

## **Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group**

### **Meeting Summary as at January 25, 2022**

**Meeting date:** January 21, 2022 9:00AM to 12:00PM    **Location:** Zoom web conference

**Present:**

Aaron Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band  
Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)  
Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)  
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)  
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter  
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors  
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewardship Society  
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association  
Kayla Gunner, Splatsin  
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter and Larch Hills Nordics (summer use)  
Christina Lutterman, Chase Chamber of Commerce  
Chris Lynd, trail enthusiast  
Eleanor Marshall, Gardom Lake/Mallory Ridge resident  
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics  
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)  
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Celia Nord, Adams Lake Indian Band  
Carly Prosychnyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)  
Natalie Sorkilmo, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club  
Micky Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band  
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase

#### **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. Note that quorum was not met.

#### **2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity**

Aaron taught us the Secwepemc word for medicine - melamen.

#### **3. Previous Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary from October 15, 2021 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 Roundtable Meeting Debrief, Finalize Work Plan, Budget**

The following was the feedback provided about the [Annual Meeting](#) held on November 24, 2021:

- Had good turnout of people
- Enabling a switch from one sub-regional breakout group to another didn't work well; some groups were too small to enable discussion, it took too long with the technology. Don't do this again.
- Some people miss the in-person opportunity, the networking that happens at coffee breaks outside of the formal agenda
- Some people appreciate the virtual opportunity to participate, we should keep this to account for long distances to travel and poor weather
- Mixed feelings on whether a hybrid (some in-person, some virtual) meeting would work; some have seen it work well, some not. If doing a hybrid meeting, would need to ensure good audio-visual capabilities so people online can hear

Jen provided an update on the financial situation for the Shuswap Trails Roundtable for 2022. This year is the last year of the four-year funding agreement with local and Secwepemc governments, she will initiate letters in fall 2022 to renew the agreement. She noted that Kevin Eskelin of Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC, part of Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) provided \$2500 in funding. This enables a \$1900 carry-over to start 2022. Jen acknowledged and thanked the clubs that provided a total of \$750 to the Shuswap Trail Alliance to fund the Shuswap Trails Roundtable in 2021; if clubs want to contribute again this year, that would be appreciated.

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

Gorge – Adrian

- Formal group formed advocating for ski touring and non-motorized use in East Shuswap. Just getting underway. Jake van Allen to attend these meetings in the future.
- Larger Working Group with motorized, ski touring company etc. that initiated work in past years is “on low heat” – they will aim to meet again in late winter/early spring.
- Road is ploughed this year as Louisiana Pacific is actively logging beyond the access point. Parking is better as pull outs are ploughed.

Skimikin – Sue, Chris, Linda

- Had an environmental assessment (EA) done of the area around lake for trails to be authorized and s.57s, completed in fall and report in hand. Submitted the two s.57s to Front Counter BC and referrals sent out. Referral period ends February 15. Can hopefully install signage in spring for what was authorized. EA work was done by Jeremy Ayotte and funded by grants from Horse Council of BC
- Chris noted work done so far has had archaeological oversight but not cultural heritage resource assessment; some \$ budget covered that he is working with Celia to get that work complete. Celia confirmed she is hoping to try and fund a Cultural Heritage & Archaeological Overview Assessment for the motorized trails in the application.
- Trail work done in fall 2021 for motorized trails will be reassessed in spring and again at end of next season to see how it's holding up.
- Winter use in the area includes snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, etc.

[Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail](#) – Ryan

- Working on planning for preliminary work on two sections between 0km-19km (Mara Hall) and pilot test section Splatsin-Enderby to be built this year, waiting on plans from Urban Systems. Lots of permits in development or in place. The Mara section will be open for rustic condition and somewhat bumpy, but not perfect – not ready until later in summer, so it shouldn't be promoted for 2022

tourism. More likely an early fall opening but depends on responses to the tender and what is proposed (creativity dependent).

- Fundraising over winter was successful, a corporate donation is pending
- CSRD and RDNO boards extended agreement with STA for ongoing administrative support to many functions of the Rail trail. Awaiting agreement from Splatsin. Drafting that agreement now to cover from February 2022 to June 2023.
- It was asked whether there be volunteer opportunities for equipment operators that are local? Ryan noted procurement limitations within CSRD, but they are exploring whether in-kind contributions can be utilized.

#### Glenemma – Ryan

- Not much new, waiting for decision from Agricultural Land Commission, he expects a decision any time now. On hold until that decision is received. If positive, then RSTBC will restart the application to them. Was already in progress with RSTBC then snag hit with Agricultural Land Reserve issue.
- Next steps – ALC decision, await RSTBC decision, then direct CSRD planners on final design. Budget in place for construction for 2022. Work with STA and tender the construction work.

#### North Shuswap parallel trail – Ryan

- Received preliminary drawings for 3 priority areas, lined up meetings with MOTI for feasibility and review drawings, then November floods hit and MOTI have been busy with flood response. CSRD is seeking to reschedule those meetings. Need those meetings with MOTI on feasibility first before presenting to the North Shuswap parallel trails working group. Funding only for design, engineering and planning work at this point. No funds secured yet for capital works (i.e., building it). Jen noted that North Shore Lions did fundraising in 2021, STA is holding the funds.

#### South Shuswap Destination Trail Plan – Ryan

- Covering the entire peninsula between the main and Salmon arms of Shuswap Lake, they are kickstarting the process again with STA, January 2022 restart, BC Rural Dividend funding to do the planning and get to a final plan. Need consultation with FNs, other groups, community.
- Phil added next step is that the STR annual meeting input was valuable, and will reach out to BC Parks, Secwepemc leadership on planning. \$ for engagement and knowledge keepers to be involved. Community consultation in spring. Vikki Tronson is key contact for PteS (Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc) group. Plan is to have the “planning framework” with priorities together by June.
- Phil noted in response to a question that this will have the elements of a visitor use management plan

#### North Fork Wild – Ryan

- On site meeting with elders was held in fall 2021, consultant took notes, awaiting the draft plan for redevelopment of the old house on the property. More to report at our April meeting. Ryan can share notes with Kayla.

#### White Lake – Patrick

- Seen some disrespectful visitors from fall 2021, trailers abandoned and vandalized. Engaged conservation officers. Heavier use seen in the area last year.
- Working on trail authorization in White Lake Provincial Park, close to riparian areas on old western portion of trail in the park, back to residential area. Looking for grant money to support this (Parks Enhancement Fund or PEF). Adrian noted that STA usually apply for PEF funds, but they could explore doing a joint application through STA to support this. Chris noted that for removal of dumped and

burned-out vehicles, reach out to him for which contractors can do this, he has experience from last year in Skimikin.

#### Sicamous Mtn Bike Park and trail planning – Adrian, Carly

- Carly noted that Adrian, Darryl, Jeromy and others connected, and they connected the dots with District of Sicamous and STA on who's doing what and how to work together. STA helping with admin, mapping to move things along and support to District of Sicamous staff Wes.
- Adrian reported that District of Sicamous contracted STA to do bulk of planning, there was a good start, picking up from there. Environmental survey of area to be conducted. Adrian is working on planning documents for RSTBC engagement.
- Phase 1 – acceptable application to RSTBC. Phase 2 – bids out to do the work/build it.
- Celia noted that a field visit with Jeromy and others was useful
- Next steps are wider conversation about all Sicamous-area trails, reach out to everyone to understand and piece together the big picture, the connections, all the trails in the area. It was noted that this would be useful from a tourism and marketing perspective.

#### Larch Hills Nordics – Craig

- Lighting project phase 1 and 2 complete, approvals in place for 3 and 4 next summer. Good feedback.
- Link trail – new trail proposed as a ginsu-groomed trail between Sky trail and Larch Hills Road. Craig will follow up with Adrian and RSTBC about this too.
- Re-route around Catamount Canyon trail, hope to add as a change in same application – safer intersection, Keith noted.

#### Mallory Ridge – Eleanor

- Just undergoing initial conservations, getting a s.57 in place. Looking for funds to do cumulative effects assessment. Phil suggested at minimum to use the trail screening tool and engaging Jeremy Ayotte – it's not a full CEA but looking at the basic approaches consistent with CEA principles. Hard to find big money to do a full CEA. Jen suggested TD Friends of the Environment, Royal Bank Tech Nature (be creative), and possibly Salmon Arm Savings & Credit Union (SASCU) as it's an open intake.

#### North Shuswap Hunkwa Lake – Jen, Phil

- Phil noted there are funds for planning initiatives, spread out geographically, to continue supporting BC Parks to assess recreational access at Hunkwa Lake. Did 2-3 days of assessment, need to sit down with Secwepemc leadership next. Wildfires in 2021 prevented this, planning to do this in 2022. Wes DeArmond is on leave, other BC Parks are busy with wildfire rehabilitation. Need to figure out how to do this given challenges this year.

#### Mt Ida / Kela7scen – Jen

- Kela7scen Working Group met last in November, next meeting in February. STA and WG created a proposal for a recreation management planning process, presented to Neskonlith, passed to PteS. Neskonlith has agreed STA can seek funding for the plan. Seeking approval from PteS for approval for next steps. Celia noted it's on Monday's agenda at PteS. Need some ideas for funding sources for this.

#### Owlhead-Hunters Range-Blue Lake – Phil, others

- Small working group had got together before Christmas to move things forward, but wildfire closures have caused challenges with access. Shift gears and follow up with motorized closures in wildfire-affected areas. #1 priority was this winter as it was coming up, clarification on snowmobile season and

access. Owlhead working group wants to follow up on implications for summer access and use; access constraints coming from the wildfire mitigation plan. Significant recreation area, these access constraints in the wildfire closures are having implications for recreation. See this [link](#) for a frequently asked questions document related to these closures, and this [link](#) for a list of closures.

- It was suggested to reach out to BC FLNRORD regarding post-wildfire closures to understand them better, and line up for April WG meeting (if the date works) or a stand-alone meeting. It was suggested that Eric Valdal, Director, Resource Management, Thompson-Okanagan Region of FLNRORD is the right person to start with as the closures were authorized by him.
- Connector trail to move out of a wetter area for summer motorized use – Dave Crowfoot’s group heard from Marcy in mid-December that RSTBC is waiting for FLNRORD district folks; Dave is waiting to hear and hoping to apply for funding to do this work in 2022.
- Mara lookout trail work looking for an exemption.
- Chris noted that the Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club got an exemption to the closure to access their riding areas. Signage in place, could be useful in summer too. Chris can dig deeper with Dave Crowfoot and others.

## 5. Forest Recreation Planning and Development

On January 20th the Shuswap Trail Alliance hosted a webinar on Forest Recreation Planning and Development. Presenters at this workshop were:

- Kevin Kriese, from the Forest Practices Board, discuss how the changes to FRPA can help improve recreation management including forest landscape planning. A PDF of his slide show can be found [here](#)
- Celia Nord, Assistant Title & Rights Coordinator, Adams Lake Indian Band will be speaking about the process of consulting with First Nations communities while developing recreation features. A PDF of her slide show can be found [here](#)
- John Hawkings from RSTBC spoke about the Visitor Use Management Framework (VUMF) – drawing on the recent local recreation planning project in the Sea to Sky corridor which used a VUMF framework. A PDF of his slide show can be found [here](#)
- You can watch the recording of the presentation [here](#)

Take-aways from the session and further discussion raised the following:

- The approach the Shuswap Trails Roundtable is taking, with the [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#) is the right approach, collaborating early on is consistent with best practices advocated last night and at a previous Yellowstone to Yukon meeting held in 2021
- New opportunities with forest landscape plans (new tool in Forest and Range Practices Act) sound promising, but we should consider other legal mechanisms (i.e., Government Action Regulation orders)
- Promising to hear similar voices, similar approaches from other jurisdictions
- Technology and ability to use GPS, maps are amazing to inventory the recreation resources – continue doing this, explore more opportunities
- Challenge is structure of Recreation Sites and Trails BC as a small “department” with limited capacity and resources within a larger provincial ministry; they have limited influence over a limited landbase
- Support the idea of establishing objectives on the land for recreation and trails (this has evolved; it wasn’t supported by government 20 years ago)
- Frustrating to see that the resources go to the “hungry places” with big population/use pressures, such as Sea to Sky
- Government to Government initiatives between the province and Indigenous nations is the current priority for the province

It was agreed that these “deeper dives” that can’t fit within the annual meeting are valuable, and to aim to have a few of these per year. STA will follow up and re-schedule Ted Morton and possibly Pate Neumann to present on their master’s degree research initiatives.

## 6. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society – Jess shared that Robyn Hooper is going on parental leave in March, Sue Davies will be the interim Executive Director while she is off. Follow up with Jess regarding any weed pulls or training needs on terrestrial or aquatic invasive species.

Shuswap Trail Alliance fundraiser will be online from February 4-20, 2022.

Soon to be released will be a Shuswap Lakes guide with hand launch sites for kayaks, canoes, SUPs.

## 7. Next Steps

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

- Friday April 8, 2022, 9AM-12PM (not 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday as that is Good Friday)
- Friday June 17, 2022, 9AM-12PM
- Friday Oct 21, 2022, 9AM-12PM

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Line up presentation on motorized vehicle closure in wildfire areas for April WG meeting (if the date works) or a stand-alone meeting. It was suggested that Eric Valdal, Director, Resource Management, Thompson-Okanagan Region of FLNRORD is the key contact.	Mike, Jen	Before April meeting
Start <b>hut to hut opportunities</b> , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter’s Range.	Louis, others	Future meeting
Work with <b>Shuswap Tourism</b> or current organization to publish and advertise authorized trails	Everyone	Ongoing
Organizations to <b>sign the LOU</b> 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 <b>GPS/GIS linework</b> on trails to Adrian at Shuswap Trail Alliance, <a href="mailto:adrian@shuswaptrails.com">adrian@shuswaptrails.com</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Trails groups – send <b>suitable berry picking sites, locations of cultural plants of interest</b> (highbush cranberry, hazelnut, yellow avalanche lily, spring beauty/Indian potatoes, soopalalie, saskatoon) as trail reports to <a href="mailto:trailreport@shuswaptrails.com">trailreport@shuswaptrails.com</a> – intent is that Secwepemc governments are seeking this information, it will be shared only with them	Everyone	Ongoing
Seek <b>support letters for funding</b> applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do <b>cumulative effects assessment</b> on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing
<b>Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards</b> - order from Georgia Jules at Neskonlith Education Centre by email <a href="mailto:educationassistant@neskonlithec.net">educationassistant@neskonlithec.net</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Download the <b>Secwepemc language app</b> for your smart phone	Everyone	Ongoing