

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as at June 22, 2020

Meeting date: June 19, 2020 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: Zoom web conference

Present:

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Marcia Bennett, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD*)
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen, Shuswap Chapter
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Robyn Cyr, consultant working on Secwepemc Lakes Tourism
Pat Danforth, Shuswap Naturalists
Holly Drinkle, North Shuswap resident
Theresa Durning, Mel Arnold MP's office
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority
Dianne Francois, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band (portion of meeting)
Kayla Gunner, Splatsin
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics
Chris Lynd, Solstice Adventures
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (to 10:00AM)
Mary Scheidigger, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Deb Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Chris Stromgren, School District 83 and Shuswap Dirt Riders (to 10:00AM)
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith (to 10:00AM)
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (from 10:30AM)
**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. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was met. Many regrets were noted, and a few people noted they had to leave early.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Louis and Ryan taught us the following words (phonetic pronunciation in quotes):

- “Sol-squah” means bridge over water - spelled solsqu (sol means bridge, qua is water)
- Valley is “celcel” - name of the whole Salmon River valley
- Qua is water - Malakwa means something to do with water
- “To-KAL-ko” - to call

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from April 17, 2020 was approved, with the note to fix the broken s.57 application link for Mt Ida. 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

Skimikin

- Linda reported that there was a face to face meeting on June 12 in the rain in the parking lot with 14 people.
- As at June 17, 21 trailposts have been GPS'd, with signage planning and trail maintenance underway
- Trail Committee is identifying priorities for maintenance.
- Linda needs Chris' input on signage and trail difficulty ratings for specific trails
- Funding has been confirmed as follows (not all publically announced yet):
 - Backcountry Horsemen have received \$6500 for signpost project
 - ORV grant is providing \$4592 for promotion of safe responsible riding in trailhead and campground, insurance, sharing trails, safe procedures and picnic table, and \$13 383 for maintenance for this project or could be for new trails.
 - RSTBC has capital budget funding of \$25 000 largely for archaeological and cultural heritage work, and is seeking more funds for next fiscal year

City of Salmon Arm

- Phil noted that mayor and council approved an active transportation task force (n=16, 4 community at large, 2 specialist senior and mobility) with a deadline of June 30 to apply to be on task force, rest are various governments and stakeholder groups. Focus is to come up with a recommendation by December on how to proceed - scope, funds to access, and provide direction.
- From Chris Larson via email: The City of Salmon Arm is continuing to work on local trail initiatives, implementing our Greenways Strategy. While I have no numbers to share, it is safe to say that the local trail systems have been heavily used this season with the closure of local facilities and other trail networks. Amongst other initiatives which other roundtable members may share, the City has recently advertised for an Active Transportation Task Force to work on guiding the vision of a comprehensive active transportation plan. If anyone has questions or wishes to connect on these or any other initiatives, please let me know.
- Phil noted that City staff have been working with FLNRORD and access to Mt Ida, access for water reservoir, closure on access off Foothills Road.
- Good opportunity to dovetail Play Shuswap (see Information Sharing Roundtable below) with the Active Transportation Task Force (e.g., get the engineers together with the social content).

Kela7scen (Mt Ida) (Chris Stromgren, Louis)

- Chris Stromgren noted that the s.57 application has been submitted to Front Counter BC (FCBC), they the Shuswap Dirt Riders are awaiting a reply
- Louis noted that comprehensive management planning is underway, Neskonlith is meeting with FLNRORD and other bands, hopefully getting somewhere. Meeting today has been a long time coming. Looking to secure funding for management planning, and recreational planning could be part of that.

- STA gets lots of queries about access to east and west peaks, they advise that there is no easy access in a car. Nothing close or easy. Need 4x4 or “many days walk” to reach the peaks. Cemetery FSR on Foothills has been gated off, so it is more challenging to get to west peak now, due to rights of way, legal issues. Is there more damage because people are still going up? Other ways through Silver Creek, Deep Creek, Shaw Road - either huge water bars or washouts. Lots of roads but no good maps.

Glenemma

- CSRD has submitted s.57 to FCBC. Issued purchase orders to Splotsin and Okanagan Indian Band to do cultural heritage assessments. Things are delayed due to COVID. CSRD board approved funding \$230K for project if it receives approval from MFLNRORD.
- There had been an active stakeholder focus group, talk to Phil to get included. They will get together once again if/when approval granted, talk timelines, etc. Ask for copy of management plan, it was made public a while ago. Part of s.57 application. Link in April 17 WG meeting summary to the management plan, it is comprehensive and addresses everything.
- Key is further planning in Kelly Mountain area above the rec site. Need all users on board to make it work (equestrian, bike, range licensees, landowners) - what would be appropriate set of loops on unapproved “social trails” and then authorize it, in conjunction with range licensee.
- It was noted that ideally, in the future, there is motorized use at both Glenemma and Mt Ida, there can be more than one area for different user groups. Each have values and needs to work out.

Loftus Lake Trail System

- CSRD has asked STA to put together a concept plan and proposal for a property that CSRD owns, off Balmoral Rd in Blind Bay. Submitted plan, CSRD reviewing it. Next steps are to review with staff, then seek Electoral Area C director input.

Switzmalph interpretive signs

- They are all installed, thanks to Adrian they are installed at Mt Twam, Balmoral and Malakwa community park. Switzmalph Cultural Society did the original design. Good partnership.

Sunnybrae Park

- Unauthorized social trail that goes up to bluffs, CSRD closed it due to trespass on private property, steep slope, rock slope issues, safety, no signage. Acquiring parkland adjacent to have a safer trail.

Sicamous Creek Falls trail

- Two people killed in 2019, CSRD did an independent risk assessment on the trail system, recently reopened it after STA did the work and recommended reopening. It wasn't a trail issue, it was people leaving the trail that was the issue.

Shuswap Naturalists and Larch Hills Interpretive Trail

- Pat Danforth is with Shuswap Naturalists, she shared info that Clint Smith sent to Larch Hills and BC Parks. The Interpretive trail was developed 40 years ago, it goes through various forest types, 60 interpretive signs and a raised viewing platform and one that floats. It's been unmaintained except for pruning. Trail is non-motorized intended for snowshoe, hiking. Want to renew signs, half are readable, rest are old. Most original wood posts are standing, some have disappeared. Crosses Violet Creek Park in two places. Close to vehicle access,

good for school groups and others. Salmon Arm Naturalists Club wants to update the signs, not change the trails. Looking for support, whose expertise on how to proceed. Figuring out the costing, number of signs, plan a staged approach.

- Adrian - approached BC Parks for parks enhancement fund grant for that; working on this as well. Haven't submitted a plan yet. Could do jointly with STA and Shuswap Naturalists. Deadline is June 26 for parks enhancement fund. Need draft in to Ryan Elphick first.
- Anita suggested to connect with Bonnie Thomas and Libby Jay Chisolm, they've developed signage of plants, Secwepemc cultural perspective, with pictures, 3 names, uses. Want to partner and get signs out. Perhaps work jointly.
- Phil suggested to connect with Libby Jay Chisolm and two initiatives (trailhead, landmarks). Suggests connecting with Kayla from Splatsin, work with them early on. Key is connection to Mara Meadows - there's been a disconnect, as what gets done in Larch Hills connects to Mara Meadows (Jeremy Ayotte is the ecological warden).
- See conservation funding leverage from BC Parks.
- Connect with Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society and funding.

Gorge

- Part of a subcommittee discussion on May 21, 2020. Some email back and forth, but no meeting yet of the smaller group (action identified from May 21 subcommittee meeting)
- Need Gord Bushell and others present to continue this discussion

East Shuswap alpine projects (Phil, Dave, others)

- Subcommittee meetings held on April 17 (Owlhead-Blue-Cummings Lakes, Hunters Range), and May 21 (Joss Mountain area, then Gorge-Eagle Pass Mountain)
- Snowpack is still high, couple more weeks with 3-4 feet of snow still remaining. Need to look at Cache Cabin, then the connector and over to Cummings Lake.
- S.57 application status - there has been discussion with FLNRORD wildlife biologist, and clarification of the mapping showing the connector to where bridge is out and access into Cummings Lake. Marcia suggested leaving those on as part of the s.57 review.
- Marcia acknowledged that the map is more accurate now. Will create the legal maps, and update linework for whole area. Want to have maps updated, clarify what s.57 covers. Mostly intended for connector, but new lines to Cummings Lake as well, part of management plan for the area. Will allow most efficient with the application. Can hopefully move quicker with management plan once this is in place. Marcia will move ahead with this. The work of this group really really helps with the pre-work and this will be noted to FCBC.
- Marcia will have updates as needed as things go ahead.
- Owlhead-Hunters Range - Phil got confirmation that CSRD GIS people can put together the final maps, once the lines are finalized and approved.
- Joss-Tsuius-Mabel - waiting for habitat study to be done, too much snow.

Salmon Arm West Bay connector

- Jen reported (but can't publicize yet) that the City of Salmon Arm was successful in \$100K grant application in the post-COVID funds. Original task force met, technical committee (ALIB, LSLIB, Neskonlith, City) to be set up. City of SA to put out a request for proposals for planning on engineering, environmental work, etc. Tying in with federal Indigenous Services Canada and ALIB funds, and also get Rural Dividend funds. Also an advisory group (STA, CSRD, IHA) and good support from Mel Arnold and Greg Kylo has helped move this forward.

Secwepemc Landmarks Project

- Shelley updated everyone that due to COVID they can't meet with elders, hoping to do an outdoor meeting before the snow flies. Chase monument. Have input for the Salmon Arm monument. Working with elders coordinators from ALIB and LSLIB, and Neskonlith councillor. Libby has produced a 2 page survey, with pictures of previous monuments, what is proposed. Then it can get going.
- Trailhead post portion - Sutra has sent out referral letters to all appropriate sites and entities. Review needs to take place first. STA switches out the trailhead posts for the ones designed, hopefully by fall, if not in spring 2021. Moving forward with bands, entities. If you have received a letter, please respond.
- Marcia and RSTBC need to provide input if some of these trailheads are on RSTBC trails.
- City of Salmon Arm approved a bunch in their jurisdiction.
- **Key action** - please respond with your approval. Sutra and Libby should also follow up.
- Libby looking to apply for a grant for Secwepemc signage for Skimikin. Would like to get elders out at Skimikin. Linda and others talked about getting elders out. Need funding for honorariums, travel and lunch. Agreed it would be valuable to do a site visit with Shelley and Libby first; then elders out in late August ideally. Being cautious due to COVID.

North Shuswap Pathway

- Deb and Holly noted that the North Shuswap have 10 committed people working on a plan including 3 groups: first is looking at an old greenway plan done in 2009 parallel pathway plan from Squilax over to Scotch Creek, and looking at active trans plans; second group is looking at mapping, whole distance of Squilax-Anglemont road to St Ives, and prioritize segments with cultural and archaeological significance along the trail, 3 pieces look like they will proceed; third group will engage community.
- Phil gives thumbs up. Thanks to Anita too. STA and IHA will support them. Good connections to Secwepemc leadership too (LSLIB, ALIB, Neskonlith).

5. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

Shuswap Dirt Riders

- Postponed annual garbage clean up at Silver Creek, rescheduled for summer, Garfield will invite Secwepemc leadership. Club created a WhatsApp chat group for trail maintenance coordination, and some took RSTBC chainsaw course. Working on updating rider responsibility code, insurance needed on FSRs.

Provincial Trails Strategy

- There will be a Trails Strategy Webinar, hosted by the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC), on June 24th at 4 pm. Join Kathleen Van Ekris, MNP LLP (consultant) and Tennessee Trent, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (co-chair of the Provincial Trails Advisory Body, PTAB) for a free webinar about the provincial strategy review, what we have heard so far, and the next steps. Sign up for the webinar [here](#).

Secwepemc Lakes Tourism Project

- Robyn Cyr took over the position, came out of the strategy done in 2017
- 2 main deliverables - focus is increasing Secwepemc cultural aspect throughout the region, to increase awareness of culture, and working with communities on tourism business support and development
- Facebook page is up, supporting communities with anything for National Indigenous Day June 21, working on website, connecting with various partners throughout region. Support existing

project underway such as Secwepemc landmarks project, showcase self-guided experiences that showcase Secwepemc culture in the region.

- Lots of discussions with various groups about this. Partner and work in collaboration.
- Contact Robyn at 250-833-6008 or rcyr@sltourism.ca with questions, ideas or opportunities

STA website update

- Jen noted that the website is full of lots of info, pictures are dated, looking at updating both websites. Need to access funding. May be looking for assistance.

Mount McPherson

- Keith Cox noted a field trip to Mt. McPherson on August 11 or 13. Access from the power line from 3 Valley Victor Road. Contact Keith for more details kncox@shaw.ca

Play Shuswap -

- A physical literacy initiative, Jen and Anita are part of this. Some people need confidence, ability and motivation to use trails, and this helps with that.

Reallocation of Roadway Space for Physical Distancing

- New Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure [Resource](#)
- This is about how to immediately (short term), temporarily (interim) and then permanently change which transportation mode uses different parts of the road as a way to adapt in this new COVID era.
- One opportunity opening up from COVID is people's interest and shift toward walking and cycling for getting around.

Community Connectedness Grants (formerly Social Connectedness Grants)

- Up to \$5,000 each plus in-kind supports are available for up to 15 local governments working with health authorities and other partners to better understand priority areas and local needs and to take action to improve connection in their community or region, even during public health emergencies calling for folks to be physically apart.
- The application window closes July 15, 2020.
- This grant is about increasing social connections between community members... however, that can be done while accomplishing things needed in the community, such as trail planning, constructing and/or maintaining. <https://planh.ca/training-support/funding>

6. Annual Roundtable Meeting

Those in the know advised that limits on mass gatherings are likely not to be lifted by November, therefore it was agreed that we should plan for one of the following scenarios:

- Fully online/virtual annual meeting. Consider webinar format, not Zoom. Consider either breakout groups in Zoom (participants would need to identify sub-regional area for breakout discussion in advance), or multiple Zoom links for participants to float around
- Partially online, with option for subregional gatherings in person, with a local host to organize, convene and enable the sub-regional breakout discussions

In either case, the following was also suggested for content, timing and duration:

- Keep it short - maximum 3 hours/half day
- Have a keynote presentation by Sunny LeBourdais, Qwelminté Secwépemc lead and perhaps a few other 20min presentations on success stories
- For sure have the subregional breakout groups

- As discussed in April, tentative date is Wednesday November 25, 2020 (or Friday 27th)

7. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates and locations:

- Friday October 16 - Village of Chase *may* host at Curling Club, and coordinate with grand opening of Rocky Road Trail at Scatchard Mountain
 - Depends on public health guidelines around gathering size
 - Make a decision by early October.
 - Alternate is a Zoom meeting again for the same date

Future Annual Roundtable Meeting - November 2020

- Possibly Wed Nov 25 or Fri Nov 27
- Watch for conflict with District of Sicamous council meeting or other conflicts

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 	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	Ongoing
Start hut to hut opportunities , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range.	Louis, others	Future meeting
Develop a proposal for modernized land use planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a proposal that the Secwepemc Lakes Division of Qwelminté 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	Ongoing, delayed due to COVID. Build on the draft concept initiated Feb 26, 2020.
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