breakouts, consider facilitation again this year;

Considerations for annual meeting

- Local government elections will have just happened on Oct 17, there may be a transition of elected officials able to attend or not
- Consider a separate event in early 2027 for newly elected officials to inform them of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable, the strategy, and core values of how we operate

7. Roundtable of New Information

[Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society](#) – Robyn reminded folks of the work they do around invasive species, there are priority sites and lists of species and community weed pulls coming up (June 25 Little White Lake pull 4-6PM, around July 22 (TBD) Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society and multiple partners weed pull). They also have ongoing work with CSRD and others. Connect with Deanna and her.

Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail – Phil noted that he’s hosting someone who is riding the entire rail trail system, he’ll be in the Shuswap Tues June 23

Outdoor Recreation Strategy – a recently completed strategy done by BC government, the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is hosting a webinar on June 29, more info [here](#)

Thompson River Watersheds Forest Landscape Planning – Jim noted this is underway for a large area that includes the Shuswap, public input is underway until July 20 [here](#).

7. Next Steps

Next Working Group Meetings (third Friday of January, April, June, October, with exceptions):

Date	Location*	Field trip (after lunch, optional)
Fri Oct 16, 9AM-12PM	Sorrento or Chase? Crannog Brewing?	Baldy or Scatchard?

*tentative plan, nothing booked to date

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
If new groups or individuals need to be connected to the Shuswap Trails Roundtable (not necessarily the Working Group) connect them with Mike mf_simpson@outlook.com	Everyone	Ongoing
Consider an " orientation to the Shuswap Trails Roundtable " focused on newly elected local government officials to remind of our work, values and initiatives	Jen	Early 2027
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	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
Build in "trail counters" cost in your grant application, having usage statistics can help with future applications.	Everyone	Ongoing
Send any new trails to put in printed marketing material to Phil	Everyone	April 30