

# Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

## Meeting Summary as at Feb 3, 2020

**Meeting date:** January 31, 2020 9:30AM to 11:45AM

**Location:** Pierre's Point, Salmon Arm, BC

**Present:**

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter  
Gord Bushell, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club, District of Sicamous  
Blaine Carson, Larch Hills Nordics  
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors  
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders  
Danielle Dornik, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD\*)  
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority (from ~10:15AM)  
Joni Heinrich, Village of Chase (from ~10:30AM)  
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics  
Kim Kaiser, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society  
David Lepsoe, Trail Steward  
Tracy Lundberg-Schimpf, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Chris Lynd, Solstice Adventures  
Joe McCulloch, District of Sicamous  
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Curtis Munroe, Hunters Range Snowmobile Association  
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Mitch Olynek, Larch Hills Nordics  
Corbin Selfe, Equipment Owner-operator, Sicamous  
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)  
Clint Smith, Larch Hills Nordics  
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith  
Tess Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band (from ~10:00AM)  
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase  
Brad Vickerson, Motorized Recreation  
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (from ~9:45AM)  
*\*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. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was met. Regrets were noted from Ian McLellan and Wes DeArmond. Phil shared sad news that Peter Rotzetter of Armstrong died earlier in the week.

### 2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Louis taught us the Secwepemc word for "small bird" and "snow" - Secwepemc spelling uncertain.

Download the Secwepemc language app in the App Store for your smart phone. Also the Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards (order from Libby Jay Chisholm [libbyjayc@gmail.com](mailto:libbyjayc@gmail.com)) have basic information on Secwepemc language and alphabet, in addition to uses and Secwepemc names of plants.

### 3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from October 18, 2019 meeting was approved. Action items not on today's agenda were reviewed; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version.

### 4. Annual Roundtable Meeting Debrief, 2020 Work Plan

A debrief of the annual meeting held November 20, 2019 highlighted the following: good venue; good food; speed dating and short updates worked well; lots of time and flexibility for interaction in the afternoon sub-regional planning worked well. Presentation on modernized land use planning was good, but the message that provincial government and First Nations take the lead is different than the approach here in the Shuswap where local governments are also at the same table.

Phil reviewed the work plan (p.2 and 4 of the document [here](#)) and the sub-regional priorities at in the annual roundtable [meeting summary](#).

The following connected points were raised that culminated in an action to move forward the entire [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#) (the strategy):

- What are we working towards?
- What are the connections between all these trails?
- Connections exist on a sub-regional scale, but are harder to see for entire Shuswap
- It appears that we are working together separately
- Do we need overlapping subcommittees?
- Do we need to more explicitly connect trails, such as the Trans Canada Trail?
- Perhaps we're struggling with the physical connection of trails, but we have values that connect us that are part of the strategy and the letter of understanding signed, tmicw (the land) and spiritual, cultural and economic connections
- The province's modernized land use planning approach where the province and First Nations are setting the priorities at the partial exclusion of local governments and others
- The suggested action to have Secwepemc leadership bring forward modernized land use planning priorities from this area
- An observation from some that the provincial government is making decisions about road deactivation and access management with insufficient input from others

Based on the above points, it was suggested to take the following action:

- 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
- Develop a small task group (Shelley, Tess, Louis, Loretta Eustache, Phil, Jen) 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
- Bring it back to the April Working Group meeting for feedback

## 5. 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.

*East Shuswap Alpine* - Danielle noted that habitat concerns were raised in the referral for authorizing two existing trails from last year; Jeremy Ayotte, RPBio will develop an environmental management plan and communication strategy and create a draft report by mid-March. Signage content needs to be finalized for Hunter Range, Cummings Lake and Blue Lake before signs can be produced and installed. It was agreed to have a one-day meeting in early April for a variety of topics (Joss/Mabel/Tsuis, Hunter's Range, Blue Lake/Cummings Lake/Owlhead) in the East Shuswap, as long as representation from key groups are present (e.g., MFLNRORD district staff, licensees, First Nations, trail steward groups, etc.). Have a clear agenda, with specific times and objectives for each sub-area of the East Shuswap.

*Blue Lake Connector* - Dave noted that the snowmobile connector trail has been approved by RSTBC, next step is to do a realignment for summer motorized trail use to avoid wet areas. Danielle noted that this would need its own application.

*Skimikin* - Linda noted that meeting held December 18, the project management plan and budget was presented, maps were reviewed of the linework that Sutra collected, decisions were made on what to maintain, what to decommission. Seed orchard did clearing along the fence line so that the trail can be re-routed. Linda asked whether Shuswap Backcountry Riders could apply for funding for Skimikin; it was noted there are limited funds in ATVBC and limitations on number of applications a group can apply for. Danielle noted that the ORV fund is managed by the province and closes in late February.

*Larch Hills Nordic non-winter* - Adrian highlighted details about coordinating non-winter use (see file named Larch Hills Nordic Non Winter Trails Management Plan.pdf circulated with this meeting summary). He noted that an advisory group was formed, he would welcome Allen Walker or Dave Crowfoot's participation.

*Chase Creek Canyon/Scatchard Mountain* - David Lepsoe reported that the intent is to connect the canyon trail to Scatchard Mountain in a full circle route. Over half of the \$7500 in funding needed to develop the plans are in place, rest is being fundraised. Shelley noted that an upcoming elders' meeting will provide a name for the new Rocky Road trail.

*Gorge Backcountry and Anstey Arm* - Gord noted that the Qweest area was closed decades ago due to caribou habitat, so recreational use moved towards the Gorge Backcountry area. Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club did not submit an application to operate in that area, as it is only occasionally used in spring, not extensively. Danielle will follow up with some options.

*Salmon River Parallel Trail* - Ryan noted that the trail is complete with the exception of asphalt markings, and an official opening planned for a Friday pro-D day in spring.

*Glenemma* - Ryan noted that the s.57 application has been submitted to Front Counter BC, he is working with Ian McLellan on reviewing it later today. Chris Lynd is interested to be involved.

*South Shuswap Destination Trails Master Plan* - Ryan noted that a draft plan will be shared with the CSRD Area C Parks Advisory Committee in February. It then needs to go to Danielle and Secwepemc

communities for review and consultation. Hope to have a plan by April. Chris Lynd is interested to be involved.

*Lee Creek* - Ryan noted that once the snow is gone, they will re-group with the community and engage further on ideas and concepts. Chris Lynd is interested to be involved.

*Sicamous to Armstrong Rail Trail* - Ryan noted that lots of work is underway with consultants, engineers, agrologists and others. No word yet on the grant application, the province reviewed it and it is in the hands of the federal government.

*Owlhead Mtn Bike Park* - Joe noted that the wildfire mitigation planning is underway, and then the mountain bike park plan will come after that. Joe introduced Corbin Selfe who has heavy equipment and has built trails in many areas around the province.

*Secwepemc Landmarks Project* - Shelley noted that Libby Jay Chisolm, who is managing this project, has put out an expression of interest for monuments in Salmon Arm at the wharf, for a monument in Chase, and for sculptors and storytellers. Five teachers have expressed interest in having students involved; students will design pictographs for trailhead posts. Aiming to have a completion ceremony in spring, rest will be in the fall. It was suggested that trail stewards submit expressions of interest to have these Secwepemc designed trailhead signs installed at trailheads they steward (Linda noted that they would like one at Skimikin; Gord will bring this up with Splatsin at an upcoming council to council meeting). It was suggested to put this as an action - for trail stewards to submit interest to Libby Jay Chisolm [libbyjayc@gmail.com](mailto:libbyjayc@gmail.com) and Secwepemc will adjudicate which ones will get a designed trailhead sign.

## 7. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

*Invasive Species Resources* - Kim noted that Play Clean Go signs are available for trailheads. If boot brushes are missing or worn out, [contact her](#) for new ones. They can also install larger interpretive kiosks with larger boot brushes mounted on the ground. Asian Clams were noted in Shuswap Lake last fall; the following was sent to Shuswap Watershed Council members earlier this month, an excerpt from Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy staff:

*Asian clams are established in several lakes in the lower mainland and widely distributed in Washington State. MOECCS are not currently exploring treatment options for several reasons. First, we have not confirmed an established population and secondly we are not aware of any readily available targeted treatment options that would eradicate Asian clam in a system as large and complex as Shuswap Lake... In some cases there can be treatment options available, but they are not species-specific and will also cause mortality to native species. MOECCS have a risk assessment drafted for Asian clam that we will be reviewing, as we currently know very little about their potential impacts in BC. At this stage, our focus for the coming season will be to try and carry out additional surveillance to confirm there is an established population and get a better understanding of the population. MOECCS would also like to focus on outreach to prevent further spread into surrounding water bodies.*

*Here is a factsheet on Asian Clams from the Alberta Invasive Species Council: <https://abinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FS-Asian-Clam.pdf> and another, similar factsheet from the Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program: <http://www.invadingspecies.com/asian-clam/>*

*Publishing Trails* - Brad asked whether this group wants to publish our trail networks. Phil responded that Shuswap Tourism wants to do that, and once trails are authorized, we should work

with them to publish and promote trails. Kyle Dearing works with Shuswap Tourism and Economic Development and is part of this working group.

*Cumulative Effects Assessment, BC Tomorrow Society* - Louis noted that he was approached by Dave Ramsay, a high school teacher in Salmon Arm and executive director with the [BC Tomorrow Society](#). Louis is going to suggest that his students do a project on Mt Ida.

*MOU signed* - Louis noted that an MOU has been signed between Sun Peaks, Adams Lake Indian Band, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band and Neskonlith.

*Economic value of snowmobile industry* - in addition to the [report](#) noted from the October meeting, Gord noted that locations with a municipal and regional tax program (MRDT) tax generate more for their local area (Valemount \$7M, Revelstoke \$30M).

## 8. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates and locations:

- Friday April 17 - suggestion to hold it at White Lake
- Friday June 19 - Village of Chase will host at Creekside Seniors Centre, and coordinate with grand opening of Rocky Road Trail at Scatchard Mountain
- Friday October 16 (TBD)

Future Roundtable Meeting - November 2020 (possibly Wed Nov 25; it was also suggested to have it on a Friday)

Future Working Group agenda items or tour ideas:

- 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

After the meeting, the MOU for the West Bay Connector was signed by Chief Cliff Arnouse, Adams Lake Indian Band, Councillor Louis Thomas of Neskonlith, and Mayor Alan Harrison of City of Salmon Arm.



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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Joss Pass-Mtn/East Shuswap Access Management Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bring together all parties for one day, discuss entire area but separate each area as appropriate for separate discussions and decisions</li> <li>▪ Reconvene <b>Owlhead/Blue Lake/Cummings Lake</b> and Hunter's Range group to finalize input on signage for snowmobile use</li> <li>▪ Review environmental management plan from Jeremy Ayotte for <b>Joss/Mabel/Tsuis</b> trails</li> </ul>	Danielle, Phil	Early April - possibly a Saturday
Follow up on <a href="#">Four Year Funding Proposal</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow up with RDNO board, Salmon Arm City Council</li> </ul>	Someone other than Phil	ASAP
<b>Chase Active Transportation</b> - ALIB and Chase councils to meet, identify shared interests and seek infrastructure to connect trails	Joni, Fred, Shelley	ASAP
Start <b>hut to hut opportunities</b> , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range.	Louis, others	Ongoing
Shuswap Dirt Riders s.57 application for <b>Kela7scen (Mt Ida)</b> - circulate directly to Secwepemc First Nations (all 4), CSRD	Garfield	October 2019 action
Determine whether funding for signage at <b>Skimikin</b> can be applied for from ATVBC, provincial ORV fund, and whether Shuswap Backcountry Riders can apply	Linda, Dave	By late February (ORV fund)
Develop a proposal for <b>modernized land use planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a proposal that the Secwepemc Lakes Division of Qwelmintec Secwépmc 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</li> <li>▪ 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</li> </ul>	Shelley, Tess, Louis, Loretta Eustache, Phil, Jen	Before April 17 meeting
It was suggested that trail stewards <b>submit expressions of interest</b> to have these <b>Secwepemc designed trailhead signs</b> installed at trailheads they steward. Submit interest to Libby Jay Chisolm <a href="mailto:libbyjayc@gmail.com">libbyjayc@gmail.com</a> and Secwepemc will adjudicate which ones will get a designed trailhead sign	Trail stewards	ASAP
Work with <b>Shuswap Tourism</b> to publish and advertise authorized trails	Shuswap Tourism	Ongoing
<b>Standing Action Items</b>		
Organizations to <b>sign the LOU</b> if they haven't already done so - original copy if possible (Phil has it)	Any groups that haven't signed LOU	Ongoing
Send any <b>GPS/GIS linework</b> on trails to Sutra Brett at Shuswap Trail Alliance, <a href="mailto:earthboundprojects@gmail.com">earthboundprojects@gmail.com</a>	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 <a href="mailto:trailreport@shuswaptrails.com">trailreport@shuswaptrails.com</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Share updated Working Group <b>contact list</b> with all participants	Mike	Ongoing
Seek support letters for funding applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Upload approved Working Group <b>meeting summaries</b> to website	Jen	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do <b>cumulative effects assessment</b> on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing