

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Draft Meeting Summary as at February 16, 2017

Meeting date: January 31, 2017 10:15AM to 3:00PM

Location: CSRD boardroom, 555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

Present:

Marcia Bennett, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) (part of MFLNRO*)
Robyn Cyr, Shuswap Tourism (part of Columbia Shuswap Regional District)
Danielle Dornik, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) (part of MFLNRO)
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority
Dianne Francois, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Rennie Heare, Sicamous Quad Club
Chris Larson, City of Salmon Arm
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ian McLellan, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) (part of MFLNRO)
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Mike Overend, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA)
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Bonnie Thomas, Switzmalph Cultural Society (to 12:00PM)
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith
Brad Vickerson, Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts (SORES)
**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations*

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Louis acknowledged Secwepemc territory and gave a prayer, and introductions were made around the room. The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) was acknowledged for hosting the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was confirmed as being met.

2. October 24, 2016 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from October 24 was approved. Action items not on today's agenda were reviewed; many associated with the Roundtable meeting are complete; some are incomplete; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version.

Brief update on some actions from October 24, 2016:

- Tolko, Canoe Forest Products and BCTS have forest stewardship plans that expire in 2017
- Scatchard Mountain - Neskonlith has given support letter; previously had from ALIB
- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society is engaged in Glenemma planning

3. Shuswap Trails Roundtable Debrief

The following were comments about the Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting, November 30, 2016:

- Good meeting, good opportunity for diverse groups of people to engage from trails groups to decision makers across orders of government; good networking

- Some concern expressed that some of the players change, loss of continuity year-to-year; others noted there were some new people out
- Suggestion to consider the Roundtable meeting twice per year to avoid losing people
- Suggestion to clarify Roundtable members' roles; communicate with them throughout the year with updates
- One particular individual made uninformed, inappropriate comments about motorized recreation; however it was isolated, and it was noted that no one "took the bait"
- Passion, involvement and ideas were good
- CEA concept was good, advances Secwepemc title and rights, but unsure if it can be implemented; the budget was negative; felt a little like a sales pitch
- Everyone showed up. People who normally don't talk to each other did. Subregional tables produced informative suggestions; it's in the work plan. The one individual's comments - no one took the bait; different than 10 years ago, the room would have erupted in anger.
- Working Group is more important group than the roundtable; need to demonstrate success
- Bringing people together to work together at all levels is the important take-away

Suggestions to consider for the 2017 Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting:

- Maintain a component for sub-regional, small group discussions
- End on a positive note; highlight success stories with pictures and videos

4. 2017 Work Plan

Phil distributed paper copies of the work plan, which was emailed in advance of the meeting. This is the work plan that was presented at the Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting, but updated with the sub-regional content provided from the morning session on November 30, 2016.

Clarifications or edits to the work plan were as follows: add Farrell's Field; Mt. Ida needs to move ahead sooner, as Brad advised that with changes to motorized recreation in Alberta, there will be increasing pressure for dirt bikers to come to BC;

Ian noted that recreation officers have an obligation to consult outside of this "pre-authorization" process of collaboration. Other participants confirmed that this was their understanding and how the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy was written and endorsed by a larger group. It was suggested that partnership agreements should be used for management of specific trails; yet it was agreed that much of what is in the work plan are concepts for trails, for which partnership agreements cannot be prepared. For sure, talk to the RSTBC officer before any signage goes up. In the end, it was agreed that the communication process is evolving, and Mike Simpson reminded people that even though the Working Group meets quarterly, that there is a contact list and people should call, email and meet in between meetings.

Suggested edits to the 2017 work plan were as follows:

- Mt. Ida update: Bonnie suggests technical people from each community first; what the issues are; then move to political level. Bonnie can help coordinate.
- Add Farrell's Field to North Shuswap sub-region

Suggestions to improve the communication process were as follows:

- Create a high level wish list - brief one-paragraph email about each initiative
- Strike a subcommittee with RSTBC to review trails proposals? Or improve the overall structure and mechanisms?

The budget associated with the 2017 work plan was reviewed; it was updated with actual numbers for 2016 (FBC costs from January 2016 were missing due to a differing fiscal year end than Shuswap Trail Alliance). It was confirmed that there is \$9900 in CSRD reserve funds. It was agreed that a fundraising strategy needs to be developed and implemented.

See document named *Regional Trail Strategy Work Plan 2017 DRAFT WORKING.docx* circulated with this meeting summary (to be posted online soon).

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 02 07 Trails for Review UPDATE (Shuswap Trails).docx* circulated with this meeting summary).

Phil asked if there were any specific initiatives people wanted to discuss, or if there was anything missing, or events requiring permits to add; the following was raised:

- Missing Malakwa parks trail
- Mt Ida - need to move up and get parties together sooner than later
- Brad - event coming up on May 14, part of SORES but run as Shuswap Dirtriders from around Pacific Northwest. On SW side of Mt. Ida; in Marcy's area. Status - scheduled. No permit yet; Ian advises to get a permit before you advertise dates and take money.
 - Process: If it overlaps RSTBC authorized trails, Marcy gets it. Starts with Front Counter BC and is a Lands file. Referral would go to Secwepemc first nations; Diane suggests Splatsin too. Inform Nesa7 at Neskonlith as well.
- Marcy - she initiated referral for Gorge Backcountry Ski Area, FRPA s.57 application; it's in the queue for Frontcounter BC for referral. It was noted the application is more basic than what's in this update which includes the Anstey Highland Traverse; but it can be added on. Phil suggests to include some background. Need a more detailed description; STA can provide.
- Anita - south Canoe trails systems; winter use increasing. Lots of wildlife use.
- Chris - South Canoe system - master trails plan submitted to City of Salmon Arm greenways liaison committee.
- Robyn - Sicamous to Salmon Arm trail run event on Larch Hills traverse; 150 people expected in September 2017. See update for more info. (suggestion - send to Lands first, not RSTBC)
- Active Transportation Initiative - part of Shuswap Healthy Communities Coalition. Find connections from urban areas: work, school, shopping focus. Phil: some things in the update are related to active transportation. Rural dividend or gas tax funds can be used. Follow up with BC Parks, LSLIB, ALIB and others. David: Squilax trail brought up with Adams Lake Salmon Society meeting; vision is to have a trail from Quaaout Lodge to the salmon viewing sites on Adams River; connected to tourism opportunities.
- David - Adams River Pictograph group meeting on Friday.
- Chris - 10 of 13 items in Salmon Arm Bay sub-regional planning area are all within City of Salmon Arm; all have conceptual approval through committees; 5 of 10 approved by Greenways Liaison Committee.
- Eagle Pass Mountain fire lookout - still under investigation by C&E. RSTBC will seek input for community support and let this Working Group know when they want input.

5. Cumulative Effects Assessment Subcommittee Update

The debrief about cumulative effects assessment (CEA) from the Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting was that the concept was good; it advances Secwepemc title and rights; we are unsure if it can be

implemented; and the high cost and budget was negative. Given that, Mike Simpson asked, where do we go from here?

It was noted that the CEA subcommittee has not met again since before the Shuswap Trails Roundtable. LSLIB is developing memorandum of understanding with Adams Lake Indian Band to get involved in CEA work. Suggestions were made to maintain this Working Group, see more successes before championing CEA further. Outstanding questions about maintenance of the CEA tool exist (who, costs). There was also discussion about cumulative effects *software* vs. cumulative effects *thinking* and *decision making*. Procurement concerns were noted given the size of the expenditure, and whether there is only one service provider to offer this service.

Actions associated with CEA:

- Agreed to “advance the concept, seek partners” but not at the expense of continuing the Working Group
- Reconvene the CEA subcommittee to debrief further; connect back with Dave Nordquist
- Mike to seek presentation to Shuswap Watershed Council
- Present CEA concept in conjunction with all Shuswap Trails Roundtable work at Together Shuswap on Feb 15, 2017
- Invite those using CEA software, or those who could benefit from it, to future Working Group meetings to explore the concept further (i.e., Ray Cormier, forest industry, BC Timber Sales)

6. Trails Signage and Standards Subcommittee Update

Bonnie brought some examples of signs with educational content about important cultural plants, noting that scientific names need to be added. There are a number of trails signage actions outstanding from the October 24, 2016 meeting; see the list of actions at the end of this summary.

8. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Diane and Louis taught the following words:

- *Tmicw* - land. Phonetic pronunciation “ta-MUUKH.”
- *Yecwemenstut* - things you already should know (i.e., customs or traditions; taking care of visitors). Phonetic pronunciation “YOU come min - joo”

9. Communication Opportunities

The following communications opportunities and ongoing issues were discussed:

- **Trails users coming from out of province** - Brad noted that motorized changes in Alberta are underway; there will be more pressure for people to come to BC, in particular Hwy 1 south to US border. Brad going to meeting Blairmore on Feb 7. Challenge is how we can respond to these changes:
 - Education - especially those from outside BC
 - Getting dirt bike trails authorized
 - Signage on trails, standard message at user group trailheads - standardized kiosks
- **Maps and smartphone apps** - Common message should be to all app hosts or Backroads mapbooks publishers - only promote authorized trails
 - The challenge is having unauthorized trails taken off of these publications
 - BCORMA BC Offroad Motorcycle Association has real time info through app - can provide updates of trails closed for weather, contacts for local clubs, awareness of logging activity, etc.

- Trailforks - app for mountain bike world - RSTBC has a relationship with them; they can ask them to take off unauthorized trails
- Shuswap Tourism has just launched an on-road motorcycle tourism app; promotion of their website (apps are too expensive). Master database (authorized only) being compiled; once in place, Shuswap Tourism could consider developing an app for authorized trails.
- Use promotional material through TOTA, Shuswap Tourism, Shuswap Events
- RSTBC has all authorized trails on their website.
- **Enforcement** - while not the role of this Working Group, it is a concern as lack of enforcement causes environmental damage; the role of this Working Group is to communicate, educate and therefore encourage compliance
 - The BC Wildlife Federation recently launched an app to take geo-referenced, time-stamped photos or videos and to report issues related to illegal use, or abuse, of our natural resources. See <http://bcwf.net/index.php/bcwf-app>
- **Communications with Shuswap Trails Roundtable membership**
 - As suggested in the Shuswap Trails Roundtable debrief above, this is needed
- **Use communications officers** from different partners (e.g possibly Interior Health Authority or other partner agencies) to help with strategies, messaging - could be an in-kind contribution

10. Roundtable of New Information

- Together Shuswap, Feb 15, Splatsin Community Centre - Phil will have info on Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy, cumulative effects assessment, and other
- Rennie - given some trail mapping; need to confirm whether he can pass it out or not, Owlhead area; old FSRs that are deactivated?
- RSTBC knowledge here at this meeting is limited...benefits of partnership agreements
- Louis - Harper Lake
- Veda was employed at Shuswap Trail Alliance; will work for CSRD Parks as of Feb 14
- Shuswap Trail Alliance has a Patagonia partnership - Sutra is there for 2 months
- TOTA - Greg Hopf can consolidate information across the region; Canada 150 funding to coordinate events and promote through TOTA
- Feb 9, 1PM - Greg Hopf from TOTA coming to Shuswap Tourism Advisory Cttee meeting, at Shuswap Market upstairs
- Shuswap Trail Alliance fundraiser was Friday February 3, 2017

10. Next Steps

The most urgent trails initiatives to convene parties, set dates, and make happen are:

- Glenemma (also needs mapping)
- Mt. Ida - Haines Creek - dirt bikers are coming. Bonnie suggests technical people from each community first; what the issues are; then move to political level. Bonnie can help coordinate
- Owlshead/Cummings - RSTBC and BC Parks has funds or in-kind support.
- Joss Pass - collaborative with Revelstoke bike club, Splatsin. Also calls from Kamloops mountain bike club. Engage with District of Sicamous, Splatsin and others.

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

- April 21, 2017 meeting - Sicamous
- June 16, 2017 - location TBD
- October 20, 2017 - location TBD

April 21, 2017 draft agenda:

- To review and provide input (not decisions) to trails authorization requests from local, first nations, provincial governments
- Secwepemc learning opportunity, new word
- Information sharing, communication and relationship building
- Updates from standing committees - Trails Signage; Cumulative Effects

Future agenda items:

- Jeremy Ayotte - environmental screening tool
- Provincial jurisdiction issues - who does what; RSTBC; Lands officers; other; benefits of partnership agreements with RSTBC
- CEA wins, and possible partners - Ray Cormier, forest industry, BCTS
- Communications opportunities - new

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Implement the work plan for 2017. Develop and implement a fundraising strategy.	Working Group	Ongoing
Develop refined work plan prioritization, communication	Phil, Mike	Future meetings
Cumulative Effects Subcommittee to meet, debrief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reconvene the CEA subcommittee to debrief further; connect back with Dave Nordquist ▪ Invite those using CEA software, or those who could benefit from it, to future Working Group meetings to explore the concept further (i.e., Ray Cormier, forest industry, BC Timber Sales) Related, Mike to pursue CEA with Shuswap Watershed Council	Phil, Barry Wilson, Dave Nordquist, Bonnie, Joni, Marshall, Greg, David, Gord, Brian	Meet Oct 28; prepare to present Nov 30 Roundtable
Address trail signage and Secwepemc content at next Sexqéltkemoc Lakes Division meeting . Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ principles for using Secwepemc names on signs; sensitivity ▪ what information can be shared - digitized information, hard copy maps 	Mike Simpson	Early March
Trails Signage and Standards Subcommittee to coordinate signage, discuss new provincial standards, updates and education material, and work with direction from Sexqéltkemoc Lakes Division for new and existing signs, explore existing material (Avis), and coordinate specific signs across different groups/locations.	Greg	ASAP - was to be completed by October
Trails Signage and Standards Subcommittee to coordinate signage, discuss new provincial standards, updates and education material, and work with direction from Sexqéltkemoc Lakes Division for new and existing signs, explore existing material (Avis), and coordinate specific signs across different groups/locations.	Greg, Bonnie, Robyn Hooper, Phil, Brad, Aaron, Avis, Daniel Joe	Ongoing - ideally before April 21
Pass a band council resolution to sign the LOU - Splatsin; then sign the original (Phil has it)	Ray Cormier, Stuart Lee	Ongoing
Other 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
Report back to Larch Hills Nordic Society 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 Working Group; submission.	Phil to report to Duncan Moore, Phil Wallenstein	ASAP
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)	Ongoing
Invite CSISS to participate in Glenemma planning to address invasive species priority site going forward	STA/CSRD (Phil McP)	When initiated
Advance communications needs and opportunities : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular ongoing communication with Roundtable ▪ Pursue support from organizational communications officers ▪ Promote authorized trails in maps and apps 	Phil, Mike, entire WG	Ongoing
Adams Lake/Neskonlith/Splatsin technical people to consider next steps for coordinating efforts at Mt Ida	Bonnie	Before April 21
Sub-regional initiatives to convene and/or continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mt. Ida/Haines Creek ▪ Glenemma ▪ Owlshead/Cummings Lake ▪ Joss Pass 	Multiple parties	In February