

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Draft Meeting Summary – April 15, 2016

Meeting date: April 15, 2016 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board Room, Salmon Arm

Present:

- Louis Thomas – Councillor Neskonlith Band, Salmon Arm, elder, Secwepemc, part of building SABNES trail
- Bonnie Thomas – Chair Switzmalph Cultural Society, younger sister Louie, concept of working together and better relationships, trail development and maintenance, building relationships for Cultural Traditional Trails – plant ID and education – would like to enhance, with Rail Trail (Salmon Arm to Adams lake)
- Phil McIntyre-Paul –Executive Director, Shuswap Trail Alliance,
- Robyn Hooper – Executive Director, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
- Marcy Bennett – Rec Sites and Trail, MFLRNO, trails on Crown land, East of Golden to Chase
- Allan Journeau – Shuswap Cycling Society
- Duncan Moore – Larch Hills Nordic Society,
- Phil Wallensteen – Larch Hills Nordic Society, (brother Dave Chair of Trails Committee couldn't be here today)
- Linda Buchanan – Backcountry Horseman Shuswap Chapter, the bigger organization is interested in this regional collaboration
- Anita Ely – Env. Health Inspector, Healthy Built Environment Team, shift to address chronic illness in the population and looking at the environment people live – road, sidewalks, how active is how healthy
- Chris Larson – Planner with City of Salmon Arm, Greenways Liaison Committee
- David Lepsoe- Councillor Village of Chase, skier, Chair of Shuswap Tourism Advisory Committee, Salmon Run , working with Wes and Greg on Pictographs, Champion of Scatchard Mtn Hiking trail, want trail Chase to Salmon Arm
- Greg Witzky - Councillor Adams Lake Indian Band, Natural Resource Department, traditional hunter fisher gatherer in community,
- Wesley DeArmond – BC Parks, Kamloops office, east of Kamloops to Revelstoke, how trails in BC Parks connect to others

Regrets:

- Aaron Arnouse – Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
- Avis Denault – Adams Lake Indian Band, Natural Resource office
- Brad Vickerson, Shuswap Offroad Enthusiasts
- Gord Bushell, Councillor District of Sicamous and Manager of Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
- Ian McLellan – RSTBC Okanagan
- Randy, Splatsin – going through staffing changes
- Rennie Heare and Malvin, Sicamous Quad Club (ATV clubs)
- Robyn Cyr – Shuswap Tourism
- Ryan Nitchie – CSRD Parks

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives**

Louis Thomas welcomed everyone, acknowledged Secwepemc territory and gave a prayer. Phil McIntyre-Paul introduced the agenda and objectives noting Fraser Basin Council were unable to facilitate this meeting, but will be available for the next meeting in June. Phil facilitated the day.

Introductions were made around the table including a brief statement of why folks were at the table (see notes under Present section above).

2. **Review Jan 29,2016 Meeting Notes**

Discussion for clarification of page 3 and the process for bringing all trails for review with this group.

3. **Secwepemc Learning Opportunities for the Working Group**

Guiding Secwepemc principles from the Trails Strategy: were reviewed by Bonnie Thomas

- Taking what you need – no more no less
- We are all needed for survival – water, plants, humans, we are all connected
- We must always remember and honour the past and merge those values into the present and future
- Decision making is collective, all inclusive, with respect for all living things: collaborative decision making

Story about Neskonlith Elder, Mary Thomas, at a forestry meeting being asked about which trees were important - she laughed, all trees are useful and have value. The cycle of survival is embedded in the Trails Strategy. These are universal guiding principles across First Nations and other groups, and are linked to traditional values. If we stick to these values, and find new contemporary ways of doing things as well. Cultural understanding is a key part of the process across all groups. There is information for a small sample area about traditional plants in Trail Strategy (Bonnie Thomas).

Every person has a different perspective when they walk a trail on a mountain. The guiding principles and values is part of educating each other on other perspectives. Core value of sharing – not just representation but sharing (Louis Thomas).

A Top priority is West Bay Rail Trail that connects with Cultural Education centre – and educational trail - so that people can learn about culture and values. Funding and capacity is limited for First Nations involvement, and to teach cultural education inside and outside First Nations communities. Knowledge and understanding is first activity. For example, myth about the little people (caretakers) in the Shuswap. (Greg Witzky).

Example of North Fork Wild collaboration between Splatsin and BC Parks. (Phil McIntyre-Paul).

Suggested: learning Secwepemc language (Secwepemctsin) – need to learn how to think it

What is the Secwepemc Word for: Working Together?

Learning 4 Secwepemc words: (David's suggestions)

- Weyt-k (Hello/Welcome), Phonetic: White-k
- Kukstemc' (Thank You), Phonetic: Kooks-jam
- See you Later (Phonetic: Mahweechkee),

- Yes. (Phonetic: Mah-hah)

ACTION: New word every meeting. (Reference: Secwepemc First Voices Mobile App)

ACTION: add the Secwepemc words for the values within the Shuswap Trails Strategy, and add a summary of all the core Secwepemc values (with Secwepemc wording) in appendix along with a brief statement of explanation

ACTION: Bonnie – noted missing column in the Secwepemc plant lists – she will check and add the missing column

4. Annual Work Plan Review

Review of 2016 Workplan Summary – acknowledged the working groups currently in action, and received project updates/information from working groups (including Stewardship groups).

Highlights:

- **West Bay Trail Plan:** First Nations looking to group together and leverage funding from Highways, to address safety issues along highways. Memorial trail for those that were lost on railway. Many stakeholders that have been working together for some time. City of Salmon Arm is supporting. Boardwalk idea past Prestige Hotel towards Cultural Centre. Wood donations from forestry industry. Exploring new concept of floating boardwalk with single tube and post through it, so it can float when it needs to. Follow-up meetings underway.
- **Highway Twinning Projects (and Active Transportation Corridors):** Interior Health is seeking an opportunity to get involved in the Highway twinning plan input – would like to be able to put healthy community perspective forward for consideration at the table (Anita Ely)
- **Kela7scen (Mt Ida):** Louis shared the Switzmalph Society’s desire for a healing camp for youth on Mt Ida (First Nations and other). Falls within the Kela7scen management agreement. Large number of stakeholders to be involved. Work underway to bring band leadership together. Brad Vickerson is working on an inventory of Mt Ida motorcycle trails – preliminary recreation trail plan is needed. North slopes have residential development. Southeast cemetery sites developed at old rifle range. Social trails already there; as they become more formalized there could be increased use. **ACTION: Greg/Louis** – Adams Lake/Neskonlith leadership to invite a meeting to consider next steps.
- **Rubberhead Mountain Bike Trails** – Shuswap Cycling Club working on assuming management of the trail system with Shuswap Trail Alliance support. Trying to develop a volunteer base of people. Working toward a partnership agreement with Rec Sites and Trails (MFLNRO)
- **Larch Hills Nordic Society:** (update and new trail development proposal) – Duncan Moore and Phil Wallenstein presented on LHNS trail planning committee new “Sprint Trails Proposal” for new races for short distances. Noted: youth program “Jackrabbit” trails (hundreds of children).
 - *Acknowledged Larch Hills area is an important Secwepemc medicinal gathering area, (Louis Thomas) also a berry gathering area farther up the road. Noted there is*

- Wapato in the area (potato found in wetland areas lost from Salmon Arm Bay, but found in wetland bogs in Larch Hills. (LouisT/PhilMcP)
- *Noted: Shuswap Trail Protocol tools – Trail Environmental Screening Template – to be used for assessment of potential impacts of new trail development (PhilMcP)*
 - *Acknowledged opportunity for Secwepemc cultural and values awareness (Greg Witzky) through interpretive signage at Nordic centre, and promote other cultural trails. Switzmalph Cultural Society has placards for plant identification signage.*
 - *Noted importance of Invasive Plant management: (Robyn Hooper/CSISS) As high elevation site, could be high risk for invasive plant introduction from lower elevation sites (spread via vehicles, boots, and equipment) through disturbance during building and during use (important to review Invasive Species Best Management Practices).*
 - *Noted winter trails create new summer access and activities – (LindaB, PhilMcP) need to review new winter trail plans in light of big picture, four season impact and opportunity. Noted: extensive EQ, mountain bike, hiking, ATV/OHV, and hunting/gathering use in the summer. Reminded everyone: A non-winter trail management plan and non-winter trails advisory has already been developed for the Larch Hills. (2007) Phil McP noted he needs LHNS leadership to help activate the non-winter trails advisory, but will support with contacts and background documents. **ACTION: Duncan with support from Phil McP/STA** - regather Larch Hills Non-Winter Trails Advisory to review non-winter trail management recommendations and review new plans.*
 - *As summer activities increase, the signage will also be helpful. Noted new trails are not used by horses in summer until they are set up (“firmed up”).*
 - *Noted proximity to the Upper Violet Creek Provincial Park Protected Area – need to bring planning to North Okanagan BC Parks (Contact: Kevin Wilson/Shawn Klassen)*
 - *Noted impact to Snow Shoe Trail System Trailheads – will need to review/consult with Snowshoe trail leadership and prepare a revised trail plan*
 - *Question: will these new trails impact non-track set trails managed by Shuswap Outdoors? Noted: Larch Hills Nordic Society has a joint management agreement with Shuswap Outdoors.*
 - *Marcy provided brief review of Rec Sites and Trails process of application for authorizing new trail development. Noted: if trails are already within a designated Section 56 rec area, do not need to submit through Front Counter – can go directly to Marcy at Rec Sites & Trails office).*
 - *Noted: Shuswap Tourism and Salmon Arm Economic Development Society is opportunity for continued support as it develops tourism opportunities – especially for promoting winter activities. Shuswap Tourism is promoting winter Nordic experiences in the Shuswap – Larch Hills is the flagship experience, centre piece in the recent Nordic Mini-Guide and maps*
 - **ACTION: Duncan/Phil W** – to report back to LHNS on feedback, use Shuswap Trail Strategy pre-approval checklist to assess/consult on the proposed trails, bring to the Larch Hills non-winter trail advisory for review prior to preparation of final proposal for review by Roundtable and submission to Province.
- **Short and long-term planning of priorities.** Noted the need to do further work developing short and long-term management priorities in the strategy. Acknowledged this needs to

honour people's needs and the work communities and groups have already done. Also need to look at how all these strategic plans overlay in the regional strategy – perhaps a visual representation. For example, 10 year First Nations economic plans, special interest groups plans, municipal planning, forestry, and more.

Also discussed the scope of certain projects. Mt Ida is a large project, lots of stakeholders, a long-term project. Caution to look at something smaller first. (Bonnie Thomas). Short-term = more immediate

Suggested projects underway like: Owlshead and Cummings Lake Management Plan – more immediate, short-term outcomes.

Question: are there stats on trail use? Should prioritization include interest in trail use? BC Parks noted they have counters on Provincial Park trails (Roderick Haig Brown, Albas, Herald, Eagle River, etc.) Phil noted STA has worked with CSRD Parks to run trail counters, but the counters were technically unreliable. Will be trying again.

Discussion of equity vs. equality: Suggested as a way to help with assessing work plan prioritization. Equality is supporting everyone the same vs. equity is supporting those that need support to level the playing field. Which trails are needed the most by most people? (Anita Ely). It can be part of building support of each other into the future (Greg Witzky).

ACTION: future meetings – develop refined work plan prioritization

5. Letter of Understanding

Newest signatures:

- Chief Wilson, Neskonlith First Nations
- Bonnie Thomas, Switzmalph Cultural Society

Still Awaiting:

- Splatsin – **ACTION: Phil** check with Daniel Joe, Ray Cormier
- Province of BC/Rec Sites and Trails BC & BC Parks – Wes and Marcy reported (plus Phil provided update from Tennessee Trent, Provincial Trails Manager) in process - have not forgotten, being reviewed at higher levels.

Question: (Bonnie Thomas) Is there a document or wording with language for developing better relationships for municipalities and First Nations. Discussed existing memorandums of understanding and LoUs (including the Trail Strategy LoU) as current examples.

Acknowledged that despite waiting for formal signatures from Province, there is a consistent agreement to keep working together by all partners on the Working Group.

6. Trails Authorization Requests

Reviewed list of current areas and trails in planning and/or pending approval. (See summary update and Google Earth reference map, April 15,2016 – PhilMcP). All received for review. Noted specific comments related to current list as follows:

- **Glenemma** (CSRD Area D) – noted: invasive priority site. (Robyn Hooper) **ACTION: STA/CSRD (Phil McP)** to call CSISS to be involved in planning going forward.

- **Scatchard Mountain – Rocky Road** (Village of Chase) – David Lepsoe updated – Village of Chase meeting with Adam Lake Band, May 10/2016, to develop a letter of support together for the trail.

Question: do we need an LoU each time a new trail project is proposed? Discussion whether letter of support is already given through Strategy vs. on project basis – acknowledged each project still needs to go through the Shuswap Trail Protocol for planning and consultation to be appropriately reviewed and receive acknowledgement of support specific to that project; may be in form of simple note or more formal letters of support or LoU, depending. Some areas have already received higher level reviews from all partners (e.g. Larch Hills, South Canoe, Rubberhead, etc.)

New Establishment Orders (under Section 56 of the Forest and Range Practices Act) Marcy updated on new establishment orders for trails. **ACTION: Marcy** will be forwarded recent list of orders to the Working Group (via Phil). Recent examples in the Shuswap region include:

- **Eagle Valley Snowmobile Shelter** (East Shuswap)
- **Evelyn Falls Trail** (North Shuswap)
- **Mount Baldy Trail** (South Shuswap)
- **Sicamous Creek Falls** (East Shuswap, South of Sicamous) – now established as a Recreationa Site under Section 56 FRPA.

Noted: Municipal trails are referred out through OCPs. (don't fall within Provincial jurisdiction)

7. Review of Cumulative Effects Draft Chapter

Reviewed attached word document with draft chapter. (See attached, April 5, 2016)

- Question: is traditional land use study in the Cumulative model? (BonnieT) – Traditional Land use mapping incorporated – but fishing values were not completed in original mapping project.
- Check “tech-y” language with Chris Larson and in smaller committee to review this draft chapter. **ACTION: Chris/Phil** – to follow-up with Barry Wilson.
- Question: are water trails included?
- Question: Is this a tool that can be used by specific user groups?
- Secwepemc legend that the earth is “rolling over” – seeing large changes worldwide. (Louis)
- Question: where is assessment of impacts of different users on trails? Noted: the proposal and cumulative effects model/tool acknowledges: all trail use has an impact, and different trail users have different types of impacts. It is an educational tool and process to use a model.

Agreement to Proceed with Project Scoping Proposal – and allocate Reg. Trail Strategy funding to do this (\$2500): Unanimous agreement by all.

ACTION: Phil – to follow-up with Barry and Dave with notes, questions, and to initiate next steps.

8. Approve Terms of Reference for Working Group and Roundtable

The working group reviewed the current draft ToR Statement of Quorum for the Roundtable, and Quorum samples from Fraser Basin Council Society Bylaws and Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable.

- Question: Louis asked what the ToR for the Shuswap River Watershed Roundtable was? Might be a good reference.
- Acknowledged preference for the Kamloops Quorum Roundtable statement. (Greg W)

Agreement for one representative for each group.

The Draft Quorum ToR for Roundtable to read:

QUORUM: Quorum for a roundtable meeting will be at least 1 representative(s) from each of: Secwepemc government; local government; provincial government; a motorized trails group; a non-motorized trails group; and one other sector.

As least once per year, aim to have all four Secwepemc communities present.

Also agreed to add:

1. *Prior to a decision, the quorum present will pause to ask who is not present who should be in order to make an accountable decision? Is there a significant gap in the basic quorum representation? Or is this a decision for a different jurisdiction?*
2. *Working group members can submit written feedback on decisions prior to meetings if they are unable to attend.*

ACTION: update Terms of Reference for final review.

8. Information Sharing, Communication and Relationship Building

April 15th – Cedar Creek Trail Maintenance and Invasive Species Management at White Lake BC Parks with Shuswap Trail Alliance, and CSISS.

April 16th – Dragon Boat Blessing Event at 2pm Piccadilly Mall (First Nations and JCP Partnership)

May 4th – Treatment Priority Meeting for Public Lands (Municipal, Regional District, and Provincial Agencies). To register contact: info@columbiashuswapinvasives.org

May 6th – Share the Trails Provincial Meeting – hosted by STA in Salmon Arm. Roundtable Secwepemc leadership will provide welcome to territory and workshop forum on working with First Nations. As well, various Roundtable leadership will be hosting site visit Saturday morning.

May 7th – Outdoor Event Trails Tour as part of Share the Trails

May 10th – Invasive Species Plant ID and Management Training. (2-4pm Salmon Arm CSRD Board room or 9-11am Sicamous Public Works). To register contact: info@columbiashuswapinvasives.org

May 14th – Salty Street Fest, Shuswap Cycling Club

May 18-19th – Plant ID Course with Ken Marr, Royal BC Museum. Hosted by CSISS at Okanagan College. To register contact: info@columbiashuswapinvasives.org

May is Bike Month

June 30th – Trail Mix: 14 trails – artist, photographer and storyteller for each one. Art Exhibition in Salmon Arm and trail installations in region.

9. Next Steps:

Action Items:

Action Items	Person Responsible	Date Completed
Prepare New Secwepemc word to teach for next meeting. (Reference: Secwepemc First Voices Mobile App)		
Add the Secwepemc words for the values within the Shuswap Trails Strategy, and add a summary of all the core Secwepemc values (with Secwepemc wording) in appendix along with a brief statement of explanation		
Noted missing column in the Secwepemc plant lists – check and add the missing column	Bonnie Thomas	
Adams Lake/Neskonlith leadership to invite a meeting to consider next steps.	Greg/Louis	
To report back to LHNS on feedback, use Shuswap Trail Strategy pre-approval checklist to assess/consult on the proposed trails, bring to the Larch Hills non-winter trail advisory for review prior to preparation of final proposal for review by Roundtable and submission to Province.	Duncan Moore & Phil Wallenstein	
Regather Larch Hills Non-Winter Trails Advisory to review non-winter trail management recommendations and review new plans	Duncan Moore (with support from Phil McP/STA)	
future meetings – develop refined work plan prioritization	Phil/Mike	
Follow with groups to sign letter of agreement – Rec Sites & Trails BC, BC Parks, Splantsin (Daniel Joe, Ray Cormier)	Phil McIntyre-Paul	
to call CSISS to be involved in Glenemma planning to address invasive species priority site going forward.	STA/CSRD (Phil McP)	
Forward Establishment Orders by email to Phil McIntyre-Paul for the Working group	Marcy Bennet	
Check “tech-y” language with Chris Larson and in smaller committee to review the draft Cumulative Effects chapter.	Phil McIntyre-Paul	
follow-up with Barry Wilson and Dave Nordquist with notes, questions, and to initiate next steps of Cumulative Effects scoping process.	Phil McIntyre-Paul	
update Terms of Reference for final review	Mike/Phil	

10. Next Meeting: Date, Time, Location

~~June 17th~~ 10am- 3pm - UNLESS doodle poll suggests otherwise (see following)

UPDATED MEETING DATE CONFIRMED: June 20th, 2016 – 10 am – 3 pm (at Salmon Arm Health Unit, 850 – 16th St. NE, Salmon Arm, BC)

11. Evaluation

- Thanks and great work to everyone
- More standing/mix up activities (mixer tricks ☺) to shuffle everyone into different seats