

# Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

## Draft Meeting Summary as at October 23, 2017

**Meeting date:** October 20, 2017 10:10AM to 3:00PM

**Location:** Columbia Shuswap Regional District office, Salmon Arm, BC

### **Present (in person):**

Aaron Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band  
Sutra Brett, Shuswap Trail Alliance (from 10:45AM)  
Sue Davies, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (to 12:30PM)  
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority (from 10:55AM)  
Rennie Heare, Sicamous Quadders  
Joni Heinrich, Village of Chase (to 1:30PM)  
Chris Larson, City of Salmon Arm (10:55AM to 12:30PM)  
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase  
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Craig McLean, MFLNRO\* (to 1:45PM)  
Pate Neumann, Thompson Rivers University graduate student  
Veda Roberge, Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Brodie Rundel, BC Parks  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)  
Brad Vickerson, Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts (SORES) (to 12:30PM)  
Andrew Walker, MFLNRO\* (10:15AM to 12:30PM)  
Shelley Witzky, Sexqéltkemoc te Secwepemc (STS Lakes Division)  
*\*Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations*

### **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. The CSRD was acknowledged for hosting the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was confirmed as being met.

### **2. June 19, 2017 Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary from June 19, 2017 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.

### **3. Cumulative Effects Assessment Update**

Following the afternoon meeting on June 19 with the Working Group and other invited guests, there were no obvious partnerships identified to work together on advancing cumulative effects assessment (CEA). Phil and Bonnie had a briefing on Aug 31 to STS Lakes Division to explore opportunities with what Secwepemc communities are doing around CEA; it was left with the leadership at STS Lakes Division to take the next steps. Phil also debriefed with Barry Wilson, and reflection was that this table alone won't make it happen, as partners aren't immediately stepping forward. Phil asked if we can frame CEA as a series of key questions for analyzing when projects move forward; Barry considering an online course or sessions to advocate this way of thinking about projects. It was also noted that fundraising to cover the proposed costs of CEA while this Working Group is struggling is a significant challenge.

Shelley noted that presenters on Aug 31 dovetailed together; a motion to do a scope of work for Secwepemc regional land use planning was approved. Want to look at no go zones, sacred areas, old sites, and work within other orders of government, local in particular, and their land use plans. Funding, she works closely with MOTI - connecting communities with trails and recently met with MOTI Minister Trevena.

#### **4. Trails Signage Committee Update**

Phil and Bonnie had a briefing on Aug 31 to STS Lakes Division to seek input from Secwepemc leadership on principles for using Secwepemc names on signs and what information can be shared, and how best to proceed to incorporate Secwepemc content on provincial standardized signs. Shelley noted that a protocol needs to be developed with elder input on what can and can't be shared, the intent is to work with Bonnie on this over the winter. They are working with MOTI next week and there are lessons to be learned from how this is done in the region (monuments in the past; Malakwa kiosk being created with storyboard content from all bands). The First naming of a trail with a Secwepemc name was Enderby Cliffs - they worked with BC Parks in about 2008-10. End goal is to have trails with signage and Secwepemc content, and a protocol for having content on new signs. There's piecemeal work being done all over, want to have consistent approach, utilize new provincial standard. This leads to broader reconciliation.

#### **5. Trails Authorization Requests, Trail Planning Updates, Work Plan Review**

Paper copies of the list of trails related plans for review, pending approval, in progress or completed were distributed (see updated document named *17 10 19 Trails for Review SUMMARY (Shuswap Trails).pdf* circulated with this meeting summary). The following were discussed in detail.

*Eagle Pass Mountain Trail* - STA doing upgrades as a wedge to do environmental screening to discuss larger area needs. Eagle Pass Mountain Fire Lookout is in area, hit media this past few weeks. 7000 person petition to save the cabin. Thoughts - a good example of how people feel about bureaucratic process; lots of energy to do something, but they don't want to deal with the paper. Need a channel, a layperson to help guide groups through the process. Splatsin supports the reconstruction of the lookout and posted a notice on the door. Agreed to not say anything as a Working Group. Huts and cabins are becoming more popular.

*Gorge Backcountry Recreation Area* - came to our table through RSTBC, north of Queest - public backcountry ski area; there was no designated rec site area. Marcy submitted an application to Front Counter. Strong feedback from referrals; avalanche terrain, impacted CKMP tenures and K3. Meeting held in September, constructive, input from commercial operators, motorized, non-motorized, agreed to tweak the polygon. Lots of pirate cabins in the area, it may come up in the future.

*Joss/Tsuius/Mabel Mountain* - Andrew and others walked entire length of area in early August over three days. Since August 9 meeting, Andrew went and presented to RDNO and CSRD boards of directors, and had several media interviews. Andrew still feels we're lacking input from Revelstoke and Vernon motorized groups. Rennie informed Revelstoke and Vernon motorized groups and shared the package. Phil also followed up with Adam at Splatsin, and to have a follow up meeting to develop the larger access management plan; Splatsin willing to host the follow up meeting. BC Enduro mountain bike race did not happen on Labour Day weekend. ACTION - need to arrange a date. Two pieces in queue - formal proposal to Wildlife Branch for this closure on Oct 1; reviewed and then public consultation website, Andrew will share when posted (likely late Oct). Good engagement at

CSRD board yesterday; both CSRD and RDNO were supportive, and will send letters of support but with consultation conditions. Andrew proposed to work with Rennie's club and other motorized groups.

*Owlshead/Cummings Lake Access Management Plan* - Kara of BC Parks pushed this forward; kiosks built, but need to finalize the signage. The sign content is the hold-up (funds and capacity to produce them exists); need the accurate linework to have an accurate trail. Need the GPS'd line work. Need for summer recreation trails. Formalize a management plan - need facilitation support to do the plan. Rennie will follow up about getting accurate line work. Sutra is working on inventory of old existing hiking trail in same area; will be expensive to upgrade, old boardwalk to rip out. Need a standard on how to adapt and upgrade trail status, how much to change the old trails.

*Sicamous to Armstrong Rail Trail* - alternate approval process had very little opposition. Environmental assessments proceeding. Extended to end of November to do formal closure; pending no huge issues, regional districts will sign off on ownership. STA asked to do high level reconnaissance of risks; generally CP did a good job cleaning it up. Will be an interagency working group with CSRD, RDNO, Splatin. STA also sketching out a development plan. TOTA is involved in the connections to all rail trails to south Okanagan, connected to active transportation.

*Mt Ida (Kela7scen)* - since the bush was shut down over most of the summer, Brad couldn't GPS trails. Waiting for management direction, protocol on signs. Sutra and Brad out exploring options to have hiking options that won't conflict with dirt biking; challenging but doable - design, signage will be key. Haines - CSRD parks - need to set up a meeting with Veda, Ryan after summer delays; need community leadership on management direction; possibly early November. Louis Thomas has been working hard in the background on Sacred Circle Agreement with Secwepemc bands and MFLNRORD. Had a pre-meeting last week; need to review management plan; renewing it with province-Secwepemc; 4 bands host a consultation of users. Shelley waiting for Louis to put that on the agenda and what exactly he's looking for from STS Lakes Division table.

*Rubberhead* - still waiting for mountain bike master plan; it's a big attraction in the province. Getting input from local bike shops; hiking trail at top (part of Larch hills traverse); those plans will come back to this working group. Need to update signage; RSTBC looking at parking and washrooms.

*Salmon Arm Greenways Planning* - Salmon Arm working on connecting pieces; connects to Canoe Ball Diamond trails; want a connection to beach; ability for City to do a connection is limited. The compromise is a route through the streets, not as direct, from where they live to recreation areas at beach. Will be finished by late October; signs to follow. It has an active transportation "feeling" - skate park, water park, playground, had a wide open rough road where cars would drive fast; concrete curbs bright yellow and removable speed bumps installed. Traffic calming undertaken. City greenway plan embedded in their official community plan.

*Regional Active Transportation Initiative* - communities could apply for Active Community grants up to \$100 000; Phil and Anita created a template to help partners; but it was a short timeframe. Some others applied but were not successful.

*Chase Walking Master Plan* - funded by Active Communities Grant (above). Figuring out terms of reference, want a region wide task force to get out to community, get their wishes and thoughts. Want to engage with three neighbouring Secwepemc communities too (Neskonlith, ALIB, LSLIB). Chris suggests that the parks planning process is an important mechanism to get feedback.

*Scatchard Mtn/Rocky Road* - Sean O'Flaherty from Village of Chase is working with Phil to get application into Front Counter BC. Hoping that out of the Walking Master Plan, there will be stewardship group identified with the trail. Formalizing trail from trailhead up Rocky Road, the whole way. David advised it will get a Secwepemc name - could use this as a template/pilot project for the protocol on trail signage.

*South Shuswap Destination Trails Master Planning* - Destination trails master plan, CSRD wants to work with Sutra for this area in the Inner Shuswap (idea originated at Shuswap Trails Roundtable)

*South Canoe Provincial High School Mountain Bike Championships* - possible partnership - looking for more partners, May 26, 2018 (Lewiston Ultra bumped to Sept 2018). Healthy Schools Coordinator at school district is helping out, position funded by IHA.

## **7. Shuswap Trails Roundtable**

*Venue and catering* - following Phil's request, Chase Community Hall and LSLIB hall are options. It was discussed and agreed that Chase Community Hall is a more appropriate size for 80-100 people. Chase will seek a grant in aid to cover the costs. Local catering - Joni will share some options; Phil will follow up about contributing - or ask people to pay \$10 for lunch. Anita approached IHA, she can see if up to \$1000 is available. Chase could also do printing. STS could explore covering the hall cost; Chase could explore doing the grant in aid for catering. IHA could print the plan. ACTION - request partners to cover the costs. Consider contributions from all partners for support of the entire Working Group and Shuswap Trails Roundtable, not just lunch, or the hall, or item X.

*Registration* - it was agreed that FBC should initiate registration next week.

*Maps* - current map is 2 years old; needs new content added from strategy and latest trails for review update; some content needs to be fixed; some original layers need to be accessed from ALIB and Avis. Need clarification on what trails to display (open, closed, etc.) - if sanctioned and approved, put linework on map; if not put in "circle" (two layers - existing trails; others with initiatives underway). Also suggested to map identified areas to be closed seasonally to hunting due to fires, if any in Shuswap watershed area. Need updated overall region-wide map, and 7 sub-region maps by Nov 29 roundtable meeting. Phil and Steve Murphy to arrange and enable Suzanne and Avis to connect; it was suggested to meet in person.

*Strategy Update* - Need to make sure all initiatives in the quarterly updates are in the strategy, and are also on the map. CEA update on status. Phil and Mike to undertake strategy updates with current information.

*Agenda* - lots of ideas were discussed; see draft agenda circulated with this meeting summary.

## **8. Roundtable of New Information**

*Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association* - Anita shared that TOTA started an accreditation process, Biosphere (international accreditation for sustainability) (look at [TOTA website](#)) - impact of tourism, doing surveying about actual numbers; stakeholder panel. Could CEA tie into that?

*Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society* - play, clean go signs and brushes put up around CSRD, including Golden. Also on websites, trail maps and guides. Congregation of people using trails together - small stickers to bring people in with different uses; puncture vine and alpine area focus.

Events updates. Want to get to more events next year; Revelstoke is where they are all based; HOW TO CONNECT WITH EVENT ORGANIZERS TO SPREAD THE WORD. Can provide information, one to one outreach, and wash stations. Add email....ACTION for all WG members - share upcoming events. Groups can also share jpgs on their websites.

*Shuswap Trail Alliance* - working with partners in Patagonia again this year. Canada 150 Award going to Connie Krauss-Howley, she initiated many trails around Larch Hills area in the 1980s.

*Interior Health Authority* - Anita was the successful candidate for a specialist position, on 3 provincial committees. One is healthy built environment alliance; Shuswap Trails Roundtable asked to present to this alliance in December. Golden strategy on Trails underway.

**Future meeting dates** (confirm about 3 weeks before whether there is a better date):

- No dates set for after Shuswap Trails Roundtable, Wed Nov 29
- General rule for working group meetings is third Friday of January, April, June, October

**Future agenda items:**

- Jeremy Ayotte - environmental screening tool
- Provincial jurisdiction issues - who does what; RSTBC; Lands officers; other; benefits of partnership agreements with RSTBC

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Implement the <a href="#">work plan for 2017</a> ; priority focus on the following priority planning areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mt Ida/Haines Creek</li> <li>Glenemma</li> <li>Owlhead/Cummings Lake</li> <li>Joss Pass-Mtn/East Shuswap</li> </ul>	Working Group	Ongoing
<b>Joss Pass-Mtn/East Shuswap Access Management Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to arrange a date for follow-up meeting on broader access management plan; Splatsin to host</li> </ul>	Phil, Splatsin, Andrew Walker, Craig McLean	Before Christmas
Develop and implement a <b>fundraising strategy</b> , options include Rural Dividend, Shuswap Community Foundation, Real Estate Foundation of BC, and leaning on WG members	Phil, others	Ongoing
<b>Cumulative Effects Subcommittee</b> to hear feedback and direction from Secwepemc leadership	Phil, Barry Wilson, Dave Nordquist, Bonnie, Joni, Marshall, Greg, David, Gord, Brian	Ongoing
<b>Trails Signage and Standards Subcommittee</b> to coordinate signage, discuss new provincial standards, updates and education material, and work with direction from Sexqéltkemoc Lakes Division on protocol on what can and can't be shared.	Greg, Bonnie, Robyn Hooper, Phil, Brad, Aaron, Avis, Daniel Joe	Ongoing
Pass a band council resolution to <b>sign the LOU</b> - Splatsin; then sign the original (Phil has it)	Ray Cormier, Stuart Lee	Ongoing
Other 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
Advance <b>communications needs and opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular ongoing communication with Roundtable</li> <li>Pursue support from orgn'l communications officers</li> <li>Promote authorized trails in maps and apps</li> </ul>	Phil, Mike, entire Working Group	Ongoing
<b>Shuswap Trails Roundtable</b> preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration to be opened</li> <li>Maps to be created (see details above)</li> <li>Strategy to be updated</li> <li>Agenda to be finalized - minister invites?</li> <li>Costs to be shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>possible grant in aid from Chase for hall and/or catering</li> <li>possible printing strategy updates from IHA</li> <li>possibly ask people for \$10 for lunch donation</li> <li>IHA will explore up to \$1000 grant for catering</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Erin, Mike (FBC) Suzanne, Avis Phil, Mike Phil, Mike  Joni, David  Anita Mike  Anita	Before roundtable meeting on Nov 29