

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Meeting Summary as at April 19, 2019

Meeting date: April 12, 2019 9:40AM to 1:30PM

Location: Columbia Shuswap Regional District boardroom, Salmon Arm, BC

Present:

Wes Bieber, Silvatech (guest, to 12:30PM)
Libby Chisolm, Grad Student
Garfield Chursky, Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts (SORES)
Keith Cox, Larch Hills Nordics
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Robyn Cyr, Shuswap Tourism
Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
Avis Denault, Adams Lake Indian Band
Tom Dickson, Revelstoke ATV Club (from 9:50AM)
Danielle Dornik, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, MFLNFORD*
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority (and student)
Charlotte Hall, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics
Kim Kaiser, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Chris Larson, City of Salmon Arm (9:50AM to 12:00PM)
Chris Lynd, Solstice Adventures
Rhona Martin, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Joe McCulloch, District of Sicamous (to 12:30PM)
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ian McLellan, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, MFLNFORD*
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Mike Overend, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Louis Thomas, Neskonalith
Tess Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Shawn Tronson, Splat sin (to 12:30PM)
Theresa William, Splat sin (to 12:30PM)
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (from 10:05AM)
**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Louis acknowledged Secwepemc territory and gave a prayer, and introductions were made around the room. Columbia Shuswap Regional District was acknowledged for hosting the meeting, and everyone was thanked for bringing something for a potluck lunch. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was met.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

After the previous day's field trip with Louis, Phil learned the word for going to the bathroom in the woods: "OOCH-ka" (phonetic- no Secwepemc spelling given).

Scwicw - avalanche lily “SCHimqw” (phonetic) or *Erythronium grandiflorium* - a potato, a major root crop. Louis noted that they have a grant from Agriculture Canada to reintroduce it and grow it again as a food source, working on it with Libby Chisolm.



Remember to look for the Secwepemc language app in the App Store for your smart phone.

3. January 18, 2019 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from the previous meeting was approved, with one correction noted in the action items around Joss-Tsuis-Mabel. Action items not on today’s agenda were reviewed; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version.

The following outstanding action items, not on today’s agenda, were discussed briefly:

- Funding update - RDNO needs a delegation
- Splatsin has signed the Letter of Understanding

4. Tsuis Mountain/Monashee Powder Field Trip Debrief

The following were able to participate in the field trip to Tsuis Mountain, generously sponsored at no cost to participants by Tom, Carolyn and Gary Morgan of Monashee Powder Snowcats:



Name	Organization
Ted Morton	BC Enduro series
Wesley Wolfe	Forest Licensee for this area (Tolko)
Teena Rumak	Revelstoke Snowmobile Club
Doug Mongerson	Shuswap Mountaineering Club
Shelley Witzky	Adams Lake Band Councillor/Secwepemc Tourism
Clint Ingham	Vernon ATV Club
Phil McIntyre-Paul	Shuswap Trail Alliance
Sutra Brett	Shuswap Trail Alliance
George William	Splatsin - Councillor
River Johnson	Splatsin – Dev Corp/Yucwmenlúcwu

Feedback from Phil and Shelley was that it was valuable to have good conversations, to get out on the land, build relationships in an informal setting, understand how Monashee Powder operates, and generally have a feeling of reverence for being on site in a beautiful area. Shuswap Trail Alliance holds some limited funding to reconvene the Joss-Tsuis-Mabel working group.

5. Shuswap Trails Roundtable - Annual Meeting Debrief

Those that attended the Shuswap Trails Roundtable annual meeting in Sicamous, February 13, 2019 generally reported that it was well attended and there was good discussions and progress made. The [draft meeting summary](#) captures specific direction heard for each of the sub-regions, recommendations for next steps and growing the capacity of the roundtable, and evaluation notes. It was suggested for the next annual meeting to explicitly enable people to move around during sub-regional discussions.

Discussion noted the need for RSTBC to have groups to enter into partnership agreements for management of trails, and that the motorized sector is becoming coordinated across the Shuswap with the efforts of Shuswap Backcountry Riders and SORES.

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

The following list of trail authorization requests, trail planning and sub-regional planning initiatives was generated by the participants during the meeting, and discussed in detail.

Caribou recovery - not a specific trails initiative, but something that could affect trails and access. Concern was raised with recent caribou engagement sessions being held throughout BC during April, with federal and provincial government representatives presenting draft agreements under the federal Species at Risk Act to recover caribou. Significant concern raised about possible impacts on backcountry recreation, commercial tourism operations, as well as other resource management activities that support rural communities. Joe noted that a Communities and Caribou Recovery Society has been formed, they are looking for directors to sit on the board. Closest public engagement session for the Shuswap is in Revelstoke, evening of Monday April 15.

Rail Trail - Ryan reported that a Governance Advisory Committee meeting took place at Splat-sin, the MOU for the three governments to work together has been approved by CSRD and RDNO boards, going to Splat-sin council next. Governance committee and technical operating committees are established. Shuswap Trail Alliance has been hired in a secretariat role. Lots of work on land tenures work underway, along Mara Lake in particular. Policy being developed for crossing agreements; change from industrial to recreational use, including engagement with Agricultural Land Commission. Two grant opportunities were submitted; haven't heard word yet. Joe noted that MOTI has recently approved the one bridge option for Bruhn Bridge replacement on Highway 1; urging them to consider to have a pedestrian bridge as well to avoid pedestrian traffic on Trans-Canada Highway. In concept and in principle, it was felt that a pedestrian bridge is a good idea, but it was noted that there needs to be options looked at and more information provided (not everyone present can say they support it with the level of information provided, or provincial government employees) - encourage lead ministries to engage with Shuswap Trails Roundtable to look at alternatives; advocate for good process and how can we help out. Anita will speak to MOH people about injury prevention initiatives; Phil and Anita went to symposium in lower mainland in February to showcase this collaboration.

Kela7scen (Mt Ida) - Garfield noted that SORES submitted a s.57 application to Front Counter BC with GPS'd linework for trails that already exist. They want to continue working with First Nations, recognize sacred circle. Area used by dirt bikers over 40 years. Louis noted they are currently meeting to develop a new agreement with 5 bands (ALIB, Neskonlith, Shuswap, Splat-sin, LSLIB). Respect for the mountain has to be there; the little people won't tolerate poor use. Ryan noted this is the process - lots of CSRD users in the area; Haines Creek crags, etc. CSRD has a park in there too. Important to have communications in place, ideally in place before FCBC submission. Ian noted RSTBC perspective is that there is an official step; referrals will go out. It could sit in FCBC for a long time. Missing piece on Mt. Ida was two loops mapped out; it will go to all 5 bands and City of Salmon Arm for trails on N. slope. Louis noted once an agreement signed amongst the First Nations, they will move forward with user groups.

Glenemma - Ryan noted there was a meeting with Ian before Christmas; finalized plan almost ready; some more work with Splat-sin and OKIB. Possibly preliminary field reconnaissance (archaeology) for area. General consensus for the plan; hope to submit shortly. Garfield has received draft plan for Glenemma area. Planning still needed for upper area; lower area being done first. Backcountry

Horsemen and SORES are likely stewards/partnership agreement. It was asked whether there is a void for 4 wheel representation in Glenemma area and South Shuswap? Could it be a club? A partnership? Usually a club is desired to hold the partnership agreement; often RSTBC brings in an independent professional to look at trail suitability, stability, etc. and CSRD can build the infrastructure, but it is desirable for a club to take on ongoing management. Chris is a commercial interest here; he would be interested in a being involved in or start a club. Shuswap Backcountry Riders Society covers whole area.

Salmon River Parallel Trail - Ryan noted that CSRD has tendered the pedestrian bridge construction. Whole trail 4km. Landmark is building the bridge. Invitation to quote is out and closes Thurs April 18. Then will find out timelines for completion; should be Nov 30 at latest. Waiting for s.11 permits for bridge construction. This is a success story - connections made here, need to remediate 3x the area of rip rap; partnered with Switzmalph Cultural Society and planting 100 different plants, food crops of importance to Secwepemc people.

Lee Creek - Ryan noted that this was identified in the CSRD Area F parks plan; wanted to see a trail developed. Lions Club and Rural Dividend funds were used to do a conceptual plan. Parks advisory committee approved it; community advisory group formed. Budgeted funds to facilitate community consultation meetings, and move forward. Next steps are a meeting and site visit with local First Nations.

South Shuswap Destination Trail Master Plan - not much to report since February STR meeting. Sutra is back this weekend. Had done some community engagement work. Draft report by fall 2019. Need discussion with Secwepemc leadership soon. Next steps are to have a technical meeting with Sutra, staff and leadership at LSLIB.

Skimikin - Danielle noted there is both a site and trails there. Had an expansion of the site last year; more campsites were created. Lots of trees had come down in last 5 years. Most work is now done, a few loose ends and piles to burn. Some invasive species present. Hopefully plant some non-invasive species there. For trails, working with Backcountry Horsemen Shuswap Chapter, draft a partnership agreement, in review right now. Looking for a motorized group to help out on those trails, since they are multi-use trails. Motorized is compatible with horse use. Shuswap Backcountry Riders are interested. ACTION - Dave Crowfoot and Danielle connect. Third week of May is a site meeting to discuss trails; details to follow - May 14th at 10:30 at parking lot. Need to bring together others not here in the room.

Establishments of trails under legislation - Danielle noted there are several:

- Internal proposal form that DD has used; lots of trails in area authorized to be built. Sending out notification via FCBC to legally establish these trails. Form looks like a new proposal but it's not; it is just a notification, 9 in total. Won't come out until after our June meeting. She is dealing with backlog.
- If an organization has a s.57 application, instead of submitting directly to Front Counter BC, go to Recreation officer instead (Danielle, Ian, Noelle) so that they can advance it and make sure it's complete. If no concerns (there are always requirements), MFLNRORD habitat staff always raises bird nesting window issues which aligns with perfect trail building window. Need some kind of professional to do an assessment. Also there are standard requirements around working around water; when you need a s.11, 45 day notification.

Summer use at Larch Hills - Sue noted that the summer users met a few weeks ago; formed an advisory committee with different user groups; action items are happening. Need to follow up with Danielle in May to review partnership agreement, currently held by Larch Hills Nordics.

Tsutsewc Provincial Park (Roderick Haig-Brown) - Wes and Louis reported that a fully functioning Secwepemc winter home is being developed within the park. Glenn Thiem of Forsite, Aaron Arnouse, Shelley Witzky are all involved, and it is being paid for by licence plate funds. Preliminary scoping plan completed. At Raft Road takeout, on east side; exact location and detailed plans will be made public soon. Also at the park, LSLIB did a good job on the pictograph. Louis noted that a story trail has been developed, using interactive signage and your smartphone. Chief Atahm school at ALIB helped with content.

Fire protection and forest fuel management - Joe noted that the District of Sicamous has applied to two funding sources to reduce fire hazard (FireSmart) on a proposed multi-scale, multi-use park, and utilize the fibre for a proposed biofuel heating initiative.

7. Community Wildfire Protection Plans in the Shuswap

Wes Bieber is a professional forester, working with Silvatech, who are completing community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) in the Shuswap. Terry Smith of Silvatech worked with Louis and others to put in funding application for Community Wildfire Protection Plans and forest fuel management; the first one underway with confirmed funding is for City of Salmon Arm. They met with Salmon Arm, to identify values at risk, resources available, fuel hazards, and have come a long ways to date. First job - strategic plan, where are the resources at risk, what are the hazards. CWPP covers private and public lands for 2km radius around the City boundary. Large portion is “[FireSmart](#)” - outcomes of a CWPP are to promote FireSmart inside the community (not on private property); but hopefully encourage private landowners to do the FireSmart on their own property. Also Forest fuel management; modify fuels to reduce hazard, enable ability of forest firefighters to get in safely to fight fire, reduce likelihood of crown fires, and keep the fire on the ground.

Wes would like to come back in June to present draft plan; strategic plan first, look at high hazard areas, develop plans for high hazard areas, work with stakeholder groups and find funding to implement them. Solutions happen when on the ground - go to a site, kick the dirt, talk about what will work.

Discussion raised the following points: trail are access; trails are resources to protect as well; forests close to community are full of trails that are an important resource. CAUTION - don't open areas up with fuel management; Shuswap Trail Alliance folks don't put brush piles on trails that are a fuel hazard. Only a recreation officer can close a trail or site. Charlotte noted that the North Shuswap is high hazard, south facing, one road in and out with a creosote-treated bridge, no working fire hydrants, and limited beach access points. North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce would like to see combined multi-use trails with fuel breaks included. Fuel management in provincial parks is possible, it's been done in past; Wes D concurs. Chris noted that there are community led cleanups in City parks done in past; recreation side, pilot projects such as McPherson park. Tom suggests using people for work, engage local volunteers on different work - fire and other. Need to organize volunteers to work effectively. Use the fibre. Suggested action for Wes B - map out the values (trails!) and engage with these groups. These CWPPs incorporate climate change and climate adaptation planning.

Follow up directly with Wes by email w.bieber@silvatech.ca

8. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

Invasive Species Resources - Kim noted that CSISS is hosting invasive plant identification workshops around the region as follows (beginner workshop 9AM-10AM, Advanced workshop 10:30AM-12PM at each location; donation is recommended; more details on their [website](#); register [here](#)):

- Revelstoke- May 21, 2019. MacPherson Rm, Revelstoke Community Centre, 600 Campbell Ave
- Golden- May 22, 2019. Golden Arena Lounge. 1410 9th Street south. Golden BC.
- Sicamous- May 23, 2019. Location TBD.
- Salmon Arm- May 29, 2019. CSRD Board Room. 555 Harbour Front Drive NE, Salmon Arm BC.

Kim also noted that they have bike wash stations for bike events this year; working with Sutra for station at Salty Dog to address blueweed in area. Any trail event, invite them to have people and information present. Boot brushes available. Sign resources and interpretative signs available.

Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts (SORES) - Garfield noted they will be holding clean-up day Sunday April 14 to remove any unauthorized dumping, at the Silver Creek community park, 18km.

Seymour Arm Community Association - Ryan noted an upcoming meeting on April 26, Phil and Ryan will be attending.

TOTA and Rail Trail - BC Rail Trails website created in past; will be updated to include more than just Kettle Valley. www.bcrailtrails.com

Secwepemc Landmarks Initiative - Shuswap Trail Alliance, Shuswap Tourism and 3 bands did a Rural dividend application that was successful. Most funding will go to artists, sculptures, with main one at Salmon Arm wharf. Will work with elders and tie this to Secwepemc tourism initiative. Next steps are a technical meeting to synergize and work together across different FN governments when possible and appropriate.

9. Next Steps

June 14 outdoor meeting venue or location options:

- Outdoor learning Foundation built a structure - North Fork, CSRD Area E
- RHB park and Tsutusutijk;w park - picnic tables available
- Larch Hills Nordic site?
- Splatsin centre, rail trail
- Silver Hills area, community hall available, look at Salmon River parallel trails, Haines Creek, Mt Ida area

June 14 agenda topics:

- Wes Bieber - draft plan for Salmon Arm CWPP
- Shuswap Trails Roundtable and capacity
- Regular items (trails discussions, information sharing roundtable, etc.)

Future Working Group agenda items:

- Jeremy Ayotte - environmental screening tool
- Provincial jurisdiction issues - who does what; RSTBC; Lands officers; other; benefits of partnership agreements with RSTBC

- Referrals - specifically regarding Secwepemc reviews during our trails pre-approval process
- Front Counter BC and their process

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Joss Pass-Mtn/East Shuswap Access Management Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schedule next meeting according to resources available ▪ Keep three areas separate, but inform each group of the “bigger picture” initiative ▪ Mike to engage access management planning tables working in conjunction with Phil, others 	Shuswap Trail Alliance and Mike to coordinate with Splatstin, Province, lead orgs and BCRDP funding	ASAP
Follow up on Four Year Funding Proposal : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delegation request for RDNO board needed 	Phil	ASAP
Chase Active Transportation - ALIB and Chase councils to meet, identify shared interests and seek infrastructure to connect trails	Joni, Fred, Shelley	ASAP
Other organizations to sign the LOU if they haven’t already done so - original copy if possible (Phil has it)	Any groups that haven’t signed LOU	Ongoing
Send any GPS/GIS linework on trails to Sutra Brett at Shuswap Trail Alliance, earthboundprojects@gmail.com	All Working Group members, trail stewards	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
Share updated Working Group contact list with all participants	Mike	Ongoing