

Meeting summary of the eleventh annual

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

November 20th 2024



Draft meeting summary as at November 28th 2024

Meeting facilitated by Mike Simpson, M.F. Simpson Ltd.
mf_simpson@outlook.com

Meeting summary prepared by Erin Vieira

Introduction

Approximately 80 leaders and representatives from various orders of government including Secwépemc, local, regional, and provincial, as well as from trail user groups, stewardship groups, forestry, commerce, and tourism met in person at the Adams Lake Band Conference Centre for the eleventh annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable. The objectives for the Roundtable meeting were:

- To provide updates on Secwépemc and BC initiatives
- To provide an update on progress of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy
- To seek feedback on priorities for the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy, and endorse the annual work plan
- To convene all trail user groups and orders of government to build relationships and share information.

The agenda can be found in Appendix 1. A list of Roundtable participants can be found in Appendix 2.

Presentation slides can be viewed on the Shuswap Trail Alliance website here:

<https://shuswaptrails.com/resources/trail-strategy-roundtable/> - scroll down the page to the heading *"For further background, check out:"* and scroll further down to the bottom six links.

Welcoming comments

The 2024 Shuswap Trails Roundtable opened with a welcome to the Territory from Tk'wemi'ple7 Cliff Arnouse and a prayer.

Phil McIntyre-Paul welcomed everyone to the roundtable on behalf of the Shuswap Trail Alliance and also read some welcoming comments from the STA Executive Director, Jen Bellhouse, who couldn't attend the meeting.

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the facilitator for the day. He encouraged everyone to check out the displays around the room. Mike asked everyone present to arrange themselves in alphabetical order by first name around the room, and a round of introductions took place before people returned to their seats.

Mike briefly reviewed the agenda and the objectives for the day. Mike also provided an [overview](#) of the Roundtable, the Terms of Reference for the Roundtable, its many members and organizations that participate. He also acknowledged the Working Group, a sub-set of Roundtable members, that meets four times per year and currently has 104 people.

Secwépemc Guardian Programs

Gary Gray, with Sk'atsin Resources LLP, owned by Neskonlith Band, introduced himself. The Sk'atsin crews are out on the territory working on various projects and simultaneously

are watching for polluters, fires, and other environmental concerns. He emphasized that they are not doing compliance or enforcement works.

Dave Nordquist, Adams Lake Band, introduced himself. The ALIB field crews do fisheries work, fuel management, PFR (preliminary field reconnaissance for archaeological values) and other resource management work. They are trained to do Guardian work including watching for poachers. The Guardians have also worked with Parks Canada and Search & Rescue.

Kayla Gunner, Splatstin te Secwépemc, introduced herself and spoke on behalf of the Guardians. The Guardian Program at Splatstin works on the BC Hydro Reservoir Program, as the water levels in the Columbia system impact archaeological sites. She noted they also do many of the same operations as the Neskonlith and Adams Lake Guardians.

A brief Q&A period took place:

Q: Is language revitalization part of the Guardian Program?

A: Staff are taking language training and young people are learning from the elders. Language is also being introduced via signage. Knowledge Keepers are helping to install territory markers.

Q: Is there any interest in doing guided tours? Tourism market studies have indicated a desire for cultural/guided tours.

A: There is interest in this and it's under consideration, but not implemented yet.

Small table discussions: How can your organization, or us collectively, partner or complement the Guardians?

Contact info:

Gary Gray coo@skatsin.com

Kayla Gunner kayla_gunner@splatstin.ca

Dave Nordquist dnordquist@alib.ca.

Secwépemc Landmarks Update

Shelley Witzky introduced herself and a brief history of the landmarks project, which was initiated in 2016 in response to a need and desire for interpretive signage. Shelley [highlighted](#) some of the recent landmarks that have been installed in Secwépemcul'ecw, including at Chase, RJ Haney Heritage Museum, Chase Creek Falls, Tsutswecw (formerly Roderick Haig-Brown Park), and multiple trailhead post carvings. Lists of the carved trailhead posts are given to school groups so that they can go on a 'hunt' for them. More landmarks are being planned for additional locations and there are high standards for ensuring the Secwépemctsin language on the landmarks is correct.

Shelley explained that elders have visited all of the landmark sites, and she explained that for some elders, when they arrived at a site many memories came back to them from that place. She also commented that youth are part of the project and the learning exchange between youth and elders is valuable.

“If you want something done right, it takes time – and the elders don’t rush.” – Shelley Witzky

West Bay Connector Update

Rob Niewenhuizen from the City of Salmon Arm introduced himself. The West Bay Connector has been in development for many years. A Memorandum of Understanding between communities (City of Salmon Arm, Adams Lake, Neskonlith) was signed in 2020 and grants have been secured to advance the connector trail. The connector trail will be a safe scenic route between downtown Salmon Arm, Adams Lake, and Neskonlith all the way to Pierre’s Point. Rob [highlighted](#) some of the technical considerations of the trail, including protecting archaeological sites, safety, and environmental protection. The project is currently in a phase of community engagement which will help inform a preliminary draft trail design.

Kukpi7 Christian from Splat-sin te Secwépemc provided a brief update on the Splat-sin-Sicamous-North Okanagan Rail Trail. Portions of the rail trail in Armstrong and Enderby are complete, and other portions are under construction by Splat-sin Development Corporation.

Provincial Government Update: Recreation Sites and Trails

Tennessee Trent from Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) introduced himself and expressed his appreciation for the Roundtable. He commented that the demand for recreation opportunities is increasing in BC.

He [highlighted](#) the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), including Section 57 which describes authorizations for trails and recreation facilities. Provincially, RSTBC has authorized 130 applications in 2022, 2023 and 2024 out of 301 applications received. The complexity of



applications is increasing concurrently to a changing land base and increasing expectations on decision makers. Driven by the need to address administration pressures and improve service delivery, RSTBC is working on multiple components to improve the authorization process.

Tennessee also explained FRPA Section 56 which enables the Minister to order establishment of a recreation site or trail. It is an internal decision, informed by consultation and engagement, and is not application driven.

Tennessee highlighted the incredible number of resource roads in BC and differentiated them from designated 'Forest Service Roads'. Resource roads are managed primarily by forest licencees and other industry users; recreation is accommodated but is generally not the primary use of resource roads.

Tennessee commented that the ORV Trail Fund will have a call for projects in 2025. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Council has launched the BC Outdoor Recreation Fund which is focussed on stewardship and recreation; there is no current call for applications, but Tennessee anticipates that it's coming soon.

Contact info:

Tennessee Trent tennessee.trent@gov.bc.ca

Comment from the audience: Trina Antoine explained that modern highways are built over traditional indigenous trails. She expressed concern over the vast number of kilometres of roads and trails, and the environmental impact of them including lost habitat and pollution, in the pursuit of recreation.

Comment from the audience: Jim Cooperman commented on a popular local site for bouldering and expressed concern over lack of official status for this popular recreation site and the need for some basic infrastructure there such as pit toilet. Tennessee responded that a partner needs to come forward to take on some responsibilities for stewardship and work with RSTBC.

Comment from the audience: Rose Schroeder asked about insurance for volunteers using their own equipment to maintain trails. Tennessee responded that the scope of insurance via RSTBC is third-party liability and has limitations. Tennessee clarified that the insurance does not extend to local government; they are insured through the Municipal Insurers Association.

Small group discussions: What are the implications of what you heard for your organization, and for the work that we do collectively?

2023 Wildfires and Recovery

Wes Dearmond from BC Parks introduced himself. He [displayed](#) a map illustrating the burn severity at Tsutswecw Provincial Park. He showed some photos of trail damage and risk reduction in the park. BC Parks has worked with BC Wildfire crews to remove many burnt danger trees from the park. Funding has been announced for further repairs in the park from the Disaster Financial Assistance Program. He remarked that the Island Loop trail in the park is open, and he anticipates the burnt and damaged bridges will be replaced by summer 2025.

Contact info:

Wes Dearmond wes.dearmond@gov.bc.ca

Felicya Lau from BC Timber Sales (BCTS) introduced herself. She explained that a timber license sale in Scotch Creek near the Hlina trail is closing later in November, [highlighting](#) a map of the proposed location and some photos from similar operations. Salvage logging is taking place within a year to recover usable timber and support faster reforestation. Additionally, it will help with soil stability and lower the risk of pest and disease outbreaks. BCTS has worked with the Columbia Shuswap Regional District and the Shuswap Trail Alliance to put protective measures in place, recognizing the recreation value of the Hlina trails.

Contact info:

Felicya Lau felicya.lau@gov.bc.ca

Fiona Barton from the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) introduced herself. She reported that BC Wildfire has completed danger tree assessment and falling in the Mount Baldy and South Scotch Creek area. DFA (Disaster Financial Assistance) funding is intended for reconstruction of trails in both areas, once salvage logging is complete.

Contact info:

Fiona Barton fbarton@csrd.bc.ca

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Business

Mike asked everyone present if there is any input or changes needed to the 2023 Roundtable meeting summary; there were none, and the summary was approved by consensus.

Adrian Bostock gave a progress report for 2024:

- The Working Group met four times and facilitated regional project and information sharing
- Advocated for four-year Roundtable funding strategy
- Maintained trail-based tourism promotion

- Continued to grow a central database of regional trails, via the CSRD GIS department
- Advocated for Recreational Access Management Plan, including priority pilots: Joss-Tsuius-Mabel Alpine, Owlhead-Blue Lake-Hunters Range, Gorge Winter Backcountry area, Larch Hills non-winter, Kela7scen (Mt. Ida), Glenemma, and South Shuswap
- Continued growing Secwépemc learning, awareness building and collaboration at each Working Group meeting.

Adrian reported that Roundtable total expenses for 2024; a detailed Annual Summary Report for 2024 can be found in Appendix 3.

Mike asked for input on the 2024 report and 2025 plan from everyone present; there were none, and the report and plan were approved by consensus.

Phil McIntyre-Paul briefly explained that the Regional Trails Strategy was updated based on input from last year's annual meeting and finalized in January 2024.

Sub-regional Discussions

Participants were invited to break into one of seven small groups to discuss work underway and priorities in the sub-regions. Each group reported out briefly after their small group discussion.

North Shuswap

Top priorities:

- New group - North Shuswap Mountain Bike Association looking to establish bike trails and access
- North Shuswap Pathway Committee is looking at designs for connecting trails in Scotch Creek and fundraising for next steps
- New MOTI access to Lee Creek bluffs, needs funding and a Section 57.

West Shuswap

Top priorities:

- Fire guardian, fire response and safety
- Harper Lake – Neskonlith
- Connecting Village of Chase to Neskonlith
- Public education, respect for and protection of archaeological sites, incorporating Secwépemctsin into signage.



East Shuswap

Top priorities:

- Education – ecological and cultural; responsible access
- Technology/machinery/equipment and more users is adding complexity for Owlshead, Mara Lookout
- Working with Splatsin and finding economic opportunities for trail maintenance and tourism
- Cumulative effects studies.

South Shuswap

Top priorities:

- Community connectivity via parallel trails, greenways and parks; trails between communities and key infrastructure like beaches, parks and community centres
- Skimikin – potential for PFR at the lake and bridge replacement
- Mount Baldy repairs
- Lakeshore trail at White Lake
- Herald Park – yellow gate, understory, and Secwépemc signage.

Salmon Arm Bay

Top priorities:

- Re-build the beaver boardwalk that is missing from the Raven Trail, next step is fundraising
- West Bay Connector is in progress
- Mallory Ridge as a potential protected area
- Looking for ways to improve post FireSmart practices, clean-up etc.
- Safety and communications with back-country campers; concerns about pollution/dumping
- A working group needs to be re-established for Kela7scen (Mt. Ida)
- Vernon Outdoor Club commented that they would like to hike Mt. Ida and would like to receive updates on access, as they become available.

Falkland

New priorities:

- Emphasis on maintaining current infrastructure, and managing abuse, dumping etc., and managing unauthorized trails
- Possible trail connection from Salmon River Road to Highway 97
- Opportunities for trails at Pillar Lake, Harper Lake
- Access to Estekwalen
- Stewardship by volunteers, BC Parks, RSTBC.

Shuswap River

Top priorities:

- Complete the Splatsin rail trail
- Vernon – Armstrong greenway connection (rail-trail to rail-trail) – collaboration of Ribbons of Green trail society, First Nations, Provincial government
- Owlhead – Hunters Range access management work with Splatsin, Province and forestry
- Mara fire lookout maintenance and partnership agreement
- Hunters Range snowmobile club establishing a new warming hut and other infrastructure.



Upcoming Events later in 2024 and 2025

Kukpi7 Christian announced the launch of construction for the next segment of the rail trail coming up soon, hopefully within a month.

Jim Cooperman announced his latest column is about Camels Hump hike in Lumby. He also posed a question, why aren't trails in the southeast part of the Shuswap (Lumby etc.) included in the strategy and the roundtable?

Phil McIntyre-Paul announced the Shuswap Trail Alliance auction is going online February 7th. Seeking donations for the auction.

John Woods announced the Shuswap Naturalists Club is hosting the Christmas Bird Count, it's open to anyone. There will be two counts: December 8th (bird count for kids) and December 15th (annual official bird count) over a standardized area led by team leaders.

Next steps and closing comments

Mike reported that a roundtable evaluation will be sent out within a day or two (see Appendix 5). A meeting summary will be out within a week.

The 2025 work plan will be updated based on input from today's roundtable meeting. Mike invited all present to join the Working Group, meeting on the following dates in 2025 from 9AM to 12PM: January 17th; April 11th; June 13th; October 17th.

Rhona Martin expressed her appreciation for the event today and the hospitality. Kukpi7 Christian commented on the value of relationship-building at the roundtable and hearing

the varied perspectives and input. Phil McIntyre-Paul relayed comments from Jen Bellhouse, thanking Mike Simpson and Erin Vieira for facilitating the roundtable and thanking Adams Lake for welcoming us to the territory and allowing us to use the conference centre.

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

Wednesday November 20, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

ALIB Conference Centre, 6349 Chief Jules Drive (in person only, no virtual option)

Draft participant agenda as of Nov 6, 2024

Objectives

- To provide updates on Secwepemc and BC initiatives
- Provide update on progress of the [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#) this year
- To seek feedback on priorities for the [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#), and endorse the annual work plan
- Convene all trail user groups, build relationships, and share information

Time	Topic	Who and/or format
9:00	Welcoming comments and prayer Introductions around room, review agenda Acknowledge Working Group members, reminder of history, purpose, etc.	Welcoming prayer – Tk'wemi'ple7 Cliff Arnouse Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance Mike Simpson, Facilitator
9:30	Secwepemc Guardian Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardian programs - what are they, what do they do, how can trails groups and stewards help out or complement their work? Secwepemc Landmarks update West Bay connector update Discussion at your table	Jimmy William, Ryan Felix, Splatsin Gary Grey, Neskonlith/Sk'atsin Resources LLP Dave Nordquist, ALIB Shelley Witzky Rob Niewenhuizen, City of Salmon Arm How can your organization (or us collectively) support, partner or complement the guardians?
10:15	BREAK	
10:45	Provincial government topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation Sites and Trails BC update • Other topics of provincial jurisdiction Discussion at your table	Tennessee Trent, Recreation Sites and Trails BC What are the implications of what you heard for your organization? For the work we do collectively?
11:30	2023 Wildfires and recovery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work underway in Tsutswecw park • BC Timber Sales proposed salvage logging near Scotch Creek Hlina trail systems • REC 167598 Mount Baldy Trail and REC 32107 South Scotch Creek Trail repairs 	Andrea Heath and/or Wes Dearmond, BC Parks Felycia Lau, BC Timber Sales CSRD or STA staff (TBD)
12:00	LUNCH BREAK	Group photo before or after lunch

Appendix 1 - Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable Agenda for November 20th 2024

1:00	Shuswap Trails Roundtable business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting summary from November 2023 • 2024 report on what was done • 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget (subject to subregional input) • Regional Trails Strategy updates (finalized in Jan 2024) 	Jen Bellhouse, Mike Simpson
1:30	Sub-regional discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the overview map • Move around to other areas if you want...no set timing <p><u>Sub-regional discussion questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What new priorities have emerged? • What new partnership opportunities do these new priorities present? • What are the top 3 sub-regional priorities going into 2025, and for each, the key next steps, by who? • What Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy updates have yet to be identified for this sub-region? 	Small group discussions by area of choice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner Shuswap • East Shuswap • Shuswap River • Falkland • Salmon Arm Bay • North Shuswap • West Shuswap <p>If done early, BREAK</p>
3:00	Debrief from sub-regional discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add to 2025 work plan 	Everyone
3:30	Updates on upcoming events (1min each)	Everyone
3:45	Next steps, closing comments Thank you, acknowledgements	Everyone
4:00	Adjourn	

Appendix 2 - List of Roundtable meeting registrants

First name	Last name	Title or position	Organization	Email address
Adrian	Bostock	Operations	Shuswap Trail Alliance	adrian@shuswaptrails.com
Alan	Harrison	Mayor	City of Salmon Arm	Aharrison@salmonarm.ca
Amber	Lane	Executive Director	Revelstoke Snowmobile Club	ED@sledrevelstoke.com
Barbra	Fairclough		Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewards	bfconnect@outlook.com
Ben	Grove	Park ranger	BC Parks	Ben.Grove@gov.bc.ca
Bent	Kristensen	Director	Armstrong Spallumcheen Trail Society	bentandnina@gmail.com
Beverley	DeSantis	Destination Development	Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association	Bev@totabc.com
Bill	MacPherson	President	Skmana Ski and Snowshoe Club	bmac04@telus.net
Brad	Harrison	Executive Director	Backcountry Lodges of BC Association	ed@blbca.com
Brian	Browning		Shuswap Cycle Club	brianbrowning@shaw.ca
Brian	Pratt	Stewardship Director	Four Wheel Drive Association of British Columbia	brianp@4wdabc.ca
Brock	Endean	Board Member	Shuswap Trail Alliance	b_endean@msn.com
Chris	Lynd	Director	Shuswap Backcountry Riders	C_dub1111@hotmail.com
Christian	Mike	Kukpi7	Splatsin	
Cliff	Arnouse	Tecwemiple	Cstalen (Adams Lake Band)	cliffarnouse@alib.ca
David	Lepsoe	Mayor	Village of Chase	david.lepsoe@gmail.com
David	Crowfoot	President	Shuswap Backcountry Rides Society	
Debbie	Seymour	Executive Director	North Shuswap Chamber	executivedirector@northshuswapbc.com
Dianne	Francois	Energy & Parks Manager	Skw'lax te Secwépemc'lecw	
Eleanor	Marshall		Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society	toelmarshall@gmail.com
Emmarie	Leeson		North Shuswap Mountain Bike Association	emmarie@bikenorthshuswap.com
Erin	Vieira			
Felicya	Lau	Planning Forester	BC Timber Sales	felicya.lau@gov.bc.ca
Fiona	Barton		Columbia Shuswap Regional District	fbarton@csrd.bc.ca
Fred	Torbohm	Councillor	Village of Chase	fred.torbohm@chasebc.ca
Garfield	Chursky	President	Shuswap Dirt Riders	chursky1@telus.net
Garry	Landers	Director	Haney Heritage Park	garrylanders23@gmail.com
Gary	Gray	Chief Operating Officer	Neskonlith Indian Band / Sk'atsin Resources LLP	Coo@skatsin.com

Appendix 2 - List of Roundtable meeting registrants

Gordon	Bose		Gorge Ski Touring Association	gjbose@shaw.ca
Hanka	Mosher	STA admin	Shuswap Trail Alliance	admin@shuswaptrails.com
Hannah	Treleaven	Maintenance Coordinator	Shuswap Trail Alliance	maintenance@shuswaptrails.com
Heidi	Leduc	Administrative Manager	Shuswap Economic Development Society	info@shuswapecdev.ca, and sue@shuswapecdev.ca
Ian	McLellan	Okanagan District Recreation Officer	Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Ian.McLellan@gov.bc.ca
Jay	Simpson	Director, Area F	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	jsimpson@csrd.bc.ca
Jen	Herman	Councillor	Village of Chase	jane.herman@chasebc.ca
Jenn	Irwin	Lodge Manager CMH Revelstoke	CMH Heli Skiing and Summer Adventure	jirwin@cmhheli.com
Jim	Cooperman	President	Shuswap Environmental Action Society	jimcooperman@shuswappassion.ca
John	Woods			woods@telus.net
Kayla	Gunner	Researcher	Splatsin	kayla_gunner@splatsin.ca
Keith	Cox		Shuswap Outdoors	kncox22@shaw.ca
Kevin	Eskelin	Regional Manager	Recreation Sites and Trails BC	Kevin.Eskelin@gov.bc.ca
Kory	Dumas	Trail Maintenance Director	Revelstoke Cycling Association	trailmaintenance@bikerevelstoke.org
Kyle	Routledge	Biologist	SEDS / Shuswap Naturalists	kroutledge@legacyenv.ca
Kyra	Evans	Administration	Hunters Range Snowmobile Association	Kyra.c@live.com
Lee	Onslow	Director, Area B	Thompson Nicola Regional District	director.lonslow@tnrd.ca
Linda	Buchanan	Chair BCHBC Provincial Trails Committee	Back Country Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter	lindaturtlevalley@gmail.com
Louis	Thomas		none	louisthomas468@gmail.com
Marshall	Kronewitt	GM	Carl Kuster Mountain Park	marshall@carlkuster.com
Marty	Gibbons	CSRD Area C Director	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	
Mike	Simpson	Facilitator, forester	M.F. Simpson Ltd.	mf_simpson@outlook.com
Mitch	Olineck		SABNES	rolineck@telus.net
Myles	Bruns	Senior Regional Manager	Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation	myles.bruns@gov.bc.ca
Pam	Beech	Councillor	District of Sicamous	pbeech@sicamous.ca
Patrick	Frank	President	White Lake Residents Association	president@wlra.ca
Paul	Blomberg		BC Ministry of Forests	paul.blomberg@gov.bc.ca
Paula	Martens	Recreation Technician	Ministry of Environment and climate change	paula.martens@gov.bc.ca

Appendix 2 - List of Roundtable meeting registrants

Phil	McIntyre-Paul	Senior Consultant	The Shuswap Trail Alliance	phil@shuswaptrails.com
Ray	Mills		Canoe Forest Products	raymills@canoefp.com
Rhona	Martin	Director, Area E	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	rmartin@csrd.bc.ca
Richard	Stranks	President	Ribbons of Green trail society	Stranksrichard@gmail.com
Richard	Anderson	Board member	District of Sicamous Development Corporation	rdanderson1987@gmail.com
Robert	Niewenhuizen	Director of Engineering & Public Works	City of Salmon Arm	rniewenhuizen@salmonarm.ca
Robyn	Cyr	Owner	Brabyn Business Solutions	robyncyr@brabynbusiness.ca
Rose	Schroeder	Provincial Secretary	Back Country Horsemen of BC	
Shelley	Witzky	Secwépemc Landmarks Project Manager	Shuswap Trail Alliance	shelley@shuswaptrails.com
Sherri	Madden	Community Services Coordinator	Thompson-Nicola Regional District	smadden@tnrd.ca
Steve	Horton	General Manager / Executive Director	Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club	admin@sledsicamous.com
Sue	Hunt	Chair	Shuswap Chapter - Back Country Horsemen of BC	sue35insa@gmail.com
Sue	McCrae	President	Shuswap Economic Development Society	sue@shuswapecdev.ca
Suzanne	Fordyce	GIS Technologist	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	sfordyce@csrd.bc.ca
Tennessee	Trent	Trails Manager	Recreation Sites and Trails BC	tennessee.trent@gov.bc.ca
Trevor	Poole	Owner/President	Reet Resources Ltd	tpoole.reetresources@hotmail.com
Trevor & Jennifer	Timmer	Owners	Clever Trail Design	Clevertraildesign@gmail.com
Trina	Antoine	Splatsin Cultural Liaison	Splatsin	trina_antoine@splatsin.ca
Usoff	Tsao	Director, Area A	Thompson Nicola Regional District	Director.utsao@tnrd.ca
Wes	DeArmond	Area Supervisor	BC Parks	wes.dearmond@gov.bc.ca

Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable - Annual Summary Report

November 20, 2024

Prepared by: Jen Bellhouse

Updated: November 05, 2024

2024 Progress Summary:

Quarterly Working Group – all working group meetings for 2024 were held in-person with a hybrid virtual option available. In January the WG met at the Sicamous Seniors Centre, in April at the CSRD Boardroom in Salmon Arm, in June at the Falkland Hall, and in October at the Neskonlith Hall in Chase.

Maintained regional project and information sharing/consultation at working group meetings.

Advocated for four-year Roundtable funding strategy – framework include shared financial support from all orders of government, in-kind support from stewardship and sector organizations, administration support from the Shuswap Trail Alliance, and contracted facilitation support with Mike Simpson. Funding commitments from participating municipalities are in place until 2026.

Maintained Trail-Based Tourism Promotion through Shuswap Tourism and partners and continue to look to Secwepemc lead tourism initiatives.

Continued to grow central map database of regional trails through CSRD GIS department.

Advocated for Recreational Access Management Plans integrated into broader comprehensive land management plans, including priority pilots: Joss-Tsuius-Mabel Alpine, Owlhead/Blue Lake/Hunters Range, Gorge Winter Backcountry Area, Larch Hills Non-Winter, Kela7scen (Mt Ida), Glenemma, and South Shuswap.

Met with BC Government staff re support for the Roundtable and planning efforts and followed up with Secwepemc leadership regarding Government-to-Government land management.

Continued growing Secwepemc learning, awareness building, and collaboration each meeting.

In addition, regional partner-led legacy initiatives currently underway were regularly reported on and engaged collaborative direction, feedback, and participation, including:

- Bayview Area Trails (DoS/DoSEDC/STA lead)
- Cedar Creek/White Lake Conservation Trail Plan (BC Parks/WLRA/STA lead)
- Chase Creek Falls (Skwlāx/STA/VoC lead)
- Chase Harper Collaborative Demo Block Trails (Neskonlith/ALIB/Skwlāx lead)
- Cliff Ave – Enderby (complete) (STA/City Enderby lead)
- Coldstream Ranchland Trail (VOC/RDNO Lead)
- Crowfoot Use and Management (North Shuswap Chamber lead)
- Eagle River Valley Nature Trail (BC Parks/STA Lead)
- Glenemma Rec Site and Trail Access Plan (CSRD Parks lead)
- Gorge Winter Recreational Access Plan (GSTA/EVSC/CKMP/K3/RSTBC lead) –
- Hidden Lake (STA/RSTBC lead)
- Hunakwa Lake (STA/BC Parks Lead)
- Hunters Range S. 57 Application (HRSA lead)

Appendix 3 – Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable Annual Summary Report

- Joss-Tsuius-Mabel Mountain Recreation Access Management Plan (RSTBC/Splatsin/STA/Roundtable)
- Kela7scen (Mt Ida) Management Plan (Neskonlith lead)
- Larch Hills Summer Use Trails Plan (LHNS/SOI/STA lead)
- Larch Hills dedicated dog trail (LHNS Lead)
- Larch Hills Nordic Beginner Trail & Lighting Plan (LHNS lead)
- Larch Hills Link trail (LHNS lead)
- Larch Hills Interpretive Trail (LHNS lead)
- Larch Hills Traverse Additions – 109 & Raspberry Hill (STA with RSTBC lead)
- Lee Creek Bluffs Concept Planning (STA/CSRD Parks lead) – on hold
- Loftus Fen Universal Trail/Dog Park (CSRD Parks lead)
- Mallory Ridge (Mallory Ridge Community Trail Society lead)
- Mt Ida Dirt Bike Trails (SDR lead) – part of Kela7scen working group
- Mount Baldy (CSRD/STA lead)
- Mount MacPherson alpine north access management (SOI/STA lead)
- North Fork Wild (CSRD Parks lead)
- North Shuswap Parallel Pathway – Squilax-Anglemont Road to St Ives (NS Chamber/CSRD Parks lead)
- Owlhead/Cummings/Blue Lake/Hunters Recreation Access Management Plan (EVSC/BCParks/Splatsin/SBR/STA/HRSA/4WDABC/RSTBC lead) - ongoing
- Play/Clean/Go Invasive Trail Sign program (CISISS lead)
- Queest Mountain Sec. 57 Application (EVSC lead)
- Reinecker Creek West Trails (CSRD/STA lead)
- Rosemond Lake Recreation Site Access Management (Splatsin/RSTBC/SNORT/STA lead) - ongoing
- Rubberhead Mountain Bike Trail System Additions & Plans (Shuswap Bike Club lead)
- Salmon Arm Active Transportation Plan - complete (City Salmon Arm lead)
- Salmon Arm Greenways Strategy (City Salmon Arm lead)
- Secwepemc Landmarks and Trail Sign Project (Secwepemc/STS/STA lead with CitySA/Shuswap Tourism/Chase)
- Scatchard Mountain Chase Creek Canyon Trail Master Plan (Chase/STA lead)
- Scotch Creek Hlina Trail (CSRD/STA lead)
- Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail (Sicamous-to-Armstrong) (Splatsin/CSRD/RDNO lead)
- Sicamous Motor Park Trail Concept Planning (Sicamous/Sicamous ATV/EVSC lead)
- Sicamous Mountain Bike Park Plan (Sicamous/STA lead)
- Silver Creek Parks/Haines Creek Bluffs Plan (CSRD/STA/SMC lead) – tied to Kela7scen
- Skimikin Lake Rec Site & Trail Management (RSTBC/BCHBC/SBCR-Shuswap lead)
- Sorrento Blind Bay Park accessible/universal trail (CSRD Parks/STA lead)
- South Canoe Trail Additions (CitySA/STA/SCAdvisory lead)
- South Shuswap Destination Trails Master Plan (CSRD Parks/STA lead) – draft in progress
- Sunnybrae Parallel Pathway (SCPS lead)
- Switzmalph Cultural Heritage Trail (SCHS/STA lead)
- Tsútswecw Provincial Park Secwepemc Winter Home Interpretive Project (BCParks/Skwilāx/ALIB lead)
- West Bay Connector Trail (Switzmalph/Neskonlith/Adams Lake/Little Shuswap/CitySA/STA lead)
- White Lake Parks Enhancement (WLRA/STA lead)
- Wildfire Recovery – Mt Baldy and Scotch Creek Hlina (CSRD/STA lead)
- Yard Creek Park Japanese Internment Project (CSRD Parks lead)

(NOTE: this is just a partial list of the trail-related initiatives underway by regional partners reported on during Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable working group sessions throughout 2024 and encompassed

Appendix 3 – Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable Annual Summary Report

within the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy framework.)***2024 Continuing and Emerging Priorities:*** The following is a summary of emerging recommendations, to be guided by the November Roundtable discussion and finalized by the Roundtable Working Group. . .

- Secure Roundtable **funding**, follow-up on partner invitations – thank you to RSTBC, Municipal/Regional partners, clubs/organizations that have contributed funding in 2024, partial funding confirmed for 2025
- Maintain quarterly project and information **sharing/consultation** through working group
- Continue to explore/advocate for **collaborative land management partnerships** with Province
- Continue to use **Secwepemc referral process** for local pre-authorization planning – process is evolving, stay tuned for presentation regarding referral processes
- Continue implementation of **Secwepemc Landmarks and trail signage** project – and continue adaptation of trailhead signage and naming
- Continue to support **partner led legacy initiatives**, including recreational access planning
- Expand use of the Shuswap Trail Strategy's **structured adaptive management planning** model
- Secure **funding** to develop structured adaptive planning model that includes **capacity for cumulative effects assessment modelling**, and support **recreational access management planning** pilots – Note: funding for this continues to be difficult to resource
- Continue to **coordinate master trail mapping** files through CSRD GIS department, and follow-up on **data sharing agreements** with Secwepemc and municipal/regional partner governments
- Continue **coordinating trail-based promotion** through Shuswap Tourism, and expand promotion to include both motorized and non-motorized recreation, and be guided by/integrated into the emerging Secwepemc Lakes Tourism strategy

Appendix 3 – Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable Annual Summary Report

2024 Financial Summary:

Expenses*

Action	Actual Expense	Notes
Project Coordination	\$8,000	STA - planning, reporting, admin
Four Working Group Meetings	\$5,250	Facilitation X 4 working group meetings; Roundtable gatherings; database coordination; communications; minutes;
Annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable – November 20, 2024	\$7,505	
Additional Materials & Supply	\$750	
2024 Expense Total	\$21,505	

*Note: includes projected expenses to Dec. 31, 2024

Revenues

Revenue Summary	Actual	Notes
STA Partner Contribution	\$8,000	Project Coordination expenses
Municipal/Regional Partner Contributions	\$17,934.61	from combined partner reserve (Note: including 2023 carry fwd. funding)
Clubs and Roundtable Member Organizations: Shuswap Outdoors Club, BCHMBC -Shuswap		
RSTBC Contribution		
2024 Revenue Total	\$25,934.61	
2024 Surplus	\$4,429.61	

2025 Budget Proposal

Expenses *Based on in-person meetings

Action	Actual Expense	Notes
Project Coordination	\$8,000	STA support, planning, reporting, admin
Four Working Group Meetings	\$5,250	Facilitation X 4 working group meetings; Roundtable gatherings; database coordination; communications; minutes;
Annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable – Nov 2024	\$8,000	
Additional Materials & Supply	\$750	Documents, meeting supply, honorariums
2025 Projected Expense Total	\$22,000.00	

Revenue Confirmed to Date

Revenue Summary – Confirmed to Date	Actual	Notes
STA Partner Contribution	\$8,000	Project Coordination support
Carry Forward (Funding)	\$4,429.61	2024 Reserve Funds
Municipal/Regional Partner Contributions (Fund)	\$6,000	Municipal/Regional funds confirmed
2025 Revenue Total – Confirmed to Date	\$18,426.61	
Balance	-\$3,570.39	Anticipated Funding Deficit

Appendix 4 – List of acronyms

ALIB - Adams Lake Indian Band
CISIS - Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
CSRD - Columbia Shuswap Regional District
EVSC - Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
GIS – Geographical Information Systems
LHNS - Larch Hills Nordic Society
MOF – BC Ministry of Forests
MLWRS – BC Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
MOTI - BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
PFR – Preliminary Field Reconnaissance
RDNO - Regional District of North Okanagan
RSTBC - Recreation Sites and Trails BC
SABNES - Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society
SDR - Shuswap Dirt Riders
SNORT – Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail
STA - Shuswap Trail Alliance
VOC – Vernon Outdoors Club
WLRA - White Lake Residents Association

A Roundtable evaluation survey was open from November 21st – 27th, and was answered by 28 people. Here is a summary of the responses (an ‘x2’ indicates that a response was given twice, ‘x3’ for three times and so on);

1. What did you like about this year’s Roundtable meeting? What worked well?

- I enjoyed hearing the presentations and updates (x11); presentations with visuals are especially informative
- Lots of time for discussions and networking (x10)
- It was well organized, well facilitated and stayed on time and on topic (x6)
- The afternoon sessions/break-out groups to discuss sub-regional priorities (x5)
- It was well attended; good representation from different groups (x5)
- Great venue, catering and acoustics – thanks to the ALIB gym/conference centre (x4)
- Connecting with other trail groups and government agencies (x4)
- I liked that it was in-person only – didn’t attempt hybrid online attendance (x3)
- The round of introductions – it helps to know who is in the room, and to connect with them at break times; great idea to ask people to mix themselves up at lunch (x3)
- Enough time given to ‘digest’ the presentations and information (x2)
- This was the first time I attended, it was excellent
- The general tone of the meeting is great
- Great to see all trail user working together and mutual respect.

2. What do you think should be changed or improved for next year’s Roundtable meeting? What didn’t work so well?

- Nothing to add; everything was good; I liked it all (x6)
- Hosting in October would be better for safer/snow-free driving
- Include more ways to get input, comments from participants
- More presentations on the agenda (x2); more presentations from trail user groups; more presentations and time to learn about major trail developments (e.g., rail trail, West Bay Connector)
- A presentation on cumulative effects, it seems a relevant topic for First Nations and for government
- Some of the presenters did not seem well prepared. A slidedeck with visuals is very helpful for observers. In future, presenters should be guided to create a short slidedeck or have some other visuals (e.g., YouTube video).
- Provide print copies of agendas
- The end-of-day agenda topics could be split into two separate sessions to keep the afternoon from dragging on.

Many ideas were shared to improve the sub-regional break-out sessions and discussions:

- Large sub-regional break-out sessions could be split in two; two of the tables I participated in were crowded and it was hard to hear (x3). E.g., one with similar

recreation groups to share knowledge, and another for a regional break-out; could cap the number of participants at a table

- Not sure how to get people to move around to different sub-regional break-out sessions; some people stay at one table and at times monopolize the discussion; perhaps introduce a time limit and have people move to a different group
- More time for break-out group session/discussions
- Less time for break-out group session/discussions
- Reminder for participants to keep break-out discussions focussed on trails
- Provide flip-charts for sub-regional break-out sessions so that key notes can be captured
- Assign a scribe to each sub-regional break-out session
- More structure for sub-regional break-out sessions, it would be helpful to have a list of what's already on the docket for each sub-region.

3. Do you have any comments about the logistics leading up to the meeting, the venue, or the catering?

- No comments, everything was good (x11)
- Yummy food (x10); best Bannock I've ever had; can we look forward to chili every year?; can we get Peter to cater again?
- Great venue with lots of space (x8); nice to have natural light
- Real cream/milk for coffee and tea, please (x2)
- Planning and communication was great (x2)
- Great host community (x2)
- I was unable to eat some of the offerings due to dietary restrictions and allergies, but I made it work

4. Any other comments?

- Thank you to everyone; appreciate everyone's time, effort and support to plan and attend (x4); keep up the great work
- Kudos for keeping us on time so marvelously! Even though I personally greatly appreciate the presentations, I can see that limiting these really helped with keeping everyone on track and on time.
- Thanks for inviting TNRD
- This annual gathering is important, looking forward to next year already
- Thanks to STA for everything
- Thanks to Mike for being efficient and personable; thanks to Mike and Erin for facilitating and contributing to making it such a worthwhile event
- Great job ensuring the audio/visual was working
- You could experiment with background music before the meeting starts and during breaks to add a nice vibe and create a good environment for networking
- Would like to see a committee or working group for Mt. Ida, we keep procrastinating on this.