

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as at Oct 29, 2019

Meeting date: October 18, 2019 9:30AM to 12:00PM

Location: Silver Creek Community Hall, Silver Creek, BC

Present:

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Garfield Chursky, Shuswap Dirt Riders
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
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics
Kim Kaiser, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (from 9:50AM)
Kelsey Knoll, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD*)
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics
Joe McCulloch, District of Sicamous
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Shayne Meechan, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Foundation
Curtis Munroe, Hunters Range Snowmobile Association
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Celia Nord, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Mike Overend, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Clint Smith, Larch Hills Nordics
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith (9:40AM to 11:15AM)
Tess Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Brad Vickerson, Motorized Recreation (from 9:45AM)
**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Tess 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.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Louis taught us the Secwepemc word for “telling our story” which is pronounced “SLA-hat-lee-ah” Secwepemc spelling uncertain.

Download the Secwepemc language app in the App Store for your smart phone.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from June 14, 2019 meeting was approved, with two corrections noted (Brad Vickerson representation, and Arwen's Dream). 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.

Summer use of trails at Larch Hills - Sue reported that 5 trail segments/loops made up from some of the existing trails at Larch Hills have been GPS'd, and they were displayed on screen using Google Earth. The intent is to seek s.57 approvals for each of the 5 trail segments/loops, and install proper signage once uses for different trails is finalized. Feedback was sought on each of the trails: the Rosemond Lake Forest Service Road trail hooks up with Rail Trail, and Rosemond Lake has a recreation site, old mine shafts and pithouses on the west shore. Access at the bottom end of this trail needs to be managed to protect the foreshore and prevent motorized access to the Rail Trail. See Google Earth file named *Round Table LHN Summer.kmz* circulated with this summary.

Lighting project at Larch Hills - Craig noted that there are 6 km of trails in core area for the lighting proposal, it is moving rapidly, lots of consultations done, detailed design drawings and cost estimates done. At this point, in Final 4 for \$250K grand prize - get online and vote for them over the weekend. Need 500K votes. See <https://www.kraftheinzprojectplay.com/> to vote (Oct 19-20) and see one minute video.

Skimikin update - Sue noted that the Backcountry Horsemen signed an agreement to manage trails, had meeting with stakeholders in spring, and had Sutra do an inventory of trails. Last week did danger tree removal on trails around campsite. Put up some signs to close some trails affected by washout. Next thing is sit down with group, go over trails GPS'd which ones to keep, which to decommission, how to assign them for use. Some should not have motorized, some are single track, some sensitive areas. Danielle noted to keep working with Keith on plants and invasive species. Met with manager of seed orchard, clearing on fence line will open up some access. Involving motorized with Dave, Chris - not all motorized users are involved. There will be some motorized use there. Will sort through GPS'd linework and share lines going forward.

Cache Cabin remediation - Cache Cabin was built in 1907 as a place to drop supplies, since it was a two day horseback ride to top of Mara Mountain fire lookout. A telegraph line was strung down to ranger cabin in Sicamous to report fires. Dave reported that they made lots of progress this summer, it turned into a 6 week project and spent \$8000. ATVBC kicked in money, as well as RSTBC. Cabin was rotting from bottom up, jacked it up, replaced bottom, leveled floor, can put front deck on. Lots of snow now, at 6200 ft. Shuswap Backcountry Riders, ATVBC and many others volunteered.



Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range - Looking for connector from end Owlhead FSR to Blue Lake, on higher drier land, need to plan it out and get permission to build it. Louis suggests we start hut to hut opportunities with overnight stays, to build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range. Curtis Munroe from Hunter's Range Snowmobile Club is now engaged in this

working group thanks to Gord Bushell. Funding for signage exists and STA is holding it in reserve. Challenge has been being able to sit down with folks from Hunter's Range side, need their input as well as the Sicamous side. Need a follow up meeting; need this resolved, routes are mapped out. Road to Mara Mtn from Hunter's Range side is used for maintenance. Need to work together in next month, or not until spring. Discussion ensued about economic value of snowmobile sector, Revelstoke trying to track. Connect with Shuswap Tourism, Kyle. BC Snowmobile Federation did an [economic assessment](#) on value of the sector. Garfield noted that lots of users come in for winter recreation, snowmobiles as well as snow bikes. Growth to 4 season use.

Curtis informed everyone that Hunters Range Snowmobile Association is a non-profit, they manage 90km in partnership agreement with RSTBC, have 2 cabins, 2 groomers, the main at 26km on Ashton Creek, then 10km past that. Reset the structure this past summer, was starting to rot since 1983 establishment. Looking for authorization to build a new cabin. They get 5000 users a year on trails, winter use only.

Secwepemc Landmarks Project - Louis and Sutra gave an update. BC Rural Dividend has funded this. Shelley Witzky is lead coordinator. Committee of elders are guiding the project to March 2021, applicants to work on the project. Libby Chisolm was chosen to help administer the project. Elders had a field trip yesterday. James Tait book with historical info is being used for acquiring info for future landmarks.

Louis noted that Secwepemc are caretakers of the land. Responsibility was taken away. Secwepemc people are getting back to that caretaker role. All trails groups are caretakers too. Comprehensive study needed on big topics, not just little pieces, on whole territory but in little pieces at a time. The Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was way too big. Little people will let you on Mt Ida if they want you there. Need Secwepemc perspective on land and resource management. Garfield noted that acknowledgement that all trail user groups are caretakers is appreciated.

Shuswap Dirt Riders, Mt Ida South Slope - Garfield reported that the s.57 application is in BC government hands (Ian McLellan's area). Snow bikes - Garfield brought it here to Canada 15 years ago, would like to see their use on Mt Ida in winter. 4 season use. Celia noted she hasn't seen any of these yet. How can we help connect and get that input - utilize the Shuswap Trails protocol, get the input first. Louis got an email from Adams Lake Band, to look at Mt Ida again. Original agreement with Secwepemc communities and BC government from 1997-98. Led by people not necessarily chief and council. Needs better planning. ACTION - Garfield will send details to CSRD, First Nations - have a separate sidebar meeting about this.

Shuswap Dirt Riders recently held an event with different groups from across country. Had permissions from different agencies, and CSRD for using Silver Creek Community Park. Lots of rain resulted in erosion and rutting, but the club came back and did repairs with fill and seed, and removed any trail markers. 150 participants in the day event from kids to super-seniors. It was well received and thanks to everyone for cooperation.

Sicamous Mountain Bike Park- Joe reported that District of Sicamous received \$1M from Forest Enhancement Society of BC for fire protection around municipal area. They engaged Barry Wilson on cumulative effects assessment, and drafted a proposal for a mountain bike park NE of Sicamous in CSRD area, working with BCTS. Have a tender out for prescriptions, engineering and mapping work, to be done by early 2020. Nine trails set out, flagged, cohesive with fire protection plan. Fibre (biomass system) and timber (BCTS) will be utilized. Phil gave a heads up that trail design by forestry consultants is not always ideal.

Lee Creek Trail - Ryan noted that the wheels are turning, STA created a preliminary plan with some ground work, focus group established and a field tour was conducted. More consultation needed with community and First Nations before a plan can be created. 2020 plan, 2021-22 for construction. Preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) needed.

Glenemma - Ryan noted that they are on cusp of submitting application to RSTBC. Purchase orders to Splatsin and OKIB to do PFRs but they are swamped. May not make it before winter. Plan ready.

Sicamous Creek Falls/Lizard Trail - Ryan advised that unfortunately there were two fatalities on this system, discussed with Search and Rescue, the people were off trail and out of bounds, slipped. Second fatality in summer. Trail is closed. Independent risk management assessment that advises of a few areas to be improved. It was clear that the people left the trail, it was well signed, but they followed social trails. Started implementing the recommendations. Pole rail fencing and signage now in place. Trail still remains closed. ACTION - Joe wants that update for Sicamous website; Ryan noted it's on CSRD website.

5. Modernized Land Use Planning

Amy Tipler and Sue Omelchuk, both Land and Resource Management Specialists with MFLNRORD Thompson Okanagan Region, presented on modernized land use planning. See file named *2019-10-18 TO Modernized Planning - overview deck.pdf* circulated with this meeting summary.

Questions and discussion were as follows: include this on the agenda for the annual roundtable meeting on November 20; how can priorities from the Shuswap Trails Roundtable be brought forward; and it was suggested that Quilmente te Secwepemc government to government representatives from Adams Lake, Little Shuswap Lake, and Splatsin First Nations advance these issues. It was also suggested that the Shuswap Trails Roundtable write a letter to Sunny LeBourdais.

6. Annual Roundtable Meeting

The annual roundtable meeting is Wednesday November 20, from 9AM to 4PM. There were no objections to the proposed location of Sunnybrae Bible Camp. A save the date notice went out to the approximately 250 people in the contact list. Formal registration will follow next week.

The following suggestions were made for content and format for the day:

- Presentations:
 - LSLIB to do welcome
 - Keynote - modernized land use planning; Sunny LeBourdais and Q2G
 - Recommended FN protocols and process for early engagement
 - Patagonia and Sutra trips
 - Short snappy presentations: Cache Cabin repairs; Rail Trail update
- Venue and set up
 - Table displays and booths - any group can bring something - do a highlight in plenary first to raise attention to those around the room.
 - Poster presentations and marketplace to showcase content
 - Idea board, make connections
 - SLI.DO app for questions, rather than verbal
 - Location - Sunnybrae; can we use breakout rooms? Optional topics.
- Material

- If possible - send presentations in advance so participants can review before, questions can be asked

It was suggested to maximize networking time, and to keep the 7 sub-regional table discussions in the afternoon.

7. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

The following were provided as verbal updates on the afternoon field tour.

Invasive Species Resources - CSISS just had annual general meeting yesterday. They have signage for bike wash stations. Need bike wash stations established, there are none in Shuswap (ideas include South Canoe parking lot, John Evdokimoff bike skills lot), then signage is available.

Shuswap Trail Alliance - Jen Bellhouse is new, will be helping Phil. Public information sessions coming for the rail trail later this fall.

New trails open - Rocky Road, Scatchard Mountain - grand opening in spring.

8. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates - general rule is third Friday of January, April, June, October

- Friday January 17
- Friday April 17
- Friday June 19 (TBD)
- Friday October 16 (TBD)

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
- Rocky Road, Scatchard Mountain - grand opening in spring 2020

After the meeting, a field tour was undertaken at Silver Creek Community Park and to the newly installed pedestrian bridge on the Salmon River parallel trail.



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	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 initiate registration for annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting, to be held Nov 20 at Sunnybrae Bible Camp	Mike	ASAP
Start hut to hut opportunities , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter’s Range.	Louis, others	Ongoing
Get a better sense of economic value of snowmobile industry ; build on BC Snowmobile Federation economic assessment	Shuswap Tourism, TOTA, various snowmobile associations	Ongoing
Reconvene Owlhead/Blue Lake group to finalize input on signage for snowmobile use	Phil, others	November, or spring
Shuswap Dirt Riders s.57 application for Kela7scen (Mt Ida) - circulate directly to Secwepemc First Nations (all 4), CSRD	Garfield	ASAP