

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Meeting Summary as at June 18, 2019

Meeting date: June 14, 2019 9:30AM to 12:00PM

Location: Larch Hills Nordic Centre, east of Salmon Arm, BC

Present:

Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Libby Chisolm, Grad Student (from 9:40AM)
Lance Johnson, Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority
Pauline Hixon, Larch Hills Nordics
Keegan Hoffman, BC Parks
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (from 9:50AM)
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park (from 9:40)
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ryan Nitche, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Ariana Sholinder, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Clint Smith, Larch Hills Nordics
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith (from 9:40AM)
Tess Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Brad Vickerson, Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts
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, Shelley acknowledged Secwepemc territory and gave a prayer, and introductions were made around the room. Larch Hills Nordics were 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

Tess taught everyone the word for black bear, the symbol of Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band “skw’lax.”

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

3. April 12, 2019 Meeting Summary

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

4. 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.

Larch Hills Nordics Interpretive Trail - Clint noted that this trail around a bog is used for walking in summer and snowshoeing in winter. Wooden structures are breaking down, need replacing. It was recommended to engage Recreation Sites and Trails (RSTBC) and BC Parks folks about authorizations needed, as the trail is in both a park and LHN site.

LHN Irwin's Stream - Clint noted that construction of a beginner trail has begun with logging; gates will be installed next, it will be ready for winter use by fall 2019.

LHN Lighting Concept - Proposal for lighting some trails has gone to membership. Detailed engineering and planning is underway. Lighting costs at least \$80 000/km based on 48m spacing. Funding options include BC Gaming, BC Rural Dividend Program, Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust. Motion-detecting or solar powered is being considered.

LHN Summer Use Plans - Adrian noted that an old plan for summer multi-use is being reinvigorated for use of the current trails, with no new trails proposed at this point - just gates, fencing, and signage. Partnership agreement for summer use is needed; winter use agreement is separate and allows for summer maintenance of winter use trails, but it's not the responsibility of LHN to maintain summer use trails.

Salmon River Parallel Trail - Ryan noted that fabrication of the pedestrian bridge and building of the trail has been awarded. A little over the \$1.35M budget. Work to start in early September and likely be completed in October.

Balmoral Trails - Ryan noted that new signs with the reroute of trails will be installed this summer.

Lee Creek Bluffs - Ryan noted that Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA) is leading the planning and design, and the community has been engaged with an early walk-around. Next steps are preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) for archaeological values, get Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band folks on site.

Rail Trail - Ryan noted that an agreement is being finalized for STA to do the project management, and that a grant application has been submitted for planning, engineering and design work. Some archaeological work is underway with Splatsin. Governance and technical committees have been meeting, as well as meeting with other key parties in the area. Seeking an announcement in July on funding application. Robyn warns people of poison ivy in the area.

Glenemma - Ryan notes that two PFRs are needed, one by Splatsin and one by Okanagan Indian Band, but that funds are limited.

John Ednikinoff Bike Park - it was noted that a \$35 000 in improvements to an existing bike park is being proposed in the White Lake area, likely to start in mid-August.

North Fork Wild - Ryan noted that the rain shelter project will be completed this summer.

Skimikin - Sue noted that the Backcountry Horsemen - Shuswap Chapter signed a partnership agreement with RSTBC on May 14. They also had a stakeholder meeting with many groups. They are

doing a re-inventory of trails, intersections and will provide to Danielle at RSTBC; also seeking to rename trails rather than having numbers, and clarifying uses. Dave noted that Shuswap Backcountry Riders are supportive and will help with maintenance.

Mount McPherson - Keith noted that there is a route on the west side of Mt McPherson to Tilley Lake is popular, being used extensively, but is not a sustainable, well-built trail. He's concerned about safety and environmental degradation. Robyn noted there is a new Revelstoke chapter of Alpine Club of Canada; it was suggested that Keith engage them, Danielle, Marcia, Wes DeArmond and Marshall to devise a plan to address this issue.

Owlhead-Blue Lake Connector - Dave and Phil surmised that the next steps are for RSTBC to agree on the re-alignment to put the ATV connector in a better location, and get Marshall or Sutra to do a technical design for a purpose built ATV connector.

Cache Cabin - Dave and Phil noted that this 1907 cabin is part of the status trail, and that the cabin is in need of repairs (e.g., fix the door at minimum). Dave and Gord have devised a plan, started collecting materials. Materials need to be brought in, volunteers are needed for this. Authorization from Danielle at RSTBC is needed.

Secwepemc Landmarks - Shelley and Sutra confirmed that funds have been secured, timelines are being put together, artists secured, and locations sought from elders.

Secwepemc Tourism Initiative - Shelley noted that numerous people (Bonnie, Shelley, Julie, Donna) are working on engaging artists, entrepreneurs, Secwepemc principles, language and youth from Chief Atahm School, and then incorporating into signage and events.

South Shuswap Destination Trails Plan - Sutra noted that this plan is in progress, with an inventory of over 700km of trail. Need to link in accommodation options, and engage with residents, First Nations, public and stakeholders.

South Canoe Parking Development - Sutra noted that this initiative within the City of Salmon Arm is developing a sustainable trail network with various trails for all ages and abilities, an outdoor learning structure and parking lot.

Rocky Road - Phil noted that approvals are in place to build this short section of trail on Scatchard Mountain. There was a sustainable trail building workshop conducted.

Mt Ida Dirt Bike Trails - Lance noted that they are working to get GPS inventory of trail locations complete. As Garfield noted in April, two applications have gone to Front Counter BC, but they have not been sent out for referral yet.

East Shuswap Alpine - Phil notes there is limited funding to re-engage the planning group, not just for Joss-Tsuius-Mabel, but perhaps to consider the larger areas. Seeking support from RSTBC to pull everyone together.

Rubberhead - Adrian noted that 1.5km of bike trail is being built, all authorizations are in place.

General - Overall, it was suggested that for all trails we need to consider cumulative effects, and think of the long term needs of the population and who the users will be. It was also suggested that if inappropriate use is seen on a trail, call the RAPP line.

5. Annual Roundtable Meeting

It was agreed to keep the annual meeting in November, ideally early November. Avoid week of November 11.

Locations were discussed: North Shuswap (however no facility is large enough); Sunnybrae bible camp; Sorrento retreat centre; or a church venue in Salmon Arm.

6. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

Invasive Species Resources - Robyn noted that there are numerous weed pulls happening throughout the Shuswap; contact them if you want help hosting a community weed pull with your group. CSISS is also looking for trails near transmission lines for invasive plant work.

Robyn also noted that they have bike wash stations for bike events this year. Any trail event, invite them to have people and information present. Boot brushes, sign resources and interpretative signs are all available. Keep an eye out for an invasive turtle, the red-eared slider and the American bullfrog and report if seen.

Secwepemc and Local Government Forum - Secwepemc and local governments had their annual meeting on June 6 in Salmon Arm. Louis pushed Mayor Harrison for core funding for this group.

Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band - pow-wow coming up weekend of July 19-21.

Budget consultations - Robyn Hooper suggests engaging with the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to request budget items for the following year

Shuswap Trail Alliance - Ariana noted that volunteers are needed for trail maintenance on June 15 Larch Hills Traverse, and June 24 at Rubberhead. There is a fire suppression workshop at Little Mountain Fieldhouse on June 15.

7. Next Steps

October Working Group meeting date - to be confirmed (Mike will send a doodle poll)

October meeting venue or location options:

- Silver Creek community hall, look at Salmon River parallel trails, Haines Creek, Mt Ida area

October agenda topics:

- Shuswap Trails Roundtable and capacity (from Feb 13, 2019 roundtable)
- 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 Splatsin, 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
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 (remove Robyn Cyr, add Kyle Dearing)	Mike	Ongoing
Upload approved Working Group meeting summaries to website	Phil	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do cumulative effects assessment on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing
Mike to seek date for annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting, and then send a “save the date” either over the summer, or in early September at the latest	Mike	ASAP