

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as at February 1, 2021

Meeting date: January 22, 2021 9:00AM to 12:00PM **Location:** Zoom web conference

Present:

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Marcia Bennett, Recreation Sites and Trails, MFLNRORD*
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Garfield Chursky, Shuswap Dirt Riders (SORES)
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Avis Denault, Adams Lake Indian Band
Holly Drinkle, North Shuswap
Brock Endean, Chase Chamber of Commerce
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association
Joni Heinrich, Village of Chase
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter and Larch Hills Nordics (summer use)
Kim Kaiser, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Chris Lynd
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Natalie Sorkilmo, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Secwepemc territory was acknowledged, and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Avis shared the word for bald eagle - spelqweqs - pronounced "spell-KWAX."

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from October 16, 2020 was approved with a correction to Chris Lynd's affiliation. Action items not on today's agenda were reviewed; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version. Natalie noted that the Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club is interested in the discussions on Gorge.

4. Annual Roundtable Meeting Debrief, Next Steps

Several people commented that the annual roundtable meeting, held December 2, 2020 worked well despite having to do it online. Kudos to Jen for figuring out how to make breakout rooms, and hence the sub-regional discussions happen.

Jen noted that the deficit in funding for calendar year 2021 is higher than originally estimated, it is now \$3847. That led to a discussion, with the following points raised:

- Shuswap Trail Alliance is a charitable non-profit, and tax receipts can be issued
- Various user groups committed to asking their groups about a contribution for this year, as well as an ongoing annual contribution - thanks to Garfield for making this commitment
- It was suggested that local governments can't be relied on - if each user group could contribute even \$100 that would address the 2021 deficit
- There are probably 4-5 Rotary groups in the Shuswap that could be approached
- There has to be a more sustainable approach than "passing the tin can around" to see who's had a good year financially and can help this continue

It was agreed that individual groups and organizations would determine what contribution could be made for 2021, as well as ongoing each year. To be revisited in April 2021.

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

Skimikini

- Linda noted that she's doing two s.57 applications, phase 1 is approval of non status trails used extensively and are main connectors, phase 2 are two new trails, one non-motorized and one ATV purpose built. Marcia suggested that the s.57 application is all that is required but that the trail development plan would help. Add as an appendix as well as letters of support.
- Linda noted that signage is at printer for 78 trail signs on authorized trails. In 2021 hope to continue work on elder site visits, with Secwepemc trail names. Marcia is doing budget planning for 21/22 hoping to extend funds for elder site visit.
- Chris Lynd noted that kiosks were installed before winter, working out content in year to come. Looking for maps, and pre-phase 1 s.57 maps by spring and educational content. Trail construction and maintenance part of funds, looking for places to improve trails coming up. May need extension due to COVID. Will work with committee to focus funds if they have to be spent this year. Purpose-built ATV trail and re-route of bad section of other trail that LB noted - walked, flagged, mapped and ready to go with Linda's phase 2 application. Lots of loop potential. 3km of trail mapped out. Working with Clever Trail Designs. Linda noted that if anyone wants to provide a letter of support, send it to her.
- Phil - would it be helpful to send a Glenemma plan for the format? LB template for a trail development plan would be great. **ACTION** - Adrian or Jen to share trail development plan template or the Glenemma plan with Linda. Phil noted that the environmental screening tool is available, a pdf form.
- Marcia suggested when s.57 application is ready to go, send to her and she'll send it directly to Front Counter BC. FCBC timeline challenges with the Kamloops office and prioritizations and getting things going. Some things are taking over 1 year.

East Shuswap - Gorge

- Adrian noted there have been a couple of subcommittee meetings around this, created a survey for users, got picked up by non-motorized users, 412 responses and it's now closed. He's compiled a summary. Waiting for review by STA staff, will be sent out soon. Minimal motorized uptake, mostly represents non-motorized users. Road plowed all winter, super busy.
- Natalie confirmed that EVSC definitely wants to be involved, contrary to what was relayed at the Oct 16, 2020 Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group meeting. Challenge when the survey went out as EVSC didn't have an active manager, they were in transition. Survey

doesn't represent EVSC input. Concern with how survey presented. Feels it was biased. Suggests Stuart, Natalie and Adrian sit down and clarify concerns and issues. EVSC involved in area since 1958, want to share with other user groups. Need more communication. AB is happy to do that; wants to reconvene Gorge subcommittee, leary of side-conversations without the whole group. Trapper Dave Robertson and K3 cat skiing have shared history and background with the subcommittee.

- **ACTION** - share the past meeting notes, reconvene small working group. Winter is busy. Marcia suggested that she can discuss with Natalie too. Phil confirmed STA role is to facilitate, can bring in external support as needed; subcommittee is doing the work. Next subcommittee meeting, should set up now for April'ish and avoid busy winter months. Survey was intended for non-motorized since they're not organized as a group like the motorized groups are. Clarification needed around who the survey was intended for - AB developed survey from subcommittee, adjusted with their feedback. Dave Crowfoot felt survey was biased; that's why it wasn't circulated to EVSC members.
- **Next steps** - regroup the subcommittee, share all information, decide how to proceed. Avoid two separate surveys. Challenge was transition in management of EVSC.

Owlhead-Hunter's Range, Blue Lake Connector

- Section 57 application is top of the pile - concerned about timeline for approval for this summer. Marcia will push for it. Capacity at FCBC in Kamloops is the barrier. They are provincial centre for mining applications. **ACTION** - individuals can complain to government, time delays for processing the applications. Can't apply for grants until permit in place.
- Phil noted there was a meeting earlier this week, Curtis Munroe, finishing linework and mapping, connected with ORV leadership. Key piece to get kiosk signs is ORV leadership setting up a map of existing usable routes and proposed new routes to RSTBC, BC Parks, Splatsin, and others. Logging and forestry roads - need to clarify which can be used, staying on them. Lots of spin off actions underway. There was a bridge removed on a forestry road that fractured access - should consider an ATV bridge separate from a forestry road. Background work and cleanup work with the mapping is underway. Vernon ATV club, Shuswap Backcountry Riders, etc. all involved. Google Earth map and then CSRD GIS staff will clean it up.

Joss Trail

- Marcia noted that there was a discussion with biologist Jeremy Ayotte with Adrian. Jeremy has done environmental report, it is almost complete, wants to gather some grizzly bear info from trail cameras and berry use before finalizes the report, hoping to do this spring-summer and then finalize report. Jeremy also wanted to look at new research from human impacts on grizzly use, shared some reports. Decisions therefore delayed to fall.
- Do we need to update the Joss working group on status? Can a March 31, 2020 draft report be shared? At least an email out to update the Joss group.

South Shuswap Destination Trail Plan

- Patrick Frank and White Lake Residents Association, interacting with BC Timber Sales. Going to move the FSR on NE end of Cedar Creek out of the riparian area. BC Parks needs to do a park modification plan, then move 1.3km of road out of park. Ongoing discussion and active logging in South White Lake forest development unit area, 5 blocks auctioned by BCTS this fall. Water quality and watershed management concerns with logging, push on watershed security mandate. Cutblocks are all upslope of private property. ATV usage has increased in 2020 and there were some residential concerns, facilities are underdeveloped. Looking for update on Cedar Creek hub system, connector trail between Hall and JE Bike Park.

- Phil noted that Cinnemouson Loop Trail is a conceptual trail as part of the larger destination plan. Haven't been able to move this forward in 2020 due to other priorities. Next steps are leadership and wider community conversation, those were delayed. COVID, gathering restrictions impacted this. Need to regroup with Brian, CSRD Area C director, and how to have community consultation given continuing COVID. Cedar Creek is specific to BC Parks - **ACTION** - connect with Wes DeArmond on this. Connector trail Sutra is working on (volunteer basis) with BC Parks support. A bit of planning funding is available to engage Sutra in 2021 on this.
- Chris noted that road re-routing could provide opportunity for staging use. Sensitive areas use by ORV/ATV, let's identify them and identify re-routes. Advise Chris, he'll invest time and effort. Chris is engaging users of that area for the consultation when it happens. Mark at Sprockets is a key on this, Brad V, Garfield and Rennie Heare and others.

Chase Falls Trail Planning Project and Scatchard Mtn.

- Joni wondered where the planning project is at; Jen noted that Sutra submitted it to Phil and Jen for review, then it will be out to Joni and others by early February. Do an inventory of trails on the hillside, Hwy expansion planning, pedestrian crossing, etc. Connect Chase side to Scatchard trailhead. Jen noted she's still waiting for input from Neskonlith and LSLIB on a name; no responses yet. ALIB has approved a name. Joni confirmed this can be shared.
- Finish up the Rocky Road Trail by getting approval for Secwepmec name. Putting up a new Trailhead sign and map with Rocky Road added with Secwepemc name. As well new signage at Rocky Road Trail. Complete the Master site plan for Scatchard area. Make sure MOTI understands that we want safe access to the trails. The current plan for the underpass by Safety Mart Foods does not appear to be very pedestrian friendly.
- Efforts should be made to keep Trail Stewards apprised on the on goings on their specific designated trails. For example, in my case Scatchard Mountain Trail.
- Fred noted there may be 2 connections to Scatchard, one existing, and take underpass with walkway up to bridge, then leads to Scatchard Mtn trailhead. Other one on underpass is a sidewalk continues down Brooke St/drive and under overpass.
- Joni will send photos and drawings to STA. Also want to create a parking area below trailhead once Hwy 1 works are done. Current access to Chase falls will remain (both sides?). Include Chase Chamber too. Brock noted the Chamber could act as a host on community consultation.

Mt Ida

- Garfield appreciates these meetings. S.57 submitted, understand the lack of speed, is it still in the pile even if not at top? Desire to be good stewards of the mountain. Adrian noted that these trails show up on iMaps therefore they've been received by FCBC. Ryan noted that they haven't received formal referral from FCBC yet on this application.

Rosemond Lake

- It will happen, follow up with Splatsin. Inventory on trails is in Splatsin's hands. Big cultural heritage component connected to rail trail. Shuswap Backcountry Riders are involved.

North Shuswap Active Transportation

- Debbie noted that they met with Darcy Mooney of CSRD, positive response, looking to allocate funds in next budget for engineering review of top 3 priorities from community. Putting together community engagement material. Ryan confirmed that CSRD allocated \$75K in proposed budget, to be confirmed in March. Subject to grant funding for active transportation too - community consultation will be key before they make the application.

Lee Creek Trail

- On hold, STA needs to work on some community consultation (residents, First Nations), COVID impacted the interactions. Funding on hold but available. Phil added that STA has Lions Club funding for this, and hoping that LSLIB will do an overview assessment or recce. Debbie will engage Chamber as needed. Ryan placed \$250K placeholder in 2024 in 5 year CSRD financial plan.

Rail Trail test section

- Phil gave a heads up that the various Rail Trail groups suggested they should identify a section or test sections to proof something, show that it's real, and grant funding (COVID) and TOTA \$, to identify test section in Splantsin-Enderby area. At least 1km. Hopefully this season.

Glenemma

- Ryan noted that correspondence from RSTBC received, it's prioritized. Email correspondence from FCBC that it's being reviewed and going out for referrals. Glenemma in chronological order for applications. Marcia will check in this afternoon on status.
- Pull together the group on Glenemma again to give an update in near future, include motorized.

Larch Hills - lighting project

- Craig McBride noted that the first two phases are approved, waiting on funding, have \$150K hoping for \$200K grant from Shuswap Tourism Association. Would like to do phase 1, 2 this year, road blocks with phases 3 and 4 with BC Parks in Upper Violet Creek park.
- Adrian noted that BC Parks has approved for some areas near stadium.
- Construction will impact summer access if construction proceeds summer 2021.

Eagle Pass Mountain

- Process has been happening, monthly meetings Sept-Dec 2020, need to follow up with that working group. Aiming for February 26 meeting. RSTBC has funded the conversation. It's been controversial about what to do with the fire lookout structure. STA role has been to facilitate engagement.

City of Salmon Arm (via email from Chris Larson)

- The City of Salmon Arm is continuing to work on local trail initiatives, implementing our Greenways Strategy and Official Community Plan. Upcoming trail related projects anticipated include continued expansion and improvements around the South Canoe Parking area, foreshore trail improvements, and enhancements to our greenways around school properties. In addition to these and other initiatives which other roundtable members may share, the City's Active Transportation Task Force has been regularly meeting in order to guide the vision for future active transportation initiatives.

6. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

- **Okanagan Shuswap Timber Supply Review** - Discussion paper available, open to March 18 public input process. Click [here](#) for info.
- **Salty Dog Enduro** - bike club and Skookum cycle doing Salty Dog Enduro, likely not regular format.

- **Kicking Horse Canyon closure** - April 12-May 14 Kicking Horse Canyon Hwy 1 closure, east of Golden. Long detour around.
- **STA Online Auction** - can't hold STA Feb fundraiser, doing an online auction, Feb 5-28. <https://trellis.org/shuswaptrails2021fundraiser>
- **Invasive Plants** - CSISS completed invasive plant report at Skimikin, and identified a possible weed pull for hoary alyssum. COVID limits volunteer weed pulls, but did some training with rec site operators, and can do more training. Hopefully can do a weed pull in 2022.
- **Invasive Species Land Manager Meeting** - coming up March 9, online, updates on priority invasive plants in the region. January update [here](#).
- **Glenemma Cleanup** - Garfield and SORES are planning a Glenemma cleanup with COVID distancing.
- **Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Association** - Garfield noted a Sept 12 event, tentative of course
- **Value of Tourism Sector** - Chris reminded folks in dealing with FCBC, to remind them that tourism is \$18B industry, larger than forestry and mining. Domestic tourism has increased due to COVID.
- **Lewiston Ultra**, running event on Larch Hills - Sept 25, possibly 2 days.
- **Larch Hills Nordics Loppet** - is a virtual approach this year. Started on Jan 17 to 31. 30km or 17km recreational.

7. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates (3rd Friday of January, April, June, October):

- Friday April 16, 9-12
- Friday June 18, 2021, 9-12
- Friday Oct 15, 2021, 9-12

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Follow up on Four Year Funding Proposal : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up with RDNO board 	Someone other than Phil	ASAP
Develop new approach to sustainable funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider whether groups can each contribute a small amount this year and in years to come 	Groups	By April meeting
Owlhead-Blue-Cummings Lakes and Hunters' Range <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize linework for maps; get it approved by all parties; finalize the signs ▪ Reconvene the small group to confirm actions 	Gord, Dave, Curtis, Marcia, Keegan, others	Reconvene ASAP
Rosemond Lake Recreation Site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize and share Phil's recent inventory ▪ Convene Splatsin, Tolko, different user groups to seek the right balance on access 	Phil, Dave, Loretta, others	Ongoing
Joss Mountain - reconvene small group once habitat report is finalized, to explore next steps.	Marcia, others	Ongoing
Gorge - Reconvene subcommittee in April; seek date now. Share previous subcommittee notes, history.	Adrian, Natalie, Marcia, others	Ongoing
Start hut to hut opportunities , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range.	Louis, others	Future meeting

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Develop a proposal for modernized land use planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a proposal that the Secwepemc Lakes Division of Qwelminté Secwépemc could bring forward to the province to financially support modernized land use planning in all priority areas and “hot spots” in the strategy and work plan ▪ A small task group to develop a proposal with a scope of work and budget. Topics to address include but are not limited to: capacity needed to engage with all land managers and respond to referrals; ability to engage all parties to develop comprehensive plans for an area 	Shelley, Tess, Louis, Loretta Eustache, Phil, Jen	Ongoing, delayed due to COVID. Build on the draft concept initiated Feb 26, 2020.
Work with Shuswap Tourism or current organization to publish and advertise authorized trails	Everyone	Ongoing
Standing Action Items		
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	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
Share updated Working Group contact list with all participants	Mike	Ongoing
Seek support letters for funding applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Upload approved Working Group meeting summaries to website	Jen	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do cumulative effects assessment on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing
Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards - order from Georgia Jules at Neskonalith Education Centre by email educationassistant@neskonlithec.net	Everyone	Ongoing
Download the Secwepemc language app for your smart phone	Everyone	Ongoing