Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group
Meeting Summary as of October 19, 2026

Meeting date: October 16, 2026 9:00AM to 11:50AM

Location: Notch Hill Community Hall, Sorrento and virtual

Present (for at least a portion of the meeting):
Brad Arnouse, Neskonlith (virtual)
Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Adrian Bostock, STA
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, Shuswap Chapter
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Kyra Evans (Casorso), Hunters Range Snowmobile Association
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Community
Mitchell Forgie, Tourism Kamloops
Sue Ghattas, Vernon Outdoors Club (virtual)
Murray Hinds, Vernon Outdoors Club (virtual)
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
Rob Niewzenhuizen, STA (board)
Jenna Robins, Salmon Arm Economic Development Society
Joel Rooke, STA (board)
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Jared Taylor, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
Jan Thingsted, CSRD
Hannah Treleaven, STA

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Secwepemcúl'ecw was acknowledged by Jen Bellhouse, and a round of introductions took place. The agenda was accepted; no early departures were noted.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Brad shared the term *knúcwente*, link and pronunciation here, (phonetic pronunciation "kuh-NOO-ten-kwa") that means helping one another.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from June 19, 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. Shuswap Trails Roundtable Annual Meeting

The draft agenda and logistics were reviewed for the annual meeting, which will be held at the Splatsin Community Centre, Wednesday November 18, 2026 from 9AM to 4PM. Mike noted that 43 people are registered to date, he'll send a reminder by end of October and registration closes November 9. The agenda will be distributed to participants registered at least a week in advance.

Feedback offered by the working group was as follows:

- Highlight successes of the roundtable at 1:15PM'ish, before subregional breakout groups
- Ensure discussions lead to action
- Jen to reach out to RDNO electoral area directors and staff to encourage attendance

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."

Signage for Trails on Provincial Highways

- Jenna noted that they are launching a "Ride the Shuswap" campaign but there is frustration that there are insufficient signs on provincial highways to help people find the trailheads (e.g., Rubberhead, South Canoe trails). Permit applications with Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) is underway but is taking too long.
- Adrian suggests to chat with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) staff to promote these and put pressure on MOTT.

Skimikin

- Linda noted lake levels were record low and it affected visitor attendance. Trails well used over summer. Focus shift to making trails the priority with good maintenance and signage. Lake is not bringing people. Working with RSTBC, and challenge of people pulling signs out and hiding htem in the bush.

South Canoe

- Adrian noted plan to do trail extension of climbing trail Sweet Tears, he is working with woodlot licensee, don't expect challenges. Planning stages at this point.
- Canoe Forest Products to build a new trail off one of their blocks, no consultation done yet
- Woodlot licensee is doing wildfire risk reduction on lower trails; it complements the trail maintenance.
- Need to look at replacing bridges on boardwalks on Credential (shared use trail mountain biking and equestrian) and Adrian has funds can look at for 2027. Looking at doing railings but can discuss if not wanted. Need to replace boardwalks.

Vandalism of Trail Infrastructure

- A common theme throughout the meeting was signage being removed by locals who it is assumed don't like trail users, and the theft and vandalism of Secwepemc landmarks and waypoints.
- One suggestion was to put spikes or rebar on bottom of signposts as it makes them more challenging to remove
- Trail cameras were noted as an option but people need to be informed they are being recorded

Odin's Trail

- This trail near Chase on Scatchard Mtn received a permit from MOTT to build this trail, it connects to private property. Crews are building it now, will be done by end of October.
- Shelley Witzky was involved in engaging Indigenous elders, this is where the Indigenous plant protocol was developed. They had elders meeting to collect seed or transplant plants from the site. Grow native plants and put on site. This came from one of the original elders meetings, as it was a sensitive area.

Owlhead

- In Sicamous, started 2021, built in 2024-25, starting phase 2 once BC election is over. It's called a "mountain bike" park called by Sicamous, RSTBC want it to be labelled more multi use. Downhill trail is more mountain bike use, but lots of walkers. 6km to be built in 2027 and into 2028.

Bayview

- Adrian noted trails adjacent to Sicamous Creek Falls, Bayview trails put out for referral to First Nations, will be phase 3 of the Owlhead, mostly hiking trails. Original plan dates back to 2007.

Gorge Backcountry

- Adrian noted the non-profit society is working with stakeholders to create a multiparty initiative in the backcountry. Met with District of Sicamous, RSTBC recently. There is no timber harvesting this winter so sled access only.

North Shuswap Destination Plan

- Debbie noted that they received funds for the first phase of the trail framework, engaged STA to undertake the work and have had one meeting that went well with 35 reps from all different groups. Lots of activity. Oct 29 will have meeting #2 to develop the North Shuswap Working Group. Adrian and Hannah going out Oct 22 to identify key priorities and map them out.
- North Shuswap Lions submitted a successful grant application to Shuswap Community Foundation to pay for preliminary designs for Scotch Cree connecting trails. Next steps are to meet with MOTT, engineers, STA and Debbie.
- Also followed up as to progress on 2.4km of parallel trail from Ross Creek to Fraser Bay, Tara Knight of MOTT was not aware that there was a deadline on grant application BC Active Transportation Grant of March 2027.
- Celia Nord had an archaeological site found along that 2.4km, but construction can move ahead, all they require is for an archaeologist to be on site, Celia can do that.
- Parallel trail pathway construction to start not likely this fall; Justin Englot at CSRD would have more info. Waiting for arch report and MOTT report.

Scotch Creek Hlina

- Jan noted that this trail damaged in 2023 wildfire was officially completed and reopened in August, the work was done by STA and Trevor Timmer. The kiosk will be done this week, need some updated mapping on the kiosk. Had two signposts missing since installed this summer.
- Works were funded by Disaster Financial Assistance. Kelsey Knoll likes it, parking was rejigged.

Mount Baldy

- Hannah noted that this trail was reopened, it was damaged by 2023 wildfire, used Disaster Financial Assistance funds. There are two new boardwalks and trail sections that addressed erosion issues from before fire.
- Jan expressed thanks to STA on this one. He noted there was a learning for CSRD and STA in understanding the protocol in rebuilding post-wildfire, when do we engage Geotech engineer with slope assessment and trail stability with rain. Jan anticipates we will see more of this, and wonders whether BC government will have a protocol on what to do post-wildfire, should things be rebuilt.
- It was suggested that signage with the story of the 2023 wildfire be considered. Some areas were burnt severely, and other areas were lightly burned or not at all. Common nighthawk nest at the summit seen this summer by Hannah. Lots of interesting things. Accessible by school groups. Grade 12 Earth sciences class Jackson High this summer, will look at Mt Baldy for wildfire-ecosystems.



- Mitchell noted that Myra canyon trestle burn has a QR code at beginning of their trail; can track who's downloaded it; got Big White to sponsor it as they have logo. Can be funded, updated info not just a static sign with information that may go out of date.
- After the meeting, Jen, Linda, Hannah, Mitchell and Mike hiked the Mt Baldy Trail

Asset management

- Adrian noted that they have a joint project with CSRD to inventory all trail infrastructure including signs, bridges and more. This will be linked to the CSRD geographic information system (GIS) and have information to understand a number of things: condition and lifespan remaining on infrastructure; documenting value invested in trails and using it for advocacy or other purposes; and planning for asset replacement.
- Intent is to inventory assets on both authorized and unauthorized trails
- Will need field verification of status of assets/infrastructure, and trails groups may be involved to help with documenting things when inspections are done. A process and/or training will be set up to enable trails groups to help out with this.
- Jan noted CSRD is doing a huge asset management and inventory too; beyond trails that STA will help with, they will be inventorying garbage cans, picnic benches, boat launch signage and structures. Robyn asked about CSISS signage, she'll follow up with Justin.
- Have you thought of using bar codes? Adrian said no but every trail and piece of infrastructure will have a unique number. Not sure if bar codes will work. Everything will have a tag on it. Soft launch inspection side of it spring 2027. Jared note there is also an app for this, can do inspections in the app and then it uploads to CSRD directly (for staff, maybe not for trails groups like Linda – fillable pdf form for volunteer groups).

Displacement Matrix

- Adrian described this as an updated version of the environmental screening tool (EST), they are working with Jeremy Ayotte on this, came out of Outdoor Recreation Council of BC conference

and what Fernie Trail Alliance is doing with cameras and how trails are affecting wildlife. Early planning, but combo of camera trap and GIS project with biologists and others, use East Canoe Creek watershed as test pilot project (need funding still) with Rubberhead and Canoe trails. Goal is to understand displacement of animals and complement the EST.

- Rob suggested to talk to Darren at City of Salmon Arm about East Canoe Watershed documents.
- This kind of information will help inform cumulative effects of trails and other development
- Jenna noted Erica Hummel lives in Sunnybrae is director of Destination Development and Stewardship at Destination BC, they have funding for these exact things. Jenna will invite her to the annual meeting.
- Barbra noted the Natural Assets Initiative and how natural assets such as wetlands can be valued; this could be done for recreation trails too.
- IDEA – connect the dots with asset management, displacement matrix…
- Jan – connect mental health, economic benefits…

Connect the dots – what are the connections between:

- Asset management?
- Displacement matrix?
- Cumulative effects?
- Natural assets?

West Bay Connector

- Jen noted she met with City of Salmon Arm staff recently to understand project status. ALIB received funds for plan; price tag was big and sticker shock was a factor. Application has been submitted to federal active transportation, funding sits with federal government but nothing announced yet. They met with City to pare back some bells and whistles; what's the "Toyota Corolla" version and considering two phases: first phase to build more expensive boardwalk section, second phase connector trails. This would knock $10M off original plan. Jen will meet with Neskonlith next week, then working group.
- Brad noted that he's noting with CPKC Railway at end of October, can Jen join?

Rail Trail

- Jen noted that the northern section between Sicamous and Mara will be closed during week for next few weeks for shoreline stabilization; should be open on weekends but check website.
- Ferry society has wrapped up operations for the season. MOTT hoping to have pedestrian access open by spring 2027, but no connection until fall 2027 therefore will need ferry next summer. Still working to get connection in Grindrod. Splatsin getting funds and getting things finished
- BC government is helping to lobby for funds.

Secwpepemc Landmarks

- Second one destroyed this summer at Tappen Bluffs this summer; first one was at Bastion in 2023. Looking for funds to replace two sculptures. Need locations with access but not publicly accessible. Opening fund donations for this on Canada Helps.
- Not sure of who, or whether same person.

CSRD Parks Plan Update

- Jan noted CSRD doing a parks and recreation plan update, not a master plan.
- Urban Systems is facilitating all of the engagement and drafting the plan. Lots of engagement of phase 1 over summer, understanding needs gaps and priorities with 1100 survey responses, also in person meetings, pop up meetings, open houses.

- What We Heard Phase 1 report will be on CSRD website soon. Key findings: trails and active trans are top priority; parks and natural areas highly valued; maintain assets not build new ones; and future investment should be inclusive and accessible.
- Next phase is in person stakeholder meetings, then review and refine draft, collating feedback and drafting plan. Completed by end of 2027.
- Have an additional online survey for children and youth; can win $100 to local restaurant.

Reinecker

- Jared noted that Reinecker is a long ongoing project to do a route up from day use area of provincial park and crosses over to existing Reinecker East trail and multi use mountain bike and hike trail that went through private property and a gravel pit, had to reconfigure that. Not a lot of space, trying to keep trail level, wanted to keep green or blue at most. Some proposed changes were too costly. Entire trail falls under blue category, provides massive loop and avoid private land, good views. Some safety issues, tight on downhills. Project is done. Good beginner getting into intermediate phase for mountain bikers.

7. Roundtable of New Information

Vernon Outdoors Club

- Sue and Murray noted that 150 participants attended their 50th Anniversary for VOC event Sept 19-20 where participants chose to join teams in mini triathlon style 50 km of either a short hike, cycle or kayak followed next day by a community recognition dinner to honour the pioneers of our VOC. Annual general meeting coming up October 27.

Hunter's Range Snowmobile Club

- Fall social, snowmobile grass drag, no set dates or locations yet.
- Next year is 50th anniversary for them.

Ski swap Sat Oct 24 at King's Christian – drop off gear at 7AM.

Larch Hills equestrian use – Linda noted corrals being taken down Oct 25.

Tourism Kamloops

- Mitchell noted that they started a fundraising ride to build mountain bike trails.
- He noted that Kamloops has three different mountain bike groups that don't play nice together.
- He sees this group working well together, and that remote trails are in great shape is a good sign of engaged volunteers.

Shuswap Trails Alliance

- June 2027 party for next year, Uncle Strut roots and blues, tickets on sale before Christmas.

7. Next Steps

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

Date	Location*	Field trip (after lunch, optional)
Fri Jan 15, 9AM-12PM	CSRD boardroom, Salmon Arm (TBD)	No
Fri April 16, 9AM-12PM	TBD	TBD
Fri June 18, 9AM-12PM	TBD	TBD
Fri Oct 15, 9AM-12PM	TBD	TBD

*tentative plan, nothing booked to date; all meetings to be in person

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
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