

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Draft Meeting Summary as at January 28, 2019

Meeting date: January 18, 2019 9:40AM to 1:30PM

Location: Columbia Shuswap Regional District boardroom, Salmon Arm, BC

Present:

Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Keith Cox, Larch Hills Nordics
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Robyn Cyr, Shuswap Tourism
Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
Avis Denault, Adams Lake Indian Band
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority (from 9:45AM)
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) (from 10:00AM)
Joni Heinrich, Village of Chase (from 11:10AM)
Sue Hunt, Larch Hills Nordics
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park (from 10:50AM)
Chris Larson, City of Salmon Arm (from 9:50AM)
Joe McCulloch, District of Sicamous
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Veda Roberge, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith
Tess Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (from 10:05AM)

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. Columbia Shuswap Regional District was acknowledged for hosting the meeting, and Shuswap Tourism for providing lunch. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was met. Regrets were noted from several people including Ian McLellan, Danielle Dornik, Kevin Eskelin (Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC)) and Bonnie Thomas.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Louis noted the word *tmicw* - the land. Louis' introduction was that now that we are all here, post-settlement, it's all our responsibility to look after the land. We all have the same heart. Interconnection with each other; the trail system is connected like we are; a way of getting people together. (Remember to look for the Secwepemc language app in the App Store.)

3. October 19, 2018 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from October 19, 2018 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.

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

- Funding update - CSRD, Chase are complete; RDNO and Enderby in progress
- BC Rural Dividend Program has funded some of the costs for the annual roundtable
- Skimikin rec site - equestrian group no longer managing site
- Splatsin hasn't signed the LOU - Mike to follow up with new executive secretary
- Traditional plants and pilot project - Louis is waiting to hear about a funding proposal

4. Joss-Tsuis-Mabel Access Management Plan Update

Phil explained the history and how access management planning for Joss-Tsuis-Mabel (JTM) came about. Important area for many groups' users and values as far back as 2010. No organized management by RSTBC. Increased use from Revelstoke, Shuswap and Vernon sides. Commercial tenure in the area (CKMP, cat skiing), and proposal for heli-lift MTB race event in 2017. Lots of gaps. Interest, but no resources to convene. Andrew Walker from MFLNRORD Wildlife branch saw this area of important, intact habitat for a significant viable population of grizzly bear. MFLNRORD were looking to put in a closure under Wildlife Act through hunting regulations, and focused on addressing motorized use. Shuswap Trails Roundtable agreed to help Andrew engage with these groups, in August 2017 and then December 2017...as it was the only resources available to initiate the conversation - both from MFLNRORD wildlife branch's interests, and STR interest to look at all trail use, motorized and non-motorized. From the August 2017 meeting with STR members, question was asked "who else needs to be involved" and extended the invite to Revelstoke and Vernon interested groups. December 2017 follow up meeting that Phil facilitated. Andrew Walker from MFLNRORD Wildlife Branch noted that he was proceeding based on his timelines associated with the Hunting regulations. Follow-up meeting was held Sept 27, 2018 - but by that point, MFLNRORD Wildlife Branch had put the motorized restriction in place. Regulation ended up affecting winter use - which surprised groups, affecting commercial tenures and snowmobile groups. Follow up meeting December 5, 2018 with intent to come up with some recommendations. Significant concern from snowmobile and ATV clubs. Did a one hour information session 4-5PM with an update from Andrew Walker; then "regular planning meeting" started at 5PM. In summary, the Shuswap Trails Roundtable, while trying to be helpful and raise awareness amongst groups of MFLNRORD Wildlife Branch's intentions, ended up on the receiving end of anger from many groups.

Discussion ensued about participation by motorized groups at the provincial level, the need to have influence on decision makers, implementing UNDRIP principles and limited capacity of First Nations to engage, disconnect of not addressing larger issues such as forest management and road building, process issues (confusion exists about decision making, who makes the decision, and willingness or degree to which decision makers can be influenced, and expectations of participants to participate and how much their input counts and degree of influence), issues and positions, vs. values and interests, motorized users raised in families and cultures where it was part of culture and recreation to undertake as a family. Challenge is that problems arise when we're identifying hot spots, doing studies, convening parties but we're not the ones making the decision; RSTBC or the BC government is the decision maker; what's missing is the provincial support.

The pointed question was tabled: **are we wasting our time?** Not just with JTM, but with the Shuswap Trails Roundtable approach? How does this segway into the conversation on Feb 13? How do we separate this as being distinct from the current BC government status quo approach? Outside pressure from other groups outside the Shuswap that doesn't know the process and how we work together is challenging. Is what we do irrelevant given other decisions made at other tables (forestry, land use, major projects)?

Key take-aways from the discussion:

- Keep the Shuswap Trails Roundtable going
- Need to engage with MFLNRORD and BC government more effectively (two way street - they need to engage with Shuswap Trails Roundtable more effectively) - not just RSTBC but all land managers (forestry, wildlife, other authorizations and decisions) and break down their silos and encourage a cumulative effects approach
- First Nations need to continue to take a leadership role in Shuswap Trails Roundtable
- Clarify process, decision-making, expectations; capacity and resourcing; clarify purpose and role of this group and communicate it outwards.
- If our values get compromised, flag it and discuss it as a Working Group.

5. 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 or noted to have information sent out.

Larch Hills Traverse 109 section - see [Larch Hills Traverse - 109 FSR Bypass Trail Plan](#) - referral out soon

Kela7scen (Mt Ida) North Slope Inventory and Plan - see [Kela7scen \(Mt Ida\) North Slope Trail Inventory Report](#) and comment as needed. Chris to distribute to Salmon Arm Greenways Committee.

Rubberhead - see [Rubberhead Trails: Double D Extension & Jump Line](#)

South Canoe Parking Lot Expansion - part of Larch Hills Traverse. Salmon Arm Council has budgeted for this project to proceed this season. The concept has been reviewed and supported by the City's Greenways Liaison Committee, the South Canoe Advisory Group, the Shuswap Cycling Society, City Staff and Council. The project should provide an enhancement for all users, including motorized, non-motorized, equestrian, local land owners, forestry operations, as well as enhance the ability of the area to host events. See document named *South Canoe Parking Development WORKING.pdf* distributed with this meeting summary.

East Shuswap Alpine (Owlhead, Joss Tsuius Mabel, Blue Lake, Cummings Lake) - see [East Shuswap Alpine Recreational Access Management Planning: Update Report DRAFT for DISCUSSION](#) which includes:

- Mara Forestry lookout - Dave Crowfoot noted that there are older buildings that are getting run down, lots of history; some guys in North Okanagan are also interested; connect with Ian McLellan of RSTBC
- Cache Cabin on Mara Forestry Lookout - Dave noted it's an old building, want to restore...trail managed with Danielle Dornik of RSTBC.

Armstrong to Sicamous Rail Trail - Ryan noted that board resolution from RDNO and CSRD on how to move forward was received, and a terms of reference were worked on and the first governance meeting will be held in late January. Grant applied for project management and engineering work, will hear back in February. A major funding application to Canada infrastructure has a deadline of January 23. Lots of work behind the scenes for crossing, access agreements, being done by a CSRD staff person. CSISS submitted invasive species report. See [Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail trail - briefing report concept plan](#) and send feedback to phil@shuswaptrails.com

West Bay Parallel Rail Trail - Louis reported preliminary discussions underway to advance the project, MP and MLA have been involved. Chris noted that new Salmon Arm council identified this as a priority.

Salmon River Parallel Trail - final design sent to MOTI is being reviewed, there were 12 pinch points to address, and they came to agreement. CSRD tendered the supply and installation of bridge over Salmon River, it will proceed. Goal is to have project tendered within a few weeks for spring construction. Phil and Anita presenting on this in February at a conference on vehicle impacts.

Glenemma - noted as a success story, parties continue to meet, CSRD did a plan for day use and parking, it is going ahead. Some community consultation still to do with Okanagan Indian Band and Splantsin. Good discussions with RSTBC and BC Hydro. Seek to submit application to Front Counter BC in early spring. See [Glenemma draft plans](#) and send feedback to phil@shuswaptrails.com

Sicamous - various initiatives - Joe reported that a cumulative effects assessment study with Barry Wilson has been initiated, the first workshop held January 11 attended by MLA, planning, parks and lots of others; started crafting a vision for various recreational uses and will bring back to this group. It is linked with forest fuel management to reduce fire hazard in the area, and will be in 2019 budget. Council approved 200 Main Street as a Wellness Centre, and trailhead to Rail Trail. MOTI said no to two bridges on Hwy 1, which means more foot traffic onto new vehicle bridge which is not ideal. Sicamous council is looking at preliminary plans for a foot bridge parallel to new Hwy 1 bridge. It was suggested Joe connect with Danielle Dornik at RSTBC regarding Sicamous trailhead for Larch Hills Traverse.

South Shuswap Destination Trails Plan - STA is working to continue the planning, need community consultation in early 2019 with a focus on Secwepemc leadership.

Lee Creek - will send plan out. Conceptual plan. Meeting with community soon. See [Lee Creek bluffs - concept plan](#) and send feedback to phil@shuswaptrails.com

Secwepemc landmarks and pictographs - update, working with Tourism Coordinator for Indigenous tourism strategy, met with all bands except one. Met with elders groups and will meet again in February. Those engaged are excited. Want to get involved in artisan side. Cultural guidelines regarding what can be shared, what cannot be shared are needed, and can inform the strategy. Noticing pictographs and pillars are being damaged (Pillar Lake) and need to protect that, funding for crew to do that work is being pursued. Aaron Arnouse is participating in a pictograph protection committee. Success with requesting that the Backroad Mapbook remove pictograph locations in their publications; 2015 version 3 had them, new version has it removed.

6. Shuswap Trails Roundtable

Mike circulated the draft agenda for the annual meeting, rescheduled from November to accommodate Secwepemc participation.

It was agreed that other than having a bit more time for explanation of the history, values and purpose of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable, the agenda was OK as it was. There was discussion of whether there would be value to allow participants to reflect on what they heard; this could be done in small groups, reported out, and/or utilize post-it notes to capture feedback during the day.

Joe confirmed that the District of Sicamous would sponsor lunch at the annual meeting.

7. Roundtable of New Information

Invasive Species Resources - Robyn Hooper has funds if signage, boot brushes are needed. Have a list of where updated signs are, but looking for input. New staff. It was suggested to coordinate with Veda for CSRD boat launches, and to ensure consistent signage. Yellow flag iris is an issue, a funding application is in for more work. Little Shuswap Lake Adams Lake are proposed for sampling for zebra and quagga mussels in 2019. Shelley would like presentation on invasive species to Chief Atahm school in September.

Switzmalph Cultural Society - interpretive signage program will be starting in spring; this is a success story from this group.

8. Next Steps

Future Working Group 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
- Front Counter BC and their 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"> ▪ Schedule next meeting for late Nov/early Dec ▪ 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 Splatsin, Province, lead orgs and BCRDP funding	ASAP
Follow up on Four Year Funding Proposal : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Salmon Arm with letter for \$1500/year x 4 years ▪ 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
Chase Active Transportation - ALIB and Chase councils to meet, identify shared interests and seek infrastructure to connect trails	Joni, Shelley	ASAP
Skimikin Rec Site upgrades - Share information on plans, invasive plant management measures	Danielle, RSTBC	Next meeting
Pass a band council resolution to sign the LOU - Splatsin; then sign the original (Phil has it)	Phil or Mike to follow up with Megan	ASAP
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, 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