

## **Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group**

### **Meeting Summary as at October 19, 2021**

**Meeting date:** October 15, 2021 9:00AM to 12:00PM    **Location:** Zoom web conference

**Present:**

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)  
Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)  
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)  
Blaine Carson, Shuswap Trail Alliance member, trail enthusiast  
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders  
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority  
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewardship Society  
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association  
Brad Harrison, Backcountry Lodges of BC Association  
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park  
Chris Lynd, trail enthusiast  
Eleanor Marshall, Gardom Lake/Mallory Ridge resident  
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics  
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)  
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Celia Nord, Adams Lake Indian Band  
Carly Prosychnyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation  
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)  
Natalie Sorkilmo, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club  
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase

#### **1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives**

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Secwepemc territory was acknowledged, and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Note that quorum was not met.

#### **2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity**

Celia taught us the term that means all Indigenous people of North America: Kelmuc (pronounced "kel-MUKE") and the term for all the land of North America: Kelmucul'ecw (pronounced "kel-muke-OO-loo").

#### **3. Previous Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary from June 15, 2021 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.

*Sustainable funding* – Jen noted that there have been some donations from organizations since the last meeting. A formal delegation to Regional District of North Okanagan has not take place.

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

##### Mara Lookout – Adrian

- Working on trail since end of smoke, crew mostly rebuilding old boardwalks, 8km of trail with 0.5km of boardwalk. Got snowed out early this week. Wrapped up until next year. Mid-July as start up due to snow. Stringers in place, cleaned up old bridges and material, but no decking in place yet.

##### Owlhead/Cummings/Blue Lake/Hunter's Range – Phil, Celia

- Phil advised that the group reconvened, working on mapping, lots of energy from different groups, needed follow up recce over summer to confirm connector trails before bringing back to orders of government. Got eclipsed due to fires, heat, etc.
- Dave Crowfoot noted earlier that he just got into this area a few weeks ago. Some areas were burnt, Cache cabin is OK.
- Trying to line up an evening to regroup with what data was collected, Suzanne at CSRD GIS is ready to update maps and send it to Secwepemc governments and BC managers.
- Chris added that riding season was short, advisements due to hot conditions to avoid riding motorized in the bush. Now snow. No additional linework due to heat, fires. Alan Walker may have data.

##### District of Sicamous Mountain Bike Park

- Celia looked at this bike park on the ground earlier this month.
- The mountain bike park plan has been submitted to Front Counter BC, but not the larger motorized recreation area.
- There are two initiatives: a smaller mountain bike park area, and a larger area proposed for motorized recreation.
- **ACTION** – Carly share what went in for the s.57 MTB park, the kmz spatial file

##### CSRD Area E Sicamous-East Shuswap Area – Adrian, Phil

- Flag that there is an opportunity to “thread the needle” a bit with all of these various initiatives underway in the Sicamous-Malakwa area. STA has some funds held to bring people together to look at all that is underway, make connections, support some coordination of planning. Could fund a couple of days of Adrian's time. Can tie into Larch Hills traverse, highway expansion and connections to trails.
- **ACTION** – Adrian is seeking a date to gather folks for this.
- Folks expressing interest to be involved included Carly, Natalie, Dave Crowfoot, Blaine, Celia noted that Pespesellkwe would want to be involved. Opportunity to connect this with economic development and tourism planning in the area.

##### Joss – Adrian

- Two game cameras were installed on east side of lower part of Joss to capture grizzly bear movement in June, going to pull them for winter next week, then Jeremy Ayotte will analyze and do final report over winter. Jeremy wants to keep studying grizzly movement over time. Jeremy is going to recommend not making decisions at this point but establish seasonal limits for mountain bike use.
- Need to reconvene the Joss working group later in winter to receive Jeremy's report
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) and STA funded the initial camera work, and are working to find funding to continue camera work

#### Larch Hills Nordics Link Trail, Lighting – Craig

- Generally, at Larch Hills, lots of maintenance done over summer – good volunteer group. Pruning, blowdown clean up. Limited due to fire danger ratings for 6 weeks.
- Had some vandalism this year, Cec's cabin had windows knocked out and other damage. Pentti's shelter was also damaged.
- Link trail is proposed (shown on screen) won't be groomed by piston bully, it will be groomed single track. Haven't gone for referrals or consultation. Adrian asked is it flagged on ground, yes it is.
- Lighting concept – all light standards in on phase 1 and 2, just need splicing and transformer. They will be ready for this winter. Next step is approval for phase 3 and 4, they've had verbal OK with BC Parks for Upper Violet Creek Park, then s.57 applied for. Done environmental assessment study on all 4 phases, and archaeological in BC Parks area. Invasive species and wildlife mitigations are in place.

#### Hyde Mountain lookout – Larch Hills traverse – Blaine

- Missing signs. Switchbacks. Winter route through traverse to Nordic trails – not heavily used. Adrian can follow up. Traverse authorized, but a winter route needs to be done. STA needs support if someone wants to take this on. Need to clarify its status on trail website, it shows as summer and winter? Blaine noted there needs to be some easier routes, and that some of those roads have connections.

#### Glenemma – Ryan

- S.57 application is stalled, a portion of trailhead and portion of area to south of trail had Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) land, had to apply to Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for trails. That process ongoing. Had panel meeting earlier in Oct with panel members. Notes back to ALC, they will make a decision soon. Once that decision made, then RSTBC will resume the s.57 process.
- CSRD has funding in place for construction and development, and some additional \$25K from Rural Dividend. Ready to go once permits in place. Possibly in spring.

#### North Shuswap parallel trails – Ryan, Debbie, Celia

- Lawson Engineering to do prelim planning design and cost for 3 sections of trail – connector around Scotch Creek campsite, Bristow Road and Lakeview Park, and from Ross Creek to Lakeview. Completed in August 2021. Presented to CSRD staff for comments in Sept, some edits made. Next steps – all uploaded to MOTI EDAS system, set up prelim meetings to discuss plans with MOTI. Early Nov to meet with MOTI. Then regroup with North Shuswap group with design and estimate.
- Debbie added that team has been setting up community engagement stations over summer months and collecting info. Ran a raffle that just closed. Presented a \$8000 cheque for this to STA to hold in reserve for this project. Bike rodeo was held on Labour Day weekend to raise awareness about trails and had stations in Shuswap Lake Park, taught skills for kids. Shuswap Community Foundation provided t-shirts for the pathway team.
- Celia added that there was 150 kids at bike rodeo and it was COVID compliant.
- Ryan added that CSRD has additional funding from rural dividend program \$25K for this project.

#### Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail – Ryan, Phil

- Lots of moving parts. Development plan almost complete. Key pieces still to come, geotechnical and archaeological. Hope to have it done by end of 2021. Will be the roadmap going forward.
- Received Active transportation funds \$500K for initial development at Bruhn bridge in Mara, endorsed by CSRD and District of Sicaous to top up another \$250K. Hope to tender in mid winter for spring

construction – general grading, bridge decking, scaling, signage, geotechnical work. Aim to open portion of trail for rustic use by public after that.

- Funding earlier in summer for test section of trail 3.5km through Enderby from Splatsin centre to Sutherlands in north. Construction in spring 2022.
- Fundraising in full swing. \$100K from Askews last week on top of previous donations from them. Seeking additional grant opportunities.
- Splatsin working on archaeological, process with elders and their community and story telling around the trail, trailhead signage. Governance advisory chaired by Kupki Christian and other owners (CSR, RDNO and Splatsin are owners).
- Website [www.shuswapnorthokanaganrailtrail.ca](http://www.shuswapnorthokanaganrailtrail.ca)

#### South Shuswap Destination Trail Plan – Ryan

- Update – stalled out due to COVID and inability to do community consultation with residents and Secwepemc governments. Used up community works fund. Received \$25K from BC Rural Dividend fund to kick-start that again. Work with Jen to restart engagement pending COVID delays.
- It was confirmed that Indigenous engagement hasn't started yet, this needs to happen. Phil noted that Sutra reached out pre-COVID at a conceptual level to communities. Ties together with Secwepemc Landmarks project.

#### North Fork Wild – Ryan

- CSR engaged with Larch Landscape Architecture (Golden) for plan where old house is located, to develop vision to remove existing structure and replace it with something else. Met on site with group in July. Meeting next week with Secwepemc elders on site to incorporate traditional knowledge and story telling. From there, conceptual design. No change to trail.

#### Eagle River Blueway – Ryan

- Over summer, Veda Roberge worked with Lori Schneider-Wood and did some ground-truthing of launch sites on public lands along Eagle River. List of possibilities. Met on site with BC Parks, to possibly use some park area as rest areas or put in sites. Next is to talk with MOTI about these, potential locations for the system.

#### Kela7scen/Mt Ida – Blaine, Adrian, Phil, Celia

- Kick-started this spring by BCTS and other's fuel management proposed projects, got the working group together. Celia involved, other Secwepemc governments too now involved.
- Shuswap Dirt Riders submitted their s.57 application for existing trails in the last year.
- Had two site visits so far, more scheduled, and had 3-4 Zoom meetings. Nothing hard and fast in place, but formal process is unfolding. Seeking to have linework captured in the proposed BCTS and fuel management areas submitted by end of October.
- Following adaptive planning steps, the 4 Secwepemc governments are the lead and to support the larger management planning piece underway for all of Kela7scen.
- Others have been participating – City of Salmon Arm, etc. Blaine. Trevor Timmers of Clever Trail Design working with them, a professional motorized trail designer, as well as Shuswap Dirt Riders, Chris Lynd.
- Needs a recreation management planning scale as it's a large area and will have impacts for access and trailheads for all sides of the mountain (e.g., Haines Creek).
- Next steps – resource heavy to do the adaptive management planning/rec management planning.

- Blaine added that he was able to show people stone faces on a site visit and looked at intact forest in the bowl with Craig and others this fall. Took drone footage too of the geology. Route to high hump on west side.
- Celia noted that these kinds of referrals are very complex about values and heritage features that are identified. There are lots of known features. Early engagement is appreciated. Spiritual and significant area for all 4 communities.

#### Salmon Arm Active Transportation – Anita, Phil

- City of Salmon Arm working on getting funding to get a formal modernized active transportation plan together, they have secured \$50K with their existing \$50K and now they can do engagement on a plan over next year. An Active Transportation Task Force is now in place.
- West Bay trail – connected, but separate – Jen added that STA been working with City of Salmon Arm for grant application to go with BC Rural Dividend funds already in place, which would get the plan completed. Hoping to apply in next few weeks.

#### Skimikin – Chris

- Chris updated that lots of progress at Skimikin and use of Outdoor Recreational Vehicle (ORV) fund (all encompassing of all motorized off road vehicles) – portion of registration fund goes into provincial ORV fund, application process and doled out by RSTBC. Shuswap Backcountry Riders is local branch of ATVBC. Their club applied for funds for trail improvement, repairs and signage. Showed pictures of kiosks, picnic tables, stop signs, and trail improvement. Lots of cooperation with Backcountry Horsemen. With remaining funding, it may go towards planning so things are shovel-ready. Working with Trevor Timmer on re-routes.



#### Mallory Ridge – Eleanor

- Impacted by drought, fires, COVID and the advocacy work was delayed. Impacts seen to wildlife. Lots of volunteers, are maintaining trails. Focus now on advocacy and consultation, have some outside funding and want to protect ridge for recreation and multiple values. Trying to be perceived as not anti-logging. Proximity good for many communities, beautiful area.
- Phil suggested she follow up with RSTBC on first establishing these trails under s. 57 as they current trails are “social” or unauthorized trails.

#### White Lake Trails – Patrick

- Patrick provided an update about the small trail between campsite and west side of entrance to park. Energy levels for this work dissipated with smoke in late June. Will follow up again next spring. Needs a bit of upgrading. He talked with Wes DeArmond of BC Parks as well as FLNRORD about the FSR relocation. Will keep dialoguing with BC Parks and FLNRORD. Happy to see South Shuswap Destination Trails Master Plan proceeding. Tough summer with smoke.

#### Secwepemc Landmarks – Jen

- Posts started to be installed, put in on local trails. Hoping to do main monument at Wharf this fall, but it was delayed to spring 2022 due to wildfire smoke and COVID.

## 5. Shuswap Trails Roundtable Annual Meeting

The draft agenda for the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday November 24, 2021 from 9AM-2PM, with ideas generated at the last Working Group meeting in June was reviewed. Comments were as follows:

- Have government updates as follows:
  - Secwepemc governments (most time) – presentation on Pespesellkwe (what it is, how it functions, mandate), how engagement and consultation with Pespesellkwe and Neskonlith should occur now, what the processes of review are that take place
  - RSTBC – high level of what’s new, any new policies or initiatives to be aware of
  - BC Parks - high level of what’s new, any new policies or initiatives to be aware of
- Forest Practices Board report on [management of forest recreation values](#)
  - Adrian will follow up with Glen Pilling (retired) to ask who might be best to present
  - May be too long or too “policy oriented” for annual meeting (needs to have a how can we use this, or now what-so what component to make it relevant)
  - It was suggested to have as a separate event, such as an evening in winter:
    - Presentation of report
    - Response by FLNRORD – local district, and other departments/sections
- Keep sub-regional breakout groups but enable people to attend more than one. This can be captured in the registration (top two choices) and Jen can figure out how to make it work on Zoom
- Snapshot updates of collaboration success stories:
  - Kela7scen/Mt Ida – but give 10-15min
  - Owlhead – Dave, Phil, more...
  - Skimikin – Chris, Linda, Sue
  - Sicamous mountain bike park
  - Secwepemc landmarks – Shelley, Jen
- Research snapshots – have the following as “poster sessions” as a slideshow during breaks
  - Pate Neumann MSc research on \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ted Morton MSc research on \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jeremy Ayotte research on grizzly bear cameras at Joss
- Local groups or organizations share information
  - We’ve lost this in an online format – used to have “table displays” around the room
  - Consider enabling slideshow content during breaks, or some other format
- Shuswap Trails Roundtable business – need to have time for report from last year, plan for this year

## 6. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

Road safety grants are coming soon – Anita

CSISS annual general meeting on October 26 – Jess, click [here](#) for more info.

## 7. Next Steps

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

- Friday Jan 21, 2022, 9AM-12PM
- Friday April 8, 2022, 9AM-12PM (not 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday as that is Good Friday)
- Friday June 17, 2022, 9AM-12PM
- Friday Oct 21, 2022, 9AM-12PM

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

<b>Task or activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Follow up on <a href="#">Four Year Funding Proposal</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with RDNO board</li> </ul>	Someone other than Phil	ASAP
Develop new approach to sustainable funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider whether groups can each contribute a small amount this year and in years to come</li> <li>Submit donations to Jen at STA</li> </ul>	Groups	Ongoing
Watch for registration for the <b>Annual Roundtable Meeting</b> – Wed Nov 24, and advise your colleagues, elected officials	Local and First Nations governments	In advance of Wed Nov 24
Help plan and organize the <b>Annual Roundtable Meeting</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celia – take lead on organizing Secwepemc presentation with representation from all 4 governments ideally</li> <li>Adrian – take lead on Forest Practices Board piece</li> <li>Mike – will reach out to RSTBC and BC Parks</li> <li>Jen and Mike – everything else</li> </ul>	Celia, Adrian, Jen, Mike	Well before Wed Nov 24
Start <b>hut to hut opportunities</b> , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter’s Range.	Louis, others	Future meeting
Work with <b>Shuswap Tourism</b> or current organization to publish and advertise authorized trails	Everyone	Ongoing
<b>Standing Action Items</b>		
Organizations to <b>sign the LOU</b> if they haven’t already done so – original copy if possible (Phil has it)	Any groups that haven’t signed LOU	Ongoing
Send any <b>GPS/GIS linework</b> on trails to Sutra Brett at Shuswap Trail Alliance, <a href="mailto:earthboundprojects@gmail.com">earthboundprojects@gmail.com</a>	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 <a href="mailto:trailreport@shuswaptrails.com">trailreport@shuswaptrails.com</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Share updated Working Group <b>contact list</b> with all participants	Mike	Ongoing
Seek support letters for funding applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Upload approved Working Group <b>meeting summaries</b> to website	Jen	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do <b>cumulative effects assessment</b> on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing
Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards - order from Georgia Jules at Neskonlith Education Centre by email <a href="mailto:educationassistant@neskonlithec.net">educationassistant@neskonlithec.net</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Download the Secwepemc language app for your smart phone	Everyone	Ongoing