

# Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

## Meeting Summary as at October 19, 2020

**Meeting date:** October 16, 2020 9:00AM to 12:00PM

**Location:** Zoom web conference

**Present:**

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Garfield Chursky, Shuswap Dirt Riders (SORES)  
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors  
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders  
Robyn Cyr, consultant working on Secwepemc Lakes Tourism  
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority (from about 10:45AM)  
Loretta Eustache, Splantsin  
Wes Gano, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club  
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics (to about 10:30AM)  
Kim Kaiser, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society  
Chris Lynd, Solstice Adventures  
Joe McCulloch, District of Sicamous (from about 10:30AM)  
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Ted Morton, BC Enduro Series (from about 10:30AM)  
Curtis Munroe, Hunters' Range Snowmobile Association  
Carly Procyshyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation (from about 10:30AM)  
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)  
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. Quorum was not met as there was no provincial government present. Many regrets were noted.

### 2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Pespesllkwe (Secwepemc division including Splantsin, Little Shuswap Lake, Neskonlith, Adams Lake, and Shuswap bands) is pronounced "*bess bess ell kwa.*" It was noted that people are interested in learning about the following:

- Different Secwepemc dialects
- Cardinal directions, north, east, south, west
- More local mountain names

### 3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from June 19, 2020 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. Trails Authorization Requests, Trail Planning and Sub-regional Planning Updates

##### Skimikin

- Sue reported that they completed the signage plan, it was sent to STA for 50 of 150 posts to be installed. 15 posts were installed on hill on N side of lake, other 35 will be installed in late October. Signage will go on posts later in fall or winter. Rest of 100 posts to be installed over next few years. Needed an archaeologist, that's done, and he developed a plan and will supervise some installations. Part of Secwepemc landmarks post project, there are 4 trailhead posts to be installed as part of that. Site visit with elders was postponed due to COVID, hopefully in spring. Had meetings with Shelley Witzky and Libby Jay Chisolm. Met a number of times as group on site over summer, recently at Canoe beach with Marcia Bennett to look at all of the trails (lots) and the few authorized by RSTBC. Looking to get commonly used existing trails authorized with s.57.
- Chris updated on learning opportunity - would like to have some translations on the kiosks, for area features. Needs to be confirmed with elders for the definition of Skimikin. Kiosks will get installed late October, one in ATV campground, one in main parking lot. All lined up with a certified trail builder and archaeological oversight.
- It was noted that the S.57 is good example of different user groups working together, with RSTBC. Marcia approved two new loops on old tracks for different user groups. Need to further develop the conceptual approach and put in with s.57 application. Landmarks trailhead project - Marcia has supported funding to get the elders site visit done. Based on ORV funding, areas needing repair were identified in the trail network. Clever Trail Designs is putting together a proposal for a long steep washout section, to be presented to RSTBC before snow.
- Kim noted that there is some invasive species content on the kiosk signage, as well as boot scrubbers. CSISS did briefing with rec site operators too.

##### Gorge

- Adrian noted a meeting was held at Eagle Pass Heliskiing, need to gather data on users in the area, an online survey will be developed, and then parking lot surveys this winter, and then meeting again in spring. This is entirely a winter use issue in this area.
- Wes noted that the Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club doesn't sled in that area. Figuring out whether EVSC needs to be involved or not. Want to stay involved, figure out their place. EVSC has the tenure here.

##### Eagle Pass Mountain (EPM)

- Jen noted that a small group met Sept 25, funded by RSTBC to figure out a plan for the rebuilt lookout at EPM. Next meeting Oct 23. STA to develop a proposal, exploring values, options, and making a recommendation to RSTBC. Impact statements from FLNRORD Heritage Branch and ecosystems section. Also the last 100m needs trail improvements for safety. The EVSC was hoping to put shutters on the lookout (at their cost), but probably too much snow now. Bighorn sheep breeding season right now, so can't use helicopter. May be able to fly up in early December with local heliskiing operation. Keith went up last Wednesday, to measure windows. Range of options to be considered.

##### Owlhead-Blue-Cummings Lakes-Hunters' Range

- Phil reported that CSRD GIS folks will prepare the baseline mapping for kiosk signs. Waiting for final line work. Needs to go to RSTBC, BC Parks and province and then Secwepemc for review, once approved, then turned into the map for the kiosk.

- Curtis was working on collecting some GPS linework. Trying to confirm where groomers are going is where the authorizations are; they met with Marcia this week, to make sure things are in place.
- Cummings Lake connector to Blue Lake, the s.57 went in, no response yet.
- Cache Cabin project on Owlhead - door installed, working, windows in, thanks to Bayview Homes and Gord Bushell.
- Adrian and others (RAPP attack) did some clean up on historic route, cleaned up blowdown. Didn't inspect upper portion, due to snow. STA has funding for that trail.
- Keegan from BC Parks was in touch with Phil, they are supportive and keen to get the kiosk signs up.
- Bridge crossing is still to be done - need an actual ATV bridge design for entrance to Skyline. Curtis and GB discussed a contact in Enderby who does bridge design. Not part of the s.57, just an action from spring 2020 meeting. MB suggested a separate route with an ATV bridge, rather than replace the FSR bridge. Need to do the design.
- May need a temporary sign, with Cummings connector in the interim.
- **ACTION** - re-convene small group, confirm actions, status of linework, finalize map.
- **ACTION** - [share a map of what data exists](#), and what gaps exist.

#### Joss Mountain

- Marcia would be best to provide an update. At the last WG meeting it was noted that the habitat study was being done over summer by Jeremy Ayotte, he's still working on it. That report would trigger a regroup to reconvene the smaller group. Keith noted that in August, it was really busy, 15-20 people at lookout, dogs, mountain bikes, mostly day trippers from access on both sides.

#### Secwepemc Landmarks Project

- Jen and Phil noted that this project is moving along. City of Salmon Arm and Village of Chase have agreed to have art installations, at Marine Park and Memorial Park, respectively. Trying to get together with students to do posts, but the artists are working on main memorials right now. COVID stimulus grant (100%) is being explored by Libby, for heritage and cultural projects. Libby and Shelley were keen to follow up with Splatsin for grant funding. Deadline Oct 29. Splatsin is looking at it.

#### Mount MacPherson

- Keith convened interested parties on 3 working hikes this summer. On the third and final, short section of trail was notably impacted by amount of use this summer (changed over 4 weeks) as it is a route, not a trail, and not in best place. No conclusions reached, but good info gathered. Next steps are further discussion. Adrian added that over winter, he'll do an environmental screening.

#### Rubberhead

- Adrian reported that he is planning a jump line on upper sections, within tenure area that overlaps with but doesn't affect Larch Hills, maybe to be built in 2021 or 2022. Concept only, no plan yet. Adrian will connect with Keith to discuss further. It was noted that Canoe Forest Products doing some Douglas-fir beetle harvesting this winter in the area, and that beetle is expanding.

#### Rosemond Lake rec site

- Phil provided a heads up that access from Larch Hills down to Rosemond Lake recreation site will be deactivated. Past concerns raised about mudbogging when lake levels drop. Recently

a social trail was built in area, overlapping with the Rail Trail. Phil inventoried the rec site and existing trails, need to finish the inventory of what the current status is. Suggest a small group to lean on organized ATV groups to put clear info together on what can and can't be done, what trails to use. Need to explore options for management, which may include decommissioning it due to sensitive nature of area. Comments were varied whether the road should be fully deactivated, or not; balance needed as some access is desired.

- Suggested actions are to communicate to Tolko how to decommission roads, but make them accessible for ATV use. Dave, Loretta, others to be involved; Phil will connect with Kyle at Tolko; Phil has a report to prepare based on GPS and inventory done.

#### North Shuswap Pathway project

- Debbie reported that over summer, data was from community and visitors through survey, identified pathway segments along Squilax-Anglemont Road. Main concern is safety and to get people off the highway. They will be meeting with Ryan Nitchie to get feedback and guidance on Oct 29. It was suggested, and confirmed, that preliminary work done by CSRD has been received and considered.

#### Sicamous Mountain Bike Park

- Joe and Carly shared the concept plan for the mountain bike park, and how it relates to wildfire risk reduction/forest fuel management activities and funding from the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, and was built on cumulative effects work that was initiated in 2019. The fuel management work has been tendered and will soon be underway, and a s.57 application for trail development will be initiated with engagement of Splatsin and others concurrently. See map circulated with meeting summary.

### 5. Annual Roundtable Meeting

The annual meeting is set to be online, Wednesday December 2, 2020 from 9AM to 2PM. A save the date email went to the entire contact list of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable.

Breakout groups on Zoom are possible for the sub-regional discussions, if participants sign up and identify which sub-region they want to participate in at registration.

The draft agenda (as at Oct 8, 2020) was reviewed, comments were as follows:

- Keynote presentation - it was suggested to focus on Pespesellkwe rather than Qwelmintec Secwepemc as they are more local, but it could benefit to have larger context too
  - Purpose of this session is to understand how the local Secwepemc communities want to be engaged - what are the new referral systems being developed under Pespesellkwe or Qwelmintec agreements, how do we best work together?
- Pate Neumann's recent research should be interesting and relevant (it was noted Ted Morton is doing a master's thesis on mountain biking and sustainable development in rural communities that could be highlighted in 2021)
- Snapshot updates/success stories could include: Skimikin, Louis/Libby and Secwepemc traditional plants, West Bay connector, Rail Trail, South Shuswap Destination Trails Plan
- Volunteers for the sub-regional discussion are needed (Anita volunteered, need 6 more)
- It was suggested to think of what kind of updates the audience (those not part of this Working Group, who only engage once a year) would want
- Despite some concerns about Zoom fatigue, too much content, and dividing over multiple days, it was agreed to keep it planned for 9AM to 2PM with substantial breaks.

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

**Shuswap Dirt Riders (SORES)** - they couldn't do an event or a poker run, so they did a volunteer clean-up at Mt Ida in early October. The trailer of debris wasn't full, and that is a success story - fewer piles of garbage than in previous years due to a presence in the area. They are embracing Glenemma area now as well as Mt Ida, and there is a lot of garbage and debris at Glenemma. Want to do more clean up before winter. Presence of enthusiasts protects the area and educates users. It was suggested that Garfield connect with CSRD has a large truck, lean on them to see if staff can bring it out in the future. CSRD has offered to waive tipping fees.

**RDNO Parks and Trails planning** - Trails and parks plans are being developed in many areas, including White Valley and Area F. See [RDNO website](#) for information, and note that comments close October 30, 2020.

**Chase Creek** - Chamber of Commerce is revamping the rest stop that used to be maintained by MOTI, on area leading to Chase Creek trail under the highway, as it's a gathering area for people using trails. Looking at clean up, figuring out bathroom use and maintenance. Fred will look at TNRD for support as well.

**Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society** - Kim noted that [invasive clams](#) were found in the Shuswap Lake (Salmon Arm area), dead clams in fall 2019, live clams found this year. Hosting an aquatic stakeholder meeting in January for what will happen next, contact her to be involved.

**Hunter's Range Snowmobile Association** - installed signage in the snow this past weekend.

**Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association** - Phil noted that they are working on a concept covering a large area. Trail system in Nakusp built. Adaptive, accessible trails. They are hoping other areas will be involved.

**Township of Spallumcheen** - active transportation planning initiative underway, online portal is now open, click [here](#).

**Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail** - development plan done, see website for it and more info <https://shuswapnorthokanaganrailtrail.ca/>

**Shuswap Trail Alliance** - they usually does fall trail steward check-in - due to COVID, no plans yet. Usually early November. Heads up, info coming.

## 7. Next Steps

Annual Roundtable Meeting - Wednesday December 2, 2020

- Finalize agenda, confirm topics and speakers, volunteers
- Send out registration by early November

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

- Friday January 15, 2021
- Friday April 16, 2021
- Friday June 18, 2021
- Friday Oct 15, 2021

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 <a href="#">Four Year Funding Proposal</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with RDNO board</li> </ul>	Someone other than Phil	ASAP
<b>Annual Meeting</b> preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize agenda, confirm speakers and topics</li> <li>Initiate registration</li> <li>Confirm volunteers for sub-regional discussions</li> </ul>	Mike, Jen, Phil	By early November
<b>Owlhead-Blue-Cummings Lakes and Hunters' Range</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize linework for maps; get it approved by all parties; finalize the signs</li> <li>Reconvene the small group to confirm actions</li> </ul>	Gord, Dave, Curtis, Marcia, Keegan, others	Reconvene by early November
<b>Rosemond Lake Recreation Site</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize and share Phil's recent inventory</li> <li>Convene Splatsin, Tolko, different user groups to seek the right balance on access</li> </ul>	Phil, Dave, Loretta, others	Ongoing
<b>Joss Mountain</b> - reconvene small group once habitat report is finalized, to explore next steps.	Marcia, others	Ongoing
Start <b>hut to hut opportunities</b> , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range.	Louis, others	Future meeting
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 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</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	Ongoing, delayed due to COVID. Build on the draft concept initiated Feb 26, 2020.
Work with <b>Shuswap Tourism</b> or current organization to publish and advertise authorized trails	Everyone	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>	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 <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
Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards - order from Georgia Jules at Neskonalith Education Centre by email <a href="mailto:educationassistant@neskonlithec.net">educationassistant@neskonlithec.net</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Download the Secwepemc language app for your smart phone	Everyone	Ongoing