

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of June 24, 2022

Meeting date: June 17, 2022 9:00AM to 12:00PM **Location:** Zoom web conference

Present:

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Blaine Carson, Friends of Mt Ida
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewardship Society
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter and Larch Hills Nordics (summer use)
Christina Lutterman, Chase Chamber of Commerce
Chris Lynd, Shuswap Backcountry Riders (ATVBC) and STA
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Roger Parenteau, Shuswap Community Foundation
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Brad Vickerson, trail enthusiast

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Louis Thomas did an opening prayer, and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Note that quorum was not met.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Louis taught us a few words, he was unsure of the Secwepemc spelling (phonetic pronunciation in quotes):

- "Lah-AA-seet" phonetic – means "it's a good day"
- Weytk – hello, singular – weytkp to man
- Waytk – hello, singular – waytkp to many
- Weytk "te widem" (fix this - check– hello to all of you!
- Weyt-kp-xwexwytep or Weytk "an-a-wee" – hell to you!

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from April 8, 2022 was approved. Many action items are related to trails initiatives and will be covered later in the agenda. Many are standing items; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version.

4. Annual Work Plan, Budget

Jen provided an update on the financial situation for the Shuswap Trails Roundtable for 2022. City of Enderby has committed to a contribution, and a presentation was recently made to City of Salmon Arm (no formal decision yet on funding). If the City of Salmon Arm contributes, there will still be a \$2500 deficit. If clubs want to contribute again this year, that would be appreciated.

5. Trails Authorization Requests, Trail Planning and Sub-regional Planning Updates

South Shuswap Destination Trail Master Plan

- Phil reported that there was good engagement and feedback from motorized and non-motorized and others at the online and in person sessions in May. What was heard at engagement sessions are that small communities such as Eagle Bay, White Lake, Sunnybrae have seen lots of impact of recreational use year round, increase in population in area, high demand and use of infrastructure such as boat launch, parking/staging and access points for trailheads, etc. Community wants to have easy access for trails and easy to use trails for seniors, families with young children. Opportunity exists for comprehensive forest and water management plans for the whole peninsula that dovetail with this plan. Project steering group to meet on June 21. Phil to draft a report over summer. Meet with Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc (PteS) in July then Secwepemc leadership.
- Patrick noted that since White Lake and White Lake provincial park are within this area, relocating the forest service road (FSR) around north side of White Lake and out of the park would give planners different area to move staging areas for motorized use into area out of park. Will address a lot of these issues. Skwlax Resource vehicles have been out looking at things.
- Louis added that there are significant cultural values in the area, Secwepemc people wintered in that area. High archaeological values as families lived in that area. Adrian noted that a parks enhancement grant has been secured to do a preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) for arch values in the area.
- Deliverable will be a framework that addresses the values for the area, what communication looks like, how to make sure people proposing more specific, local or detailed plans follow this overall framework. No implied implementation of any of what is proposed; different partners need to take the lead on actual implementation. Opportunity for a sub-regional working group to take framework and move it forward.

Skimikin

- Sue reported that the two s.57 authorizations have been issued and they can start working on things. Seed Orchard Trail is an existing, newly authorized trail this spring they can work with seed orchard to develop an interpretive trail, signs from them, do some brushing and improve trail. They recovered most of the posts that were vandalized/removed over the winter and replaced three of them; remainder will be replaced when the next s.57 application is finalized. In meantime, they are placing stakes where the existing holes are as archaeology reports directed where to put them.
- Visit with Ray Mills of Canoe Forest Products upcoming, they are going to deactivate some access. Waiting for a date now in July. Chris added that they're hoping from Canoe Forest Products with road deactivation it will minimize dumping of derelict vehicles in the area.
- Chris gave credit to educational content on kiosks from Libby and Shelley on proper spelling, phonetic pronunciation. Excited to see s.57s approved. Still have some ORV funding left. Waiting on one last estimate for a trail project, then meet with Backcountry Riders and determine priorities and future funding needs. Next application in February. Timing restrictions exist for when work can be done due to wildlife concerns.

North Shuswap Parallel Trails

- Ryan – met with local steering committee with engineers to review 3 plans and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) feedback. Priority area from local steering committee is between Ross Creek Park and west of Lakeview Park (Area B1). Ryan has submitted referrals through Nations Connect for Area B1 and received commentary back on Scotch Creek connector and B1. ALIB defers to LSLB on Scotch Creek connector. Expect preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) and cultural heritage overview assessment (CHOA) for both. Ryan directed Lawson Engineering to complete design for Area B1 to develop a shovel ready project for funding. Debbie is happy to get to this point.

Loftus Lake Universal Trail

- Ryan reported that they have federal funds in place for Phase 1 construction of looping trail system. Working with STA and submitted to Nations Connect and LSLB doing PFR last week, waiting for report. Updated feds on progress and they're happy. Adrian will work with LSLB on that.
- Phase 2 will be building trailhead area and dog park.
- Hopefully turning ground by fall 2022.

Sorrento Blind Bay Park Perimeter Trail

- Ryan reported that construction is ongoing with a slight delay for crews to finish another project. Adrian noted 3 weeks work done, he'll be out there next week. 80% finished now and should be done by early July.

Glenemma

- Ryan is still waiting for a written decision from the Agriculture Land Commission; a decision was made last fall but ALC staff are backlogged and haven't written it up yet. Need formal decision by ALC before anything can happen, and it's holding up RSTBC formal review of application. ALC has a renewed mandate which may be scrutinizing recreational trails on agricultural land.
- Louis noted there's an opportunity to include Secwepemc values and use of area in trail signage. Phil noted it's a shared area with Syilx, overlapping stories and values in the area.

Yard Creek Park Japanese Internment Project

- Project initiated by CSRD Electoral Area "E" Director Rhona Martin, there were 7 Japanese internment camps between Sicamous and Revelstoke in World War Two, Yard Creek was the largest. Rhona was approached by a family to put some sort of monument or signage in park. CSRD board approved this yesterday and awarded some funds to start engagement and develop a conceptual plan for signage and Japanese garden. Early stages. Need BC Parks involved.
- Louis advised that there's an opportunity to connect with CP Rail Museum piece (see below).

Sicamous Creek and Wiseman Creek

- Ryan gave a heads up about risk of debris flow/landslide in Sicamous Creek falls area. A geotechnical analysis was done in area south of Sicamous Creek falls to look at impacts of fires last year. The geotechnical assessment advises that there is a 100% chance of a landslide in Wiseman Creek falls area (Lizard trails). Heads up to users that if there is heavy rain, or sediment in water flows to get out quickly. This is confounded by concerns about timber salvage by BC Timber Sales in the area.

[Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail](#)

- Ryan reported that Urban Systems are the project manager and engineer for two sections being developed imminently with plans for spring 2023 construction. Next steps include archaeological work

and this will take some time. Planning still ongoing. Utilizing funding from BC Rural Dividend. There is no decision yet from the federal government on the \$12.5M application that Splatsin submitted.

Larch Hills Traverse Ida View

- Adrian reported that the bridge across East Canoe Creek is almost finished and that the tread on upper part should be done by end of July.

South Canoe parking lot

- Adrian reported that they are working with the City of Salmon Arm to improve parking lot and create green community space too with picnic tables. Good collaboration with City and STA, it will be wrapped up by June 24. It's changed the South Canoe trail network for the better.

District of Sicamous Mountain Bike Park

- Adrian reported that they are working through referral process with Secwepemc communities

Gorge

- Gorge Ski Touring Association wants to re-engage the local working group for that area in summer

Scatchard

- David Lepsoe relayed through Jen that there is some funding for Chase Creek falls portion of Scatchard, he is doing referral process now. Working Group in area and Village of Chase. PFR is next step. David leading a guided walk June 25 at 11:30 meet at trailhead (be aware of Hwy expansion equipment).

Kela7scen (Mt Ida)

- Jen reported that PteS does not want the local working group to pursue a recreational management plan at this point, they want to do a comprehensive management plan for the area first. There are a number of commitments for interested groups that utilize the area to abide by. The working group are seeking approval (from PteS and Neskonlith) for an inventory of trails by both motorized and non-motorized groups – pre planning assessment that will support future recreation management planning.
- Louis noted that small working group meeting the other day, need someone to take a lead from Secwepemc end. Neskonlith not part of PteS causes challenges. Tolko offered some funds to support the process. Need to find other funding partners.

Owlhead/Hunters Range

- Phil reported that there has been no follow up with working group for the area; area is closed due to wildfire in 2021. Repairs to historical trail in Owlhead is proceeding. Chris will look into access this summer from Hunter's Range side.

Reinecker Creek West

- Jen reported that CSRD is looking for a re-route on west side due to private property, submitted s.57 application, waiting on province.

Joss Pass

- Jen noted that Jeremy and Adrian are looking to place wildlife monitoring cameras out again this summer for grizzly bear monitoring, STA looking to buy them.

CP Rail Museum

- Louis noted that CP Rail wants to do landmarks projects along the railway. Want to contribute towards Secwepemc history or knowledge in the area.

West Bay Connector

- Jen noted that ALIB in partnership with Neskonlith is preparing a funding application to submit to the federal government. Jen and ALIB met with federal representatives and they were advised to divide the trail into three parts for funding applications. City of Salmon Arm has offered to take on project management part including managing requests for proposals and contracting.

6. Annual Meeting Planning

After much discussion, the following was what was proposed:

Cost - \$2500 deficit to be addressed to make any kind of in person work. Cost savings ideas:

- No free lunch – bring your own lunch, coffee
- Sorrento Centre – can purchase lunch there
- Member groups submit funding “pass the tin can around” – Jen to draft a formal letter

Format – in-person with a hybrid option. Considerations:

- Hybrid doesn't work well unless there is good technology (speakers, microphones) and STA doesn't have this equipment.
- Sorrento Centre has an online system that works well for hybrid meetings. They are open to working with groups and accommodating them.
- Wildcards are people's comfort levels, any future COVID restrictions on gatherings

Dates – consider earlier in fall to allow for outdoors opportunities to address health concerns

- Wednesday October 19 (right after local government elections on October 15)
- Wednesday October 26
- Wednesday November 9 (week with Remembrance Day stat holiday)
- Wednesday November 16
- Wednesday November 23

Content

- Indigenous consultation: Nations Connect app/website; how to use the portal. STA could present on Nations Connect. Want to hear from Secwepemec governments on what happens on their end. Want to hear from all 4 not just ALIB. Also structure of PteS and mandate. Neskonlith not part of Nations Connect, so how does referral work from them, what's their system.
- Sub-regional planning in small groups
- BC government update – forest landscape planning, watershed security strategy, BC initiatives
- Roundtable business – report on 2022, plans for 2023

6. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

The following information was shared:

- Unveiling ceremony at Salmon Arm wharf on Sat June 25, 10AM-12PM for Secwepemc landmark
- Olivia Lemke has been hired as the Wildsafe BC coordinator for CSRD Areas C and E and she has lots of programs and info available. Go to Columbia Shuswap Wildsafe BC Facebook or email her at columbiashuswap@wildsafebc.com
- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society is hosting a yellow flag iris weed pull on June 30 at Little White Lake, weed pull then lunch. See [website](#) for other info. Approach Jess to organize anything a group wants (plant ID, weedpull, etc.)
- June 21 National Indigenous Day there will be the opening of exhibit for Dr. Mary Thomas at Haney Heritage site museum at 7PM. Later this fall there will be a naming of the new bridge after her on Hwy 1 west side of town as she was a bridge builder.
- National Indigenous Day – Splatsin, all day; Neskonlith doing a 3 band event in Chase
- Louis – wrapping up pollinators at Art Gallery. Wildfires next exhibition, then salmon starting in August.
- There is a delay for the creation of signage for Scatchard trails and viewing monument at Memorial park in Chase, the artist has passed away, the son will be taking over.

A couple of other items of interest to raise, led by other organizations, as requested by Jen and Phil:

- The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (provincial government) has opened **Budget 2023 consultation** until **3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24** on the [Budget Consultation website](#).
- There is a continuation of the series [Exploring ethical space: Land-based reconciliation in British Columbia](#) with an upcoming event on Thursday, June 23, from 2-3:30pm Pacific for [Equity in Land-Use Planning: Insights from Love-based Practices and Ethical Space](#).

7. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates (generally 3rd Friday of January, April, June, October):

- Friday Oct 21, 2022, 9AM-12PM – *note this may be moved to September if the annual meeting is planned for October*

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

| Task or activity | Responsibility | Timeframe |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Start hut to hut opportunities , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range. | Louis, others | Future meeting |
| Work with Shuswap Tourism or current organization to publish and advertise authorized trails | Everyone | Ongoing |
| Organizations to sign the LOU if they haven't already done so – original copy if possible (Phil or Jen have it) | Any groups that haven't signed LOU | Ongoing |
| Send any GPS/GIS linework on trails to Adrian at Shuswap Trail Alliance, adrian@shuswaptrails.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 – intent is that Secwepemc governments are seeking this information, it will be shared only with them | Everyone | Ongoing |
| Send any reports of erosion or trail damage from heavy rains to trailreport@shuswaptrails.com | Everyone | Ongoing |

| Task or activity | Responsibility | Timeframe |
|---|--|--|
| Seek support letters for funding applications from each other | Everyone | 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 |
| Seek an exemption for motorized vehicle closures in areas of 2021 wildfires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The areas are closed for 18 months, generally, due to safety concerns ▪ Applications for exemptions to the closure can be sought to allow access for disabled access, for activities required for assessment, maintenance and public safety, or for activities that otherwise support the goals of wildfire recovery ▪ More information about applying for an exemption is here ▪ Please contact staff at 2021Wildlife.closures@gov.bc.ca prior to applying, and see this link for a frequently asked questions document related to these closures | Any trails groups that need access to wildfire closure areas | Ongoing |
| Consider doing media releases when projects are complete (e.g., South Canoe Parking lot, Sorrento Blind Bay perimeter trail, Skimikin) | Jen, everyone | Ongoing |
| Annual meeting planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approach Sorrento Centre ▪ Write funding letter for groups to contribute ▪ Develop online survey, send to entire membership with funding letter ▪ Review survey results ▪ Convene small group, devise a plan, set date | Jen, Phil, Roger Jen Mike Jen, Mike Jen, Mike | By end of June Week June 20 By June 24 By mid-July By end July |