

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Draft Meeting Summary as at October 26, 2016

Meeting date: October 24, 2016 10:05AM to 3:05PM

Location: 810 Okanagan Ave, above the Fire Hall, Chase

Present:

Aaron Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Gord Bushell, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club and District of Sicamous
Wes DeArmond, BC Parks (to 2:10PM)
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority (from 10:15AM)
Mike Friars, BC Parks (to 2:10PM)
Laura Gaster, Columbia-Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
Joni Heinrich, Village of Chase
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ian McLellan, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) (part of MFLNRO)
Mike Overend, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA)
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Bonnie Thomas, Switzmalph Cultural Society
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith

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 Village of Chase was acknowledged for hosting the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

2. June 20, 2016 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from June 20 was approved, with the exception of two minor edits Mike Simpson noted - a corrected version will be sent out. Action items not on today's agenda were reviewed; most are incomplete; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version.

3. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Bonnie taught the word "tmicw" - means "land." Phonetic pronunciation "ta-MUUKH"

Louis and Bonnie revisited and reaffirmed the importance of Secwepemc trail names as discussed in June. Traditional use studies (TUS) at Chief Atahm School have place names recorded. Create an overlay of Secwepemc place names, maybe they overlay with the no-go zones.

There is a larger initiative province-wide to incorporate Aboriginal place names. The Adams River Salmon Society passed a motion in June to change the name of Roderick Haig-Brown provincial park. It was suggested that Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band take the lead as it's within their area; Aaron

noted that Felix Arnouse has a traditional name in mind. Wes noted that BC Parks are open to proposals for name changes, but that there lots of approval steps to take place (legal, signage, etc.)

The discussion also led into tourism development, and the increasing demand from tourists for Aboriginal cultural information and history. Aboriginal Tourism BC is a possible resource, but it was noted that a First Nation has to be “market ready” to utilize ATBC. Three bands (ALIB ,Neskonith, Splatsin) are proposing to do a tourism marketing plan, with a funding request into Rural Dividend. It was noted that TOTA has an Aboriginal specialist on staff; that Frank Antoine is on the TOTA board representing Shuswap area; and that there is hope that ALIB will join Shuswap Tourism.

Ideas for incorporating Secwepemc content on signs were noted as follows:

- Use diagrams, pictures, symbols and animals, such as coyote
- Use Secwepemc place names and add a phonetic pronunciation
 - Chief Atahm School could help write out the words
- Engage with elders to gather their knowledge of names of specific areas
- Switzmalph Cultural Society could assist with signage; looking into signage currently
- Signs should be weather proof
- Put on all signs at the end “Y’icwetsutce _____” with a translation “looking after the land.”
- Barry has ALIB traditional trail network in GIS. Do other First Nations have this in place? Terrestrial vs. water routes too. Barry could digitize hard copies, or ideally use digital files. Concerns about releasing the information and sensitivity.
- Focus on common, heavily used areas first for signs with Secwepemc content to educate the most number of people

Next steps were noted as follows:

- Greg will put trail signage on agenda for next Sexqéltkemc Lakes Division meeting:
 - principles for using Secwepemc names on signs; sensitivity
 - what information can be shared - digitized information, hard copy maps
- Avis to share her existing GIS layer on Secwepemc names (with Mary Thomas’ documented knowledge; Chief Atahm School; elder knowledge; TUS research)
- CSRD looking at signage around the region this year - tourism, trails signage works
- “Trail Signage and Standards Subcommittee” (standing) to coordinate signage, updates and education material, and work with direction from Sexqéltkemc Lakes Division - Greg, Bonnie, Robyn Hooper, Phil, Brad, Aaron. For new signs, existing signs.
- When designing new signs, there should be three standard content pieces: Secwepemc content, invasive plants, trail report safety info. Also keep in mind wordiness, people’s attention span, and use symbols.

4. 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 (the document named *161020RegionalTrailsUpdateforRoundtable.doc* circulated in advance of the meeting) were distributed, and Phil asked if there were any specific initiatives people wanted to discuss. While only a few were discussed in detail, no concerns were noted by anyone present with the above list.

One issue discussed in detail was the Eagle Pass Mountain Fire Lookout, unauthorized reconstruction of the historic structure. These unauthorized works are currently being investigated by MFLNRO Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) staff, and the very likely outcome will be that the improvements must be deconstructed. Some present felt it was a shame that the work completed must be torn

down, and suggested that this group should write a letter and/or issue a press release stating the Working Group's opposition to the works being deconstructed. Others present felt that it would be dangerous and inappropriate to write a letter or issue a press release on such a specific issue, and that it would put RSTBC in a difficult position and cause a split within this Working Group. Most people generally agreed that at minimum, there could be a communication opportunity to raise awareness of the need to have proper authorizations in place, as advocated for in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy. It was affirmed that the RSTBC officer for the area, Marcy Bennett in this case, has the sole authority to make a decision and can receive information and perspectives (such as from this meeting summary), but cannot be fettered in her decision making process. Mike Simpson cautioned from his past experience that this Working Group should not take on a decision making role, whether real or perceived.

At the end of the discussion about Eagle Pass Mountain Fire Lookout, the following was agreed to:

- Do not put anything in writing at this point, other than the discussion in this meeting summary (i.e., no letters, no press release)
- Wait for the C&E process to finish - the investigation is still ongoing
- Revisit this issue at the January Working Group meeting, and consider whether to communicate about this incident specifically, or just generally communicate that the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy advocates for authorizing all trails and to work collaboratively

Several verbal updates were provided on other sub-regional trails initiatives by those present:

- David mentioned that Scatchard Mountain trail is proceeding; the pictograph project at Adams River is still proceeding, for next year instead of this year
- Gord noted that the ATV club finished building the kiosk but didn't meet with Tolko re mapping; couldn't decommission trails or put in signage on time; there has been vandalism on signage; need main kiosk maps done; Marcy did offer extra money for mapping.
- Need to report back to Larch Hills Nordic Society about the approval (see action items)
- There are hiking impacts noted at Joss Pass, and also a new picnic site built on the west side, as well as monitoring of grizzly bear populations in the area
- **Coordination of larger-scale Eagle Valley activities** (reaffirmed from June 20 meeting) - Phil noted the need to tie together Joss Pass; Carl Kluster Mountain Park; Marcy's initiatives; Owshead/Cummings; south to Mabel Lake. Need to engage Stuart, Marshall, Gord, Rennie, Phil, Marcy.
- Glenemma work is still underway, but delayed due to Phil's illness over the summer

From the discussion, a few general things were agreed upon as needed:

- The need to circulate trails authorization requests as they come in, in addition to discussing at quarterly Working Group meetings.
- We need to fine-tune how we make use of this time as a Working Group, reviewing the detailed trails authorization requests.

5. Cumulative Effects Assessment Committee Update

Barry Wilson is convening the committee on Friday Oct 28 to review feedback received from the survey of indicator values. Contact Barry at barry@ceanalytic.com if you want to participate.

6. Terms of Reference - Roundtable

The terms of reference for the Roundtable were approved, with discussion around quorum, opt-out and dispute resolution. See document named *Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy ROUNDTABLE - TOR approved.pdf*. Next steps are to present them at Shuswap Trails Roundtable for final endorsement.

7. Shuswap Trails Roundtable

Agenda content was discussed. See document named *Shuswap Trails Roundtable - draft agenda 30nov16.doc* circulated with this meeting summary.

It was agreed to complete the current list of proposed edits to the October 2, 2015 version of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy, in advance of the November 30 Roundtable meeting.

8. Letter of Understanding

A proposed addendum to the Letter of Understanding from the provincial government is not as simple to do as previously thought. There is a strong willingness to work together, but an inability for provincial government employees to sign a modified LOU.

9. New Information

- Switzmalph Cultural Society is working with Secwepemc Fisheries Commission to stabilize banks along Salmon River trails and work along West Bay shore
- Provincial backcountry horsemen has reinstated their trails committee - info from here goes to them, and 23 chapters in province
- Interior Health Authority notes there is interest in trails from all communities; Revelstoke started a trails strategy; Cariboo; Southern Cariboo; Williams Lake; Golden. Revelstoke is utilizing a smartphone app to inventory of trails; can be used to identify where trails exist and not authorized.
- Ryan, Anita and Marshall could be connections from Shuswap to Revelstoke area
- TOTA is interested in getting all groups together as done here; they are also looking into creating WiFi hotspots at certain points on trails to enable downloading of maps and information about an area
- Ian noted that Marcy now has an assistant for the winter, she's been very busy.
- Lori and Veda from Shuswap Trail Alliance are in Sicamous to install posts for trails signage in Sicamous. Also, Sicamous is budgeting for 6 kiosks.
- Carl Kuster Mountain Park is aspiring to engage with all user groups in Region E and also start to work with Shuswap Tourism
- CSISS staff are always available for training and information; Play Clean Go information and resources; distributed signs in 2016 and posters; field season starts in April
- Shuswap Tourism has noted that hiking trails was the #1 activity asked for by tourists
- CBC Radio interview last month about a "Gold Range hut to hut" initiative. Seems to be a commercial tenure, but also comes to RSTBC staff. Click [here](#) for more info.
- Louis met with BC Hydro and MFLNRO to institute changes in their consultation process
- Shuswap Trail Alliance fundraiser will be Friday February 3, 2017

10. Next Steps

Future meetings and objectives:

It was agreed to stick with the general rule of meetings from 10AM-3PM on the third Friday of January, April, June and October, but confirming ~3 weeks before whether there is a better date.

Therefore **future meeting dates and locations** are as follows:

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

January 20, 2017 Working Group 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
- Debrief from Shuswap Trails Roundtable
- Discuss how to communicate with trail resource groups (Backroads mapbook, multiple apps)
- Discuss communication about Eagle Pass Fire Lookout issue - specific, generic, or nothing

Mike Simpson suggested that in many areas, forest licensee's (i.e., Stella Jones, Interfor, Tolko, LP) and BC Timber Sales forest stewardship plans are expiring in 2017. This may be a good opportunity to reach out and engage with them about important areas for future trails developments.

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 2016	Working Group	Ongoing
Develop refined work plan prioritization	Phil, Mike	Future meetings
Cumulative Effects Subcommittee to meet Oct 28, and prepare for presentation at Nov 30 Roundtable meeting	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 	Greg	ASAP - was to be completed by Oct 21
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, and explore existing material (Avis)	Greg, Bonnie, Robyn Hooper, Phil, Brad, Aaron, Avis, Daniel Joe	Aim to meet before Nov 30 Roundtable
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
Proposed edits to the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add June 17, Dec 2, 2015 summaries as appendices ▪ Change Cumulative Impacts Assessment to Cumulative Effects Assessment ▪ Include draft chapter 9 - CEA ▪ Include the signed LOU; replace Appendix 8 ▪ Chapter 13, p.39, Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose - add a bullet to third item under last purpose ○ Add missing local governments ○ Add new organizations ▪ Appendix 3 - add missing column to plant list ▪ New appendix with the Secwepemc words for the values; add a summary of all the core Secwepemc values, with Secwepemc wording, and explanation 	Mike Simpson	Before Nov 30 Roundtable
To 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
Share support letter from ALIB with Colleen at Neskonlith for Scatchard Mountain proposed trail	Greg (David to pursue)	ASAP (from June meeting)
Adams Lake/Neskonlith leadership to initiate a meeting to consider next steps for Mt Ida, involving all Sexqéltkemoc Lakes Division	Greg, Louis	Ongoing
Contact MFLNRO about which forest stewardship plans expire in 2017	Mike Simpson	Before next meeting
Shuswap Trails Roundtable : circulate the registration email (sent Oct 25, 2016) to your colleagues, members, supervisors	All Working Group members	By November 25