

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Draft Meeting Summary as at June 20, 2018

Meeting date: June 15, 2018 9:35AM to 1:30PM

Location: Skwlax (Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band) Community Hall, Little Shuswap Lake, BC

Present:

Aaron Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Stacey Berryman, Adams Lake Indian Band
Sutra Brett, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Gord Bushell, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club and District of Sicamous
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors, Larch Hills Nordic Society
Robyn Cyr, Columbia Shuswap Regional District/Shuswap Tourism/Ec Dev (from 11:00AM)
Avis Denault, Adams Lake Indian Band
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority
Brad Harrison, Backcountry Lodges of BC Association (to 12:00PM)
Keegan Hoffman, BC Parks
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase (to 12:00PM)
Ryan McAllister, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD*)
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ryan Nitche, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (to 1:00PM)
Veda Roberge, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (to 1:00PM)
Brodie Rundel, BC Parks
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Clint Smith, Larch Hills Nordics
Jan Thingsted, Acting Chair, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Bonnie Thomas, Switzmalph Cultural Society
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (from 12:00PM)
**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Aaron acknowledged Secwepemc territory and gave a prayer, and introductions were made around the room. Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band was acknowledged for hosting the meeting, and Switzmalph Cultural Society for providing lunch. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was confirmed as being met.

Aaron was acknowledged as being elected as a councillor for his community, effective July.

2. Secwepemc Word

Aaron noted that Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park has been officially renamed Tsútswecw Park, with a ceremony to publicize the renaming on September 30, the start of the Salute to the Sockeye. There was some confusion in the media about the meaning of the name; it means many rivers. Shuswap Tourism brochures/maps went to print with incorrect information, and will have a bookmark with the correct meaning. Aaron credited David Lepsoe for the idea to rename the park.

3. April 20, 2018 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from April 20, 2018 was approved with one correction to item 5, new information update from Backcountry Horsemen of BC. An updated version of the meeting summary will be circulated. Action items not on today's agenda were reviewed; see table of action items at end of this summary for an updated version.

The following outstanding action items, not on today's agenda, were discussed briefly:

- Balmoral Trails - ideally, avoid equestrian use for now while trailhead settles.
- Related to the action to send berry picking sites to Secwepemc representatives and the STA email, Bonnie noted that there was a joint Syilx/Secwepemc meeting to develop a huckleberry protection strategy recently held in Merritt
- Working Group list - add Mike Fox, General Manager, Community Services, Regional District of North Okanagan and Lori Schneider-Wood, Shuswap Trail Alliance, among others

3. Funding

a) Four Year Funding Proposal

The [four year funding proposal](#) that was emailed before the meeting, was adopted as presented. Recreation Sites and Trails BC was acknowledged for contributing \$10 000 already. It was agreed that many local governments and First Nations could initiate the request as a board/council report, and schedule the delegation to boards/council, and Phil would show up to present if and when appropriate. See specific action items in table at end of this meeting summary.

b) Healthy Communities Grant Opportunity

Anita described funding available through the [Creating Healthy Places](#) grants. Goal is to support communities and regions to take multi-sectoral action to explore, learn, and innovate to enhance the built and natural environments. Several grants of up to \$5000 are available, and one \$15 000 grant per health authority. Applications are due July 15, 2018.

Possible ideas for a grant application proposed include: Indigenous food systems, including identification of berry picking sites; trail signage related to culturally significant plants.

Ryan Nitchie and Anita will collaborate to submit an application; others are welcome to join them.

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

The following list of trail authorization requests, trail planning and sub-regional planning initiatives was generated by the participants, and discussed in detail (note that the most recent, documented list of all trails initiatives dated November 25, 2017 can be found [here](#)).

Salmon River Parallel Trail

Ryan Nitchie reported that \$788 000 was awarded from Bike BC to build 4km of trails parallel to Salmon River Road in the Silver Creek area. Designs are being finalized, a pedestrian bridge over Salmon River is being developed. Anticipate tendering the work this fall, and construction in spring 2019. A significant movement for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to do this; key step was the active transportation plan. Similar initiatives are popping up around BC (including Nanaimo), it was noted at the BC Recreation and Parks Association meeting recently, and Anita noted a Vision Zero (accidents) presentation by MOTI yesterday; Anita will connect presenter with Ryan.

Motions are being pursued for UBCM this fall, David Lepsoe noted. It was also noted that the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy laid the groundwork for this to happen; this demonstrates value to continue supporting the Shuswap Trails Roundtable, the strategy, and this Working Group.

Glenemma

Ryan Nitchie reported that several meetings recently took place to advance plans: Phil and Ryan met with Tolko to understand their plans in the area; and Phil and Ryan met with Ian McLellan to formulate a Front Counter BC (FCBC) application, discuss design ideas, and discuss an open house before submission to FCBC in the fall.

Haines Creek

Ryan Nitchie reported that several meetings recently took place to advance plans, which involve a BMX track on an old baseball diamond, a trail to a rock climbing area, and addressing motorized use: he met with Ian McLellan to discuss a community meeting to present a plan; with Tolko to confirm no issues with their operations; Louis Thomas has had input; and Sutra met with the climbing steward for the area who will undertake environmental screening.

South Shuswap Destination Trails Plan

Sutra reported that he has done lots of reconnaissance on the large area known as the Inner Shuswap peninsula between the arms of Shuswap Lake. The intent is to create a “true to the area” plan that encompasses trail hubs for multiple activities, connects blue ways (water “trails”), creates opportunities for evolving sports and activities, and could be used as a template for other areas. Carmen Massey has completed a high-level review of other destination trails in other jurisdictions. Linda noted that there is a demand for equestrian areas in the main highway corridors. Robyn H noted that environmental screening should address aquatic invasive species. Bonnie noted that there is an opportunity to engage with the Indigenous Tourism Coordinator being hired.

Chase Active Transportation Plan

Anita reported that the consultant has engaged the community, as well as surrounding communities of Adams Lake Indian Band and Neskonlith through open houses and an online survey is available [here](#). The plan will be drafted over the summer and fall based on feedback received.

Larch Hills Nordics

Craig reported that they are hoping to start construction on the new trails in September. They will be doing a walk-around with Splatsin soon. The chalet is 80% complete, anticipate it being done by ski season this winter. Craig noted they will clarify summer use at Larch Hills on their website, which includes equestrian, ATV, mountain biking and hiking. Linda noted some range fencing issues, she and Craig will follow up. Phil suggested reactivating the summer use group. As mentioned in April, adjacent private land is being developed into fourteen 5 acre parcels; subdivision plans are being developed, and an easement for trails on these parcels is in the works.

Owlhead/Blue Lake/East Shuswap Alpine Areas

Gord reported that he has discussed the installation of a gate with Danielle Dornick, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), to block summer motorized use impacting a wet area. BCTS have a proposed cutblock close to park boundary; this could create a future loop road. BC Parks has provided \$1000 for a gate or other access restriction (e.g., boulders). Phil advised we need clear communication, support and signage with motorized access from the south, to avoid them hitting the “inside” of the gate. Key holdup in finishing signs is the GPS linework from motorized clubs to put on the signs.

Phil reported that once he finishes the meeting summary from Dec 14, 2017 regarding Joss/Mabel/Tsuis access management, there is \$7000 in BC Rural Dividend funding for Mike to facilitate access management planning for three separate areas as agreed to in the April Working Group meeting: Joss/Mabel/Tsuis, MacPherson, and Owlhead/Blue/Cummings Lakes, but to inform each group of the “bigger picture.” Need to check in with Andrew Walker, biologist with MFLNRORD to see where the access closures in relation to hunting are at.

Ryan McAllister reported that RSTBC are completing referrals to establish the longer, lower grade trail on Joss Mountain to the old fire lookout; some concern was noted that this is being rushed through without the development of the larger access management plan for the area.

West Bay Corridor

Phil reported that the scoping document with design has gone to City of Salmon Arm, Neskonlith and Adams Lake Indian Band and that there is funding available to do environmental engineering. This project has been talked about for decades, and it could be on the scale of the Sicamous-Armstrong rail trail project when it comes to fruition.

Sicamous to Armstrong Rail Trail

Ryan Nitchie reported that the rail trail, owned by CSRD, RDNO and Splantsin, is officially closed, but they acknowledge that it is being used. Signs need to be installed to inform people that it is closed and the limitation of liability, as well as the development of a website to communicate to the public the current status and future plans. Work also needs to progress on project management, developing the trails, managing the tenures and encroachments. Gord sought meetings with federal ministers at the recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting, but minister time is hard to acquire.

Skimikin

On behalf of Danielle Dornik, Ryan McAllister reported that a new site operator is being contracted. Flood damage has taken place recently, and plans are underway to address that damage and develop new areas for equestrian use.

Invasive Species Work - Various Locations

Robyn Hooper reported that work to inventory aquatic invasive species in “blue ways” or water route is underway and needs to be considered in the future. There will be an invasive mussels awareness event on June 26 from 4PM to 6PM at the main public boat launch in Sicamous. Yellow flag iris is being removed at numerous sites including Gardom Lake, White Lake, Little White Lake, Turner Creek and Maguire Lake. Keep an eye out and report any sightings of the invasive American bullfrog, reported but not confirmed in the Shuswap. Contact [Robyn](#) if signage or boot brushes are needed.

Scatchard Mountain

David reported that the submission went to Front Counter BC, and referrals close on June 28. During the course of this referral, it was realized that referrals out don’t just contain the new 500m of trail proposed, but the entire existing trail network - this is confusing for recipients to understand the context of what’s existing and what’s proposed as new. All of the interpretative maps prepared by the proponent don’t get included.

It was suggested to have someone from FCBC come present on their process, and to hear feedback on these frustrations at either our next Working Group meeting, the Roundtable meeting, or both.

5. Signage and Landmarks Update

Building on the concept of incorporating Secwepemc content into trail signage, Shelley and Sutra presented on the concept of landmarks with Secwepemc and “settler” history at key points around the Shuswap. They have acquired funding for the cardinal landmark, and for two smaller ones, and will pursue BC Rural Dividend funding for more. See *Secwepemc Landmarks Concept.pdf*.

6. Roundtable of New Information

Shuswap Local and Secwepemc Governments Communication Protocol - Mike facilitated the development of a communications protocol over the last year, and a signing ceremony will be held on Friday July 13, 2018 - register (to have accurate numbers for catering) [here](#) by June 30.

National Indigenous Peoples Day - Bonnie shared flyers for an event at Pierre’s Point from 10AM to 3PM on Thursday June 21, and then noted that Quaaout Lodge is having an event that same evening.

Invasive Plant Data - Robyn Hooper noted that invasive plant data is available for anyone to use.

Sicamous Campground - Gord noted that the District is pursuing the development of a campground.

Pithouse construction - Bonnie advised that Switzmalph Cultural Society is trying to host a gathering in October that would involve construction of a pithouse.

Little Shuswap Lake Pow-Wow - Aaron advised it will be held August 10-12

[Lewiston Ultra](#) - A 50km running race between Sicamous and Salmon Arm, Sept 29, 2018. Organizers are looking for volunteers and assistance with logistics. See *Lewiston Ultra requests for support.pdf* circulated with this meeting summary; contact info is Kara Leinweber, phone 587.899.7125

BC Alliance for Healthy Living - Phil advised of an invitation to endorse the Communities-on-the-Move Declaration for creating Smart, Fair, and Healthy Transportation options for all BC Communities. See presentation [here](#) and endorsement [here](#).

6. Next Steps

a) Shuswap Trails Roundtable

Mike noted that all past dates that seem to have worked have been last Wednesday in November, or first in December. Therefore possible dates:

- Wed Nov 21 - possible conflict with RDNO board of directors, 4PM
- Wed Nov 28 - possible conflict with District of Sicamous council meeting, 5PM
- Wed Dec 5 - possible conflict as getting close to Christmas

It was noted that past Roundtables were held at Adams Lake Indian Band Recreation and Conference Centre (2014), Enderby Drill Hall (2015), Splantsin Community Centre (2016), and Chase Community Hall (2017) and that space for at least 80 people is needed. Possible venues were suggested:

- Pierre’s Point log building, could be in-kind
- South Canoe School
- Salmon Arm Recreation Centre
- Salmon Arm Shaw Centre
- Salmon Arm Downtown Activity Centre
- Red Barn in Sicamous
- Malakwa School
- Casino on reserve in Salmon Arm - no minors allowed

There are lots of local initiatives to highlight, but other possible topics include: Front Counter BC and their process; seeking provincial government to sign the LOU; pushing the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy to the next level, to address blueways (water trails), and Golden and Area trails master plan. It was suggested to invite provincial elected officials.

b) James Demens, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

James is Regional Transportation Planner with MOTI, and has offered to come and present to the Working Group at the October meeting. The following were suggested for him to focus on:

- Current and evolving approach with parallel trails
- Indigenous content - names on signs, stops of interest, storyboards and funding
- Four laning of Trans-Canada Highway
- Trends in transportation planning

Future meeting dates:

- Working Group - October 19, 9:30AM to 1:30PM

Future agenda items:

- Jeremy Ayotte - environmental screening tool
- Provincial jurisdiction issues - who does what; RSTBC; Lands officers; other; benefits of partnership agreements with RSTBC
- Referrals - specifically regarding Secwepemc reviews during our trails pre-approval process

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Joss Pass-Mtn/East Shuswap Access Management Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Circulate Dec 14, 2017 summary ▪ Keep three areas separate, but inform each group of the “bigger picture” initiative ▪ Mike to engage access management planning tables working in conjunction with Phil, others 	Shuswap Trail Alliance and Mike to coordinate with Splantsin, Province, lead orgs and BCRDP funding	ASAP
Follow up on Four Year Funding Proposal : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mike to follow up with Salmon Arm, CSRD, RDNO with letters for \$1500/year x 4 years ▪ Mike to draft letters for Chase, Enderby for \$500/year x 4 years each ▪ Mike to prepare delegation request for RDNO board ▪ Gord to request \$500/year x 4 years, Sicamous 	Mike to assist Phil with delegation requests and/or specific requests Gord to follow up with request for Sicamous	ASAP
Pursue the Creating Healthy Places grant, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous food systems, including identification of berry picking sites; ▪ Trail signage related to culturally significant plants 	Anita, Ryan, others welcome to join them	Applications due July 15
Pass a band council resolution to sign the LOU - Splantsin; 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
Send any GPS/GIS linework on trails to Sutra Brett at Shuswap Trail Alliance, earthboundprojects@gmail.com	All Working Group members, trail stewards	Ongoing
Trails groups - send suitable berry picking sites to all Secwepemc reps on WG; or submit as trail reports to STA at trailreport@shuswaptrails.com	Everyone	Ongoing
Share updated Working Group contact list with all participants	Mike	Ongoing

