

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group Meeting Summary as at April 24, 2020 (with document links)

Meeting date: April 17, 2020 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: Zoom web conference

Present:

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Gord Bushell, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club, District of Sicamous
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Libby Jay Chisolm, graduate student working with Secwepemc Nation
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Danielle Dornik, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD*)
Kayla Gunner, Splatsin
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics
Kim Kaiser, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Kelsey Knoll, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD*)
Chris Lynd, Solstice Adventures
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ian McLellan, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD*)
Curtis Munroe, Hunters Range Snowmobile Association
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Brodie Rundel, BC Parks
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Clint Smith, Larch Hills Nordics
Chris Stromgren, School District 83
Tess Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band

**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 in addition to checking in on how everyone is doing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was met.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Tess taught us the Secwepemc word for “stay away” which is appropriate during this pandemic.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The [meeting summary from January 31, 2020](#) meeting 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

Kela7scen (Mt Ida)

- Ian - heard nothing recently about the s.57 application from Shuswap Dirt Riders. Went out to First Nations from Shuswap Dirt Riders.
- Phil - have FNs received anything? Kayla noted Loretta receives referrals. Tess hasn't seen anything; Celia Nord no longer at LSLIB on referrals. Shelley and ALIB hasn't seen it either.
- Louis Thomas is continuing conversation with ALIB to talk with MFLNRORD about funding to do a comprehensive management plan
- Background Documents: [Kela7scen \(Mt Ida\) North Slopes Planning Report](#) (Mar 12, 2019)
- Update: April 20/2020: Dan Ginn (Shuswap Dirt Riders Association) followed up with Phil McP and forwarded a copy of their [Section 57 Mt Ida Motorcycle Trails Application](#) and [KMZ map file](#) sent in to FrontCounter BC for review (as per Working Group discussion noted above.) Dan has also forwarded this to the four Secwepemc Band referral offices for their review.

Skimikin - Chris Lynd, Dave, Sue

- Sue noted that backcountry horsemen of BC (Shuswap chapter) signed a partnership agreement with RSTBC for 4 years, and 3 grants applied for (Backcountry prov, horse council, and ORV)
- Linda had no response yet about the 2 equestrian applications (less money applied for; was for putting in signs)
- Chris - No word about ORV grant yet (almost \$20 000). Ian says delayed. Funds from licensing of vehicles, goes for trail support and maintenance. Fund was \$200 000, with 75% to trail maintenance and construction, and 25% promotion of safe responsible use. Application based on that ratio. Needs both at Skimikin. Promotion side was kiosks with signage, best practices, multiple use, etc.
- Chris - Won't tap into ATVBC fund for this one.
- Subcommittee exists for that trail network, looking for agreement on which parts of trails need maintenance. No new trail construction identified in the application, but there have been some options identified.
- ATVBC offered Dave 20 free signs and he took them, authorized by RSTBC - 2ft x 2ft. Say "motorized allowed" - he should confirm with DD before any are put up.
- Danielle noted they are still waiting for funding to be confirmed on their end, but she has set aside budget for Skimikin trails this year. A lot will probably be for AIA work and overview and digging signposts.
- Keith will be going to site next week about putting some native plants in the campground.
- Background Documents: [Skimikin Rec Site and Trails Annual Operating Plan 2020](#)

Scatchard Mtn

- Jen had update from David Lepsoe - they have put together \$7500 for plan for Chase Creek Canyon and whole hillside (Scatchard too); Lions, Rotary, Village and a bit of STA Rural Dividend funds.
- Secwepemc name for trailhead provided by elders
- MOTI highways expansion project will impact this area, need good connections
- Background Document: [Scatchard Road Trail System Plan Proposal](#) (Nov. 4, 2019)

Larch Hills lighting project

- Craig noted that original proposal to do 6km in central area, underground wiring, light standards every 40-50m. 4 different phases; s.57 into FCBC for a while. EIS started. Looking at arch and cultural plant study initiated with Splatsin this summer

- Fundraising ongoing - good start with Kraft Heinz, and local businesses (13 requests) but likely impacted by COVID-19. Up to \$90 000, hoping to have \$150 000 to start phase 1, total cost will be over \$500 000.
- S.57 application, in contact with Danielle. Danielle noted nothing new yet, but she will follow up with FCBC on this.
- Lots of uncertainties due to COVID-19 with respect to funding, contractor availability.
- Background Documents: [Larch Hills Nordic Trail Lighting Proposal](#) and [Map](#) (May 2019)

Blue Lake Connector

- Will also be part of this afternoon's discussion
- Background Documents: [Owlhead/Cummings/Blue Lake/Hunters Agenda](#) (with links) and [Cummings Lake OHV Connector Reroute](#) (Owlhead to Blue Lake) and [map](#)

Cache Cabin

- Gord noted only thing left to do is doors, windows
- Lost log builder, engaged another builder
- Wood ready to go for windows, may try to do next week, then clean up in spring.
- Has new front deck, floor, upright posts, etc.
- Phil comment - good initiative and glad to see it proceeded.
- Old wood barrel stove - put it back in? still a hole in ceiling for chimney, or there is an old historic pot belly stove from Owlhead cabin (2 x 3 ft) - discuss this afternoon (concern is where is wood coming from, don't want nearby forests damaged)
- Background Documents: [Owlhead Cache Cabin Restoration](#) (2019) - [Photos](#)

Secwepemc Landmarks

- Libby gave an update - planned on doing trailhead workshops with SD83, now delayed to fall.
- Sutra got donations of 100 cedar trailhead posts from Stella Jones
- City of Salmon Arm Council and staff have approved trailhead locations and story boards;
- BC Heritage Awareness grant being developed
- Lots delayed to the fall due to COVID-19
- Seeking trailheads for Secwepemc designed trailhead posts - Sutra is reaching out to some groups, and expressions of interest also sought
- Larch Hills Nordics - info package from Sutra, and LHN provided letter of support
- Storyboard up on LHN summit is an option, or a more visible lookout
- Background Documents: [Secwepemc Landmarks and Trailhead Post Project](#) (July 29, 2018), and [Trailhead Post Location Proposal Brief](#) (March 12, 2020)

Glenemma

- Ryan - updated draft concept plan, it went to Ian for input, made those edits, and RSTBC applications will move to Danielle from Ian. Need a meeting with Phil, Ian, Danielle, and Ryan to transition over - April 20. Then formally submit it.
- RSTBC area boundaries are shifting - more of North Okanagan to Danielle, less to Ian
- Background Documents: [Glenemma Rec Site and Trail Plan](#) (Jan. 31, 2020)

Gorge Backcountry Ski area - part of East Shuswap; do we proceed; will Zoom work for this discussion (Eagle Pass, Joss Pass, etc.)

- Where are we at with an application for Gorge backcountry ski area? What are the key questions? How do we move forward?

- Gorge - question is what documents need to be included? Concept notes (Adrian) with trailhead and possible hut site; using LRMP designation as non-motorized area; snowmobile club operates here as a result of caribou closures so need to make it motorized too.
- LRMP designation is recommended but not legal (Phil's interpretation)
- Gord - if we talk next Wednesday, don't bog down today
- Danielle - what Phil said is correct. Application has gone through for referrals, so a lot of the issues and concerns are identified. Need to discuss how to incorporate the motorized part.
- Yes, include Gorge as part of the bigger East Shuswap discussion.
- Background Documents: [Recreation Site Concept Discussion Notes](#) (December 17, 2019), [Sled Sicamous Reply](#) (January 30, 2020), [Gorge Non-Motorized Recreation Site Concept Report](#) (March 02, 2020)

East Shuswap Alpine Planning Discussion

- Phil - [draft agenda](#) developed for April 22 meeting; likely postponed but agenda initiated, with embedded links. Jen is following up to coordinating alternate date.
- To include Joss-Tsuius-Mabel alpine area; Eagle Pass; and Gorge Ski Area
- Proceed with Wed April 22? 70 people/organizations for Joss-Tsuius-Mabel, plus more for Gorge - could be 100 people. Might be too short of notice for folks. Likely bump a few weeks into the future. Gord says there's a caribou conference call on Wed April 22...and he has council meeting. Agreed to delay to give more notice - late April or early May.
- STA noted some funding for historic trails for Eagle Pass, Joss, and Owlhead this season, and grant from Shuswap Community Foundation
- Background Documents: [draft agenda](#) and [East Shuswap Alpine Recreational Access Management Plan Update Report](#) (Jan 2019)

New trails in South Canoe and Rubberhead Areas

- Danielle - Adrian submitted some shorter lines within the South Canoe and Rubberhead trails; application received, it's been sent out for referrals to FNs and other stakeholders
- Bike club overseeing Rubberhead wanting to add a few connectors.
- Both systems - the boundary area - given a higher level of review and scrutiny by RSTBC
- Phil will send this to me to distribute to WG (Dropbox links)
- Question - Larch Hills traverse - how are things coming along? Phil - final piece getting thumbs up from City and City had some feedback from East Canoe residents to capture. City agreed plan was OK (connecting City to provincial/Secwepemc land). Need money to build.
- Fir beetle removal is underway in these areas
- Background Documents: [Rubberhead 2020 Maintenance & New Works Plan](#) (Mar. 12, 2020), and [South Canoe Annual Operating Plan 2020](#), [New Coffey Time Trail Plan](#) (Nov. 21, 2019), [New Sweet Tears Trail Plan](#) (Nov. 21, 2019)

Rail Trail

- Phil noted that planning is continuing (technical, subconsultants, it is proceeding)
- Funding is secured for planning and it's continuing with Splatsin, CSRD and RDNO.
- Equestrian leadership Linda, Sue and Shirley Bates - general direction of CSRD and RDNO is to match lead of Okanagan Rail Trail, of no equestrian use. Shared the rationale for that. Agricultural property owners adjacent would like to use the trail...could it be looked at? Suggestion back to technical committee was if the equestrian policy has to go to the governance body or not. If possible, monitor use, consider a section (e.g., north of Grindrod) to look at use and allow some equestrian use. They agreed to that general direction, but for now the policy would be walking and cycling only.
- Notes packaged up for the Technical Committee - can they be shared with this WG? Yes

- Grant application to federal government was not approved. Continue with grant funding to do the technical work. Look for future grants. Could be “infrastructure grants” post-COVID-19 to stimulate the economy. This is shelf ready.
- Question - invasive plant treatments and delays? Ryan - statutory R/W agreement that allows the work to continue, but want Splat sin’s approval. July is ideal. Phil added that he has talked invasive plants with Kayla and Loretta at Splat sin (capacity issues)
- Comment that Slocan River rail trail has figured out how to do EQ, cycle and walking. This was all part of the background considered; agreed to be consistent with Okanagan.
- Background Document: [Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail Trail EQ Policy Discussion Paper & Recommendation](#) (April 20, 2020)

Salmon River Parallel Trail / Silver Creek Trail preparation and completion

- Clint sees lots of use on that trail. Ryan advised that it’s pretty much complete and officially opened; closed one day next week where contractor has to repair some deficiencies in the asphalt, and then another closure in next few weeks with stencilling.

City of Salmon Arm update (via email from Chris Larson)

- City of Salmon Arm is continuing to work on local trail initiatives, implementing our Greenways Strategy through the Greenways Liaison Committee. In 2019, 7,894 metres of new trails were created in Salmon Arm, mostly associated with the South Canoe network. Plans for 2020 include more South Canoe Trails, new trails near Hillcrest Elementary School, and trail development in the area of our new Cemetery.

Other

- Phil - Sutra and Jen approached the SD83 about trails connectors that connect with schools, and they agreed with those.
- Chris Stromgren (SD83) - Mountain bike academy being initiated

5. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

- Main contact for Secwpe mec Plant Cards at Neskonlith Education Centre is Georgia Jules, email her at educationassistant@neskonlithec.net
- Kim CSISS - invasive plant and management ID workshops are usually in May, postponed to summer and will hope to do in person, if not online.
- Robyn - if anyone wants any outreach presentations, [CSISS](#) can do it by Zoom to their groups. Also still possibility to get trailhead signs, boot brushes, etc. Field programs (terrestrial) are

still moving forward so you will see people out doing surveys. Use the app to report. Aquatic program has \$ from SWC for zebra quagga mussels and waiting to hear for HCTF funds.

- Ian - for any events on a Rec trail, get in touch with District Rec Officer due to COVID situation, have to assess plans for physical distancing.
- Phil - there's been a connective dialogue with RSTBC, regional parks, STA etc. in relation to BC Parks closure and trying to match language and direction of different groups. [Outdoor Rec Council](#) is sending messaging (Erin to distribute to entire STR)
- Chris Lynd - Solstice Adventures as a commercial operation; finds involvement in this group rewarding for input. Solstice Adventures will no longer be a commercial venture, he'd like to continue here and work together. Appreciation noted by many.
- Craig - dog walking on foreshore trail and stepping off trail and trying to avoid disruption to vegetation; mountain bikers coming up quickly on pedestrians
- Phil - many events closed - Salty Dog (spring), and fall Lewiston Ultra - both postponed to 2021, and Spring Century Ride is delayed. Most major events are postponed; any events have to follow up with land managers issuing the permit with COVID-19 restrictions.
- Phil - all spring volunteer days are postponed. Looking for people to help in other ways. Individuals helping is key, not groups.
- Little Shuswap Lake Band has fire restrictions in place; this is province wide for category 2 and 3 fires due to the COVID-19 pandemic

6. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates and locations:

- Friday June 19 - Village of Chase will host at Creekside Seniors Centre, and coordinate with grand opening of Rocky Road Trail at Scatchard Mountain
 - Make a decision by early June.
 - Alternate is a Zoom meeting again for the same date
 - If it's a zoom meeting in June, perhaps postpone the Chase meeting and Rocky Road to October
- Friday October 16 (TBD)

Future Annual Roundtable Meeting - November 2020

- Possibly Wed Nov 25
- It was also suggested to have it on a Friday
- Watch for conflict with District of Sicamous council meeting or other conflicts
- Discuss location at June meeting

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 Four Year Funding Proposal : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with RDNO board, Salmon Arm City Council 	Someone other than Phil	ASAP
Chase Active Transportation - ALIB and Chase councils to meet, identify shared interests and seek infrastructure to connect trails	Joni, Fred, Shelley	ASAP
Start hut to hut opportunities , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range.	Louis, others	Ongoing
Shuswap Dirt Riders s.57 application for Kela7scen (Mt Ida) - circulate directly to Secwepemc First Nations (all 4), CSRD	Garfield	October 2019 action
Develop a proposal for modernized land use planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a proposal that the Secwepemc Lakes Division of Qwelminte 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 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 	Shelley, Tess, Louis, Loretta Eustache, Phil, Jen	Before June 19 meeting
It was suggested that trail stewards submit expressions of interest to have these Secwepemc designed trailhead signs installed at trailheads they steward. Submit interest to Libby Jay Chisolm libbyjayc@gmail.com and Secwepemc will adjudicate which ones will get a designed trailhead sign	Trail stewards	ASAP
Work with Shuswap Tourism to publish and advertise authorized trails	Shuswap Tourism	Ongoing
Standing Action Items		
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	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 trailreport@shuswaptrails.com	Everyone	Ongoing
Share updated Working Group contact list with all participants	Mike	Ongoing
Seek support letters for funding applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Upload approved Working Group meeting summaries to website	Jen	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do cumulative effects assessment on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing
Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards - order from Georgia Jules at Neskonlith Education Centre by email educationassistant@neskonlithec.net	Everyone	Ongoing
Download the Secwepemc language app for your smart phone	Everyone	Ongoing