

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of Oct 22, 2025

Meeting date: October 17, 2025 9:00AM to 11:50AM **Location:** Sicamous Health Centre

Present:

Richard Anderson, District of Sicamous Development Corporation
Brad Arnouse, Neskonlith
Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Adrian Bostock, STA
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Anita Ely, Interior Health
Sue Ghattas, Vernon Outdoors Club
Evan Houle, Interior Health
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase
Kathleen Ludwig, White Lake Residents Association
Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society
Phil McIntyre-Paul, STA
Megan Pasquill, Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT)
Brian Pratt, 4WD Association of BC
Carley Procyshyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation
Ronan Redel, Shuswap Economic Development Society
Jenna Robins, Salmon Arm Economic Development Society
Jamie Sherlock, District of Sicamous (DoS)
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Jennifer Timmer, Clever Trail Design
Trevor Timmer, Clever Trail Design
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Hannah Treleaven, STA

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

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

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Phil noted the new Secwepemc name for [Enderby Cliffs Provincial Park](#) **Tplaqín** (pronounced "t-PLA-queen") which means cliffs. There will be a renaming ceremony in the near future.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from June 13, 2025, 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 for the annual meeting, Wed Dec 3, 2025 at the Gardom Lake Bible Camp was reviewed. Key feedback was as follows:

- Discussion questions for the morning presentations were generated
- IH facilitators can spread out and support the discussions in the morning
- Invite BC Wildfire Service and Ministry of Forests staff involved in wildfire risk reduction to join for lunch and hear the 1PM presentation

The agenda and other material will be circulated one week in advance of the meeting. Mike noted that we are at 36 people registered, and for folks to remind “their people” to register.

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.”

Link Trail – Larch Hills

- Keith noted that Shuswap Outdoors has worked to improve the potential intersection of Catamount Canyon, an existing non-track set trail, and the “Link” trail proposed by the Larch Hills Nordics. This has involved locating alternate routing above and below the intersection.
- He would appreciate any guidance and support with doing the s.57 application. Adrian offered to help, others noted the mapping component of the new application process can be tricky.

Joss Mtn

- Hannah reported that with a grant from the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) organization, they have installed game cameras on hiking and biking trails since 2021. Cameras were installed and maintained by STA since 2021, Y2Y funding in 2025 to upgrade cameras (2 new cameras, adding 3rd Greenbush Lake trail camera location), improve protocol, and sort existing (2021-2025) photo data, do baseline report, and consult with Splatsin. They have moved them around each year to capture different things. They haven’t been moved, they have always captured the same locations, just adjustments to positioning and camera settings to improve the capturing. Just the east side, and Greenbush Lake. Try to track grizzly movement and human use in area. Able to sort photos, they will have Jeremy Ayotte RPBio look at photos and do a baseline report and consult with Adam Christian from Splatsin in field and input on use. < This is what the Y2Y funding is for. No expectation of a management plan, just cataloging photos, adding Secwepemc knowledge and coming up with best management practices. Could be future thesis opportunity for a grad student.
- Hannah shared a link to the photos [here](#)

Balmoral White Lake

- Funded by Pacifican, Adrian noted that a local steward in White Lake area is doing trail design and layout. Adrian putting together trail plan based on their work. Not submitting for s.57 anytime soon (not within a year).
- Two part project – White Lake lookout climbing trail and a down trail and trail that links Mcarthur Lake trail to a traverse. All these pieces were identified in the South Shuswap Trail Planning Framework.

- Kathleen noted that there is a completed trail from White Lake Park to Parry Road, part of Parks Enhancement grant. Grubbed in, had a volunteer day, no bench cutting yet, but useable.

Owlhead phase 2

- Adrian noted pretty much completed planning for Phase 2, passed on to Darryl at District of Sicamous. Hopefully have 3 s.57s submitted by end of 2025 (hopeful).
- DOSDC looking at funding to support this as a destination; Jen noted that DoS may have funding too. Carly shared video link [here](#).

Kelly Mtn

- Funded by Pacifican, Adrian noted that this is for motorized trails above Glenemma Rec Site, Trevor Timmer contracted to do the work. Trevor doing drone work right now. Plan trails first. Real goal is to move people doing motorized activities in Glenemma (deemed non-motorized) into this new area.
- Linda asked will there be a non-motorized trail in the area? “could be”
- Brian asked what scope will motorized trails be – ORV vs. pickup trucks and Jeeps? Trevor noted single track and 60” limited pinch point from the staging area. Three sections, polygon from parking lot, bigger below powerlines, and more advance area above that; lots of roads
- **ACTION:** Trevor and Adrian share detailed map with Brian Pratt; they are already engaging with Brad Vickerson.

Chase MOTT Trail

- Phil noted that Village of Chase (Sean O’Flaherty) had an agreement with MOTT and private property owners to connect with Scatchard trailheads and trail systems. Phil walked with Sean, refined plan, Mayor Lepsoe was present. Steep line (type 3, blue trail) that connects to the trail network. Plan needs costing now.
- MOTT piece – they’ve put a parallel trail along highway, goes into village, and a connector to the trail. Sean has been good at checking things off to be done.
- May be funding from Village of Chase to build this trail.
- Not connected to Chase-Harper Forestry Initiative – but Adrian noted it’s “an easy connection” to connect them, but currently two separate projects.

Scatchard Mtn

- STA received funds from Pacifican for more Secwepemc engagement, split into pieces. Two engagement sessions with elders and knowledge keepers, Shelley presented to three of the four Secwepemc councils to date. Feedback is positive at expanding trail network, and existing social/unauthorized trail network (fixing it). There will be a report from Shelley in next month or so on engagement and Secwepemc leadership meetings. Good opportunity for Indigenous signage, usage of plants, etc.
- Discussion – how to tie the two trail networks (Scatchard and Chase Harper) together in future; need to engage Neskonalith.
- Usage of existing social Scatchard trails is foot and bicycle use; not motorized or equestrian friendly.
- David noted that ALIB Chief Irvin Wei is a big horseback rider.

School District 83 (SD83) Greenways

- Adrian noted City of Salmon Arm signed an MOU with SD83 to maintain trails on SD83 properties, upgrades to Turner Creek Trails through Jackson campus. This year survey done, hoping to upgrade trail on Sullivan campus. MOU is important here, it was started in 2019, took 5 years to get it worked through. Anita added trying to look at agreement with IH and add into greenways. SD83 properties had been blocking connections in trail access, so this is good progress. **ACTION:** Anita can ask and make the connection within IH.

Forestry updates (mix of trails) – Adrian provided the following updates:

- Mt Ida north slopes – BC Timber Sales is about to do some wildfire risk reduction treatments, put blocks up for bid in November and hope to do harvesting in January-February.
- Canoe Forest Products and Larch Hills – harvesting part of Ida View trails, turning trail into a road, forest health salvage work, will affect Rubberhead. Ida View currently has daytime closures. They amended things based on feedback from Adrian.
- Larch Hills Nordic and Tolko – some harvesting, with retention, not clearcutting. Tolko working with Larch Hills Nordic board.

Kela7scen (Mt Ida)

- Planning underway by Secwepemc leadership, no details to share at this point.

Skimkin

- Linda noted that destination development project is complete, final reporting underway. Survey of users was done in part of July and August, where people spend money (ice cream and sandwiches mostly). Over 5000 campers between April and October, 350 horses overnight camp (not including day use).
- Good response to new trails, signage, kiosk info board. Spent 2025 maintaining trails they have. Next steps are to do a preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) or archaeological assessment on south side of lake for existing trails, people asking why they're not signed or marked.
- David asked about economic impact to communities short and long term; Linda is working on that with existing formulae.

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor noted with CSRD wide parks planning, they are in one of first Electoral Areas for community engagement. She had a kiosk at Gardom Lake all summer (she works closely with Gardom Lake Stewardship Society (GLSS) too). Had an information board up, was doing a membership drive. Set up at hand launch south end Gardom Lake; number of people from out of town and across Canada was high. Eleanor engaged lots of people. Membership drive coming along. Waiting for CSRD to initiate engagement on parks planning.
- Anita noted opportunity to have Mallory Ridge and GLSS material (side tables at Dec 3 annual meeting). Eleanor noted that those interested in contributing to the membership drive can google "Gardom Lake Stewardship Society Facebook" page for the two different membership applications for Gardom Lake Stewardship Society Membership and/or Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society Membership, plus an information page with links on the Membership Drive.

Onyx Falls (North Shuswap)

- Funded by Pacifican, Jen noted there's been a couple of engagements with elders, good feedback and walkdown to the area. Social/unauthorized trail right now with safety issues.

Rail Trail (incl Sicamous ferry)

- Phil noted that Sicamous-Mara section should be experienced by everyone, but access is now limited with ferry not running. Delay south of Mara due to ALC delay in approving construction; funding and design in place. BC government strike action has impacted this with staffing at ALC and MOTT impacted. Phil noted that once the ferry started running, use exploded – over 14 000 trail users that mostly started in August; over 300 people per day were on the ferry. Sicamous created parking lots in town to enable use of rail trail and ferry.
- Carly and Richard and Jamie – it was a pilot project year, ran a pontoon boat first, from this side of Sicamous to other side; July 24 the main ferry was in place. Fully funded by donations and in-kind; it ended Sept 30.
- 11 700 riders on ferry. Approved for 11 passengers and a captain. Lots of trips!
- Ferry society was created, Richard Anderson is on the board of directors, looking to fundraise and extend season for 2026. As things got less busy the captains captured who was visiting from where, have some tourism and ec dev info to rationalize future funding. People stopping in Sicamous for longer now, not just a gas stop. Other fundraising idea – when rail trail opening happened, it's riparian area, so it's a short steep trail; need less steep trail for young kids, those with heavy e-bikes or with mobility challenges.
- **ACTION:** send ideas for local businesses to help fundraise for ferry society. Specific ones, send to Richard Anderson.
- Jamie noted challenges of people riding bikes on wrong side of Hwy 1; promote using ferry.

North Shuswap – parallel trail and more

- Debbie noted that they haven't had an update from CSRD re: Ross Creek community park over to Fraser Bay. She noted that Fiona told her she'd like this team to participate in CSRD Parks Planning for Electoral Area F. Members want to look at next project, Scotch Creek connecting trails. Some preliminary plans done by Lawson Engineering; asked Blake Lawson for a cost estimate to have those with level C costing to do those trails, it was \$18 000. Meeting to come up and look for opportunities to fund it.
- What about BC Active Transportation funds that CSRD already has? They have \$500K for funding from that has been extended to March 2027.

East Vernon Hill trails, Vernon Outdoors Club

- Sue Ghattas put in the chat that the RDNO has work permit for the Okanagan Task Force to remove dump accumulated over many years of old vehicle tires blocking the creek.

Hunter's Range Snowmobile Association

- Kyra Casorso relayed via email before the meeting the following
- Upcoming **BC Provincial Snow Show** taking place **November 14 & 15 at the Splatins Community Centre in Enderby**. We are looking forward to having the Shuswap Trail Alliance join the show with an information booth and they will be taking over the 50/50 sales for one of the days (keeping the profit for STA). We are also going to be making a donation out of a portion of our profit from the event to the Splatins Youth Services program. While it has Snowmobile in the name, we are not limiting our vendors to only snowmobile related. 4 Wheel Drive Association of

BC has joined as a vendor, and we welcome applications from anyone else interested in attending, we also invite anyone interested to come on out and enjoy the event to see what it is all about!

- If anyone has any questions they can email me directly kyra.c@live.com

Jen added to this that any funds raised for STA would go to the Shuswap Trails Roundtable. She is looking for volunteers to host a Shuswap Trails Roundtable booth. Looking for volunteers for a 2 hour shift. Could highlight our collaboration with non-mot and motorized. **ACTION:** reach out to Jen if you're interested to have a volunteer shift (Richard, Anita expressed interest) at the Nov 14-15 BC Provincial Snow Show in Enderby.

Mara Lookout maintenance

- Brian noted that he's discussed the idea of having maintenance of the Mara lookout and associated road from the East with Kayla Gunner and Adam Christian from Splatsin. 4WD Association is looking to create a guardianship coalition (lots already) of users to bring back and maintain Mara lookout.
- Reach out to Brian Pratt brianp@4wdabc.ca to be involved or learn more.

6. Roundtable of New Information (non-trails)

Outdoor Recreation Council funding – Linda noted ORC applications open Dec 8 close Jan 20, grants for community based initiatives. Google it.

Vision Zero grant – Anita noted it's open now, closes Nov 15. Link [here](#). Could fund ferry or bridge. Up to \$20 000. She anticipates it will be competitive; talk to Evan or Anita to talk through ideas and support for generating applications.

Active Transportation grants – Anita noted that these are on pause; Clean BC strategy being reviewed.

7. Next Steps

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

- Fri Jan 16 – location TBD, it may be virtual only depending on budget
- Fri April 17
- Fri June 19 (maybe 12 depending on conflicts with National Indigenous Day)
- Fri Oct 16

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
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