

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as at June 25, 2021

Meeting date: June 18, 2021 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: Zoom web conference

Present:

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance

Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance

Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC – Shuswap Chapter

Blaine Carson, Shuswap Trail Alliance member, trail enthusiast

Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors

Avis Denault, Adams Lake Indian Band

Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority (from 9:45AM)

Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association

Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC – Shuswap Chapter and Larch Hills Nordics (summer use)

Kim Kaiser, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)

Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park

Chris Lynd, trail enthusiast

Eleanor Marshall, Gardom Lake/Mallory Ridge resident

Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics

Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance

Celia Nord, Adams Lake Indian Band (from 10:00AM)

Carly Prosychnyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation (to 10:00AM)

Veda Roberge, Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)

Louis Thomas, Neskonlith Indian Band (from 9:15AM)

Bree Thorlakson, Pemberton Off Road Cycling Association (guest)

Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase (to 10:15AM)

Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (from 9:45AM)

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

Phil noted he has working with Splatsin leadership recently and learning about dialects. Weykt is “hello” to an individual but saying hello to many people is Weyktp. Splatsin dialect is different than other areas; Rail Trail info is “Waypt” in Splatsin territory, different than in the West part of Shuswap. Avis added like any language, different dialects everywhere. Only developed written side very recently, it was only oral. Avis said the Secwepemc language app is western dialect, and that Kamloops is the divider for dialects.

The phonetic pronunciation for Mt Ida (Kela7scen) was sought, and it was reported that the Mt Ida Working Group is working on this, as there could be dialectical differences, if on east or west side of Mt Ida.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from April 16, 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.

Sustainable funding – Jen noted that there has been an additional \$600 in donations from various groups (CSISS, Backcountry Horsemen, Bike Club, Chamber North Shore, Larch Hills Nordics, Shuswap Trail Alliance) but that the Shuswap Trails Roundtable is still in a deficit of \$2600. If other groups or businesses are interested to support the funding for the Shuswap Trails Roundtable, make cheque to Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA) and they will hold it in reserve. Phil suggests we keep in close conversation with BC government partners, as there may be a possibility for additional support later in the fiscal year.

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

Reinecker Creek West Trail

- Adrian and Veda reported that plans are initiated to modify trails in this area, to avoid a trail through a gravel pit. CSRD has a partnership agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) and have hired STA to come up with an alternate route. See file named *Reinecker Trail Plan 2021.pdf* circulated with this meeting summary. BC Parks is also part of this as access is from Herald Park.

Mt Ida/Kela7scen

- Jen reported that a Working Group formed following the April meeting, and they have had two meetings since then. First meeting was to express concerns and explore what is happening, second was presentation from Celia Nord, BCTS and BC Wildfire Service about plans for wildfire risk reduction work on part of Mt Ida above the industrial park. Sonya Campbell from FLNRORD Okanagan Shuswap office may have funds for a management plan. Next meeting will start looking at the values for the area, put a proposal together to Pespesellkwe to look at recreational values, forest health, other values, and how a recreational plan would complement a forest health and wildfire risk reduction plan.
- Louis (noted that Neskonlith is not part of Pespesellkwe group) will get involved, next meeting coming up July 6. There is a signed agreement for Mt Ida regarding title and rights. Need to start developing a plan. Louis has clear authority to work on Mt Ida for Neskonlith.
- Chris reported that all parties seemed respectful of trails and recreation values with their plans. Adrian noted that the s.57 application from Shuswap Dirt Riders wasn't discussed but is in progress.
- Louis asked about funding for trail work, Sonya Campbell has secured some \$ for this through Pespesellkwe and Neskonlith. Need to get into further discussions about details; there could possibly in-kind support from BCTS and Tolko.
- Blaine shared lots of details about routes and their conditions.
- Anita noted that "who is missing" at first meeting identified pressures on aquifer on the industrial area, she reached out to groundwater protection person in Kamloops and yes there is pressure; Sheena Spencer is the MFLNRORD hydrologist. Sheena is keen to be involved.
- Email Jen for the link to the Mt Ida Working Group meeting notes on dropbox.

Skimikin

- Sue noted that since last the meeting, signage is now complete. Working Group meeting on site is scheduled for June 23 will discuss summer use, and she's been in touch with Libby and Shelley re:

elders site visit for Secwepemc Landmarks project, scheduled for July 5, and to learn some history of the area and identify some trail names associated with cultural history.

- Chris added that in the last few days, Marcia and RSTBC put in new picnic tables in staging area, helps with day use. Close to having some content for the kiosks, educational and directional info. Yesterday, stop signs at trail crossings at Skimikin Lake Road, now legal crossings for outdoor recreational vehicles (ORV) from ORV funds. This is a Motor Vehicle Act requirement; there are two stop signs at the staging area, and two at end of trail 10 (out of ATV campground) and already one at Platt Road, new one coming from north.
- Volunteer weed pull mid to late July by CSISS, Kim hasn't secured a date yet. Will advise.

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor noted that since last meeting, BC Hydro did a lot of vegetation removal on hydro line which has pushed wildlife into other areas. Trails being more used in the area since hydro lines aren't as nice. Talked to Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) folks, they want to collaborate with CSRD side.
- Veda asked for maps or linework. Eleanor said there are maps, and Adrian said they did some GPS of trails and Suzanne Fordyce at CSRD has it. It doesn't encompass all of the trails, but it will show hydro lines, private property. Within the proposed conservation area are 4 proposed Tolko blocks and private property with proposed logging.
- Phil noted that he's outlined a strategy for Eleanor for steps to take for a planning process (see resources on website) in the past. Phil noted that groups can't put up signs without authorization. Plan helps become strategic about what's doable, and what other organizations need to do (i.e., BC Hydro has to clear brush). Recommendations on steps to go to Secwepemc leadership. Suggests that next step is to build a plan with maps and a strategy.

White Lake Provincial Park

- Patrick reported that preliminary road upgrade designs for Forest Service road (FSR) relocation, 2km upslope out of riparian area. Aiming to finalize the design by July or August, then do consultation in fall. West side of the campsite, an old logging road (main road in early 1900s?) has some marsh and wet areas, community involvement applied for BC Park Enhancement Fund to leave some of it as non-motorized, but leave part near park entrance to campsite, tie it in nicely with east side one once it's complete. Old trail has some wet areas, need to put in boardwalk or alter the trail location. Entrance ways on west side and campsite with access-restricting boulders.
- Adrian confirmed with Patrick that this is all inside White Lake Provincial Park, and Patrick confirmed that he has talked to Wes DeArmond and he will present the plan to him. Adrian can come out and take a look at the wet areas and old trail. Linework and mapping for the re-route is on White Lake Residents Association website www.wlra.ca

Hidden Lake

- Adrian noted that there's a new caretaker, Dustin Elliot, he is doing lots with RSTBC opening up old trails around Hidden Lake. Trails on east side, none on west, but he wants to develop some. Ian McLellan is aware and in discussion with Dustin. STA seeking to support him with that have some planning money for Mabel Lake/Trinity Valley Road area. RSTBC wants to see detailed plan.
- Phil suggested that Dustin and/or Adrian follow up with Splatina – Frank Joe, title and rights. This is an important feature for Enderby area and tourists, and part of blueway system.

South Shuswap Destination Trails Plan

- Phil noted that this connects to Reinecker/Herald park. He's provided an outline to Ryan Nitchie of CSRD for following up on this larger plan. Will be on Phil's plate to continue in September. Then engage with community, work towards having framework plan in place by spring 2022.

Secwepemc Landmarks

- There was an unveiling at Little Mtn Park in Salmon Arm of the first Landmark trailhead post on June 1. SD83 organized it and many attended but numbers were restricted due to COVID.
- Shelley noted that the graduating class was mature enough to hear from Kukpi7 Christian about the impacts of Kamloops Indian Residential School recent announcement of unmarked graves.
- Bigger ones, more attendance in fall with sculptures, especially if COVID rules allow >50 people
- RJ Hainey, Salmon Arm Wharf – working on site blessings before work is done.
- Artists are finishing sculptures. Archaeology work on 4 sites. Extra work as a result of this. Libby working hard on all of this. Libby and Jen acquired funding from various sources.
- These will be in place for approximately 40 years



Lee Creek

- Phil noted planning consultation with Lee Creek residents was the next step for this project that was initiated in 2020. Everything has been on hold due to COVID. Can regroup in fall 2021. Also action is Secwepemc follow up. Road access is also a challenge as it currently falls short of requirements, goes through LSLIB property. Need to improve access as there were a number of concerns with forestry road maintenance. Also there is some community sensitivity with the proposal.

Owlhead/Hunters Range

- Phil reported that the small working group (motorized, Phil) reconvened in late April, did another review of mapping. They are waiting on cleaned up mapping from Clint to have Suzanne update the maps. Big questions are waiting for s.57 application to reroute between Owlhead and Blue Cummings Lake side; no final decision yet.
- Bridge replacement – it is potential for Skyline Road to put in an ATV/ORV dedicated bridge on a deactivated road, as it's a formal snowmobile route. RSTBC is the lead on this.
- Chris added that field verification of connector routes, post-snow, is the plan, need to wait for snow to disappear. Curtis Monroe involved too.
- Adrian reported that the historic trail, will be building boardwalk in summer 2021 and 2022. Bridge will help get supplies in, 500m of boardwalk to be built in first 8km of trail.

Larch Hills – Link Trail

- Keith noted that this trail makes a shorter loop on two of the Nordic ski routes. May have to reroute Catamount Canyon and to deal with a water issue; he will be looking at in the field this summer. S.57 application by fall hopefully.

Larch Hills Traverse/Sicamous Trailhead

- Phil noted that on the Sicamous side, Adrian and Phil are working to secure trailhead access with the new highway development. Adrian submitted a proposal to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to have a parallel path beside the highway, MOTI said it was not feasible, need to follow up. Tara Knight at MOTI in Salmon Arm has been helpful, she encourages designs to be submitted. Forestry access road will remain; then cycle side of Hwy, then onto parallel path on bridge. Challenge is you're on the highway for part, facing oncoming traffic, with 100-110km/h speeds of traffic. Would like to have mountain bikers on other side of concrete barriers.
- Tie into old Sicamous Highway also an issue, but not as critical as trailhead.
- Hundreds of cyclists are coming off the trailhead at peak season. It's a key destination trail for both Sicamous and Salmon Arm. People stay in both communities.
- Would like to have decline down to Raspberry Hill and Rail Trail eventually.
- Carly suggested to share proposals and plans with her and she can help advance things, if they have a tourism element. Larch Hills Traverse is a significant tourism development. She can follow up; get Sicamous talking with MOTI to understand importance of this. Adrian, Phil and Carly can meet on site.
- The Ida view section (southern trailhead, west) is working on being approved; made a good start on it, 4km of trail to build and a very large bridge.

North Shuswap Parallel Trails

- Veda noted that Lawson Engineering is doing some survey work for which side of road is best suited for the parallel trail, will hear back in September about costs. Jen added that North Shore Lions is doing a fundraiser for the parallel trails. Very functional local leadership group looking at options and pushing this forward.

Scatchard Mountain/Rocky Road

- Haven't heard back from Secwepemc governments yet; second phase of highway reconstruction is out.
- Plan for trailhead and new highway work hasn't been reviewed yet.

City of Salmon Arm update (written submission from Chris Larson)

- The City of Salmon Arm continues work on local trail initiatives, implementing the Greenways Strategy and Official Community Plan. Upcoming trail related projects anticipated include continued expansion and improvements around the South Canoe Parking area and foreshore trail improvements, with recent completed projects including a connection between 5-corners and Hillcrest. In addition to these and other initiatives which other roundtable members may share, the City's Active Transportation Task Force has been regularly meeting in order to guide the vision for future active transportation initiatives, including working towards a potential future Active Transportation Plan. The City may request letters of support for the potential future Active Transportation Plan initiative from Regional Trails Roundtable members. If anyone has questions or wishes to connect on these or any other initiatives, please email clarson@salmonarm.ca

Joss Pass

- Jeremy still working on habitat plan. Adrian and Jeremy will get out there soon.

5. Shuswap Trails Roundtable Annual Meeting

- Jen confirmed that this will be fully online, as the budget doesn't allow for in-person, even if COVID rules enable it
- It was suggested that possible dates be discussed over the summer, with the goal of setting a date and sending a "save the date" message by early September
- Possible dates are **Wednesday November 17** or **Wednesday November 24** during the day (9AM-2PM)
- Action is to circulate these possible dates with all First Nations to determine conflicts; confirm with entire WG list; ask Secwepemc leadership might bring or want for topics
- Agenda topic ideas were brainstormed:
 - Mt Ida should be highlighted – improvements, showcase progress and what's happening
 - Leadership updates at a "meta-level" – Secwepemc update (Pespesellkwe and Neskonlith), and BC government; update on what Pespesellkwe is; Little People and Big People.
 - Forest Practices Board report on forest recreation values [Management of Forest Recreation in BC - Forest Practices Board \(bcfpb.ca\)](#), ask Glen Pilling (retired) to present?
 - Do subregional breakout groups as done in November 2020
 - Grant writing, experiences of how to write grants, how to look for them, best practices, leveraging funding from various sources – and also collaboration on grants (not competing amongst ourselves) and Outdoor Rec Council or others, advocate for dedicated funding
 - Honouring and recognizing people who have worked diligently and faithfully on trails
 - Research presentations – Pate Neumann, Ted Morton, Jeremy Ayotte (Joss Pass env screening)

6. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

Parks Canada

- Louis is working with Parks Canada and Agriculture Canada on traditional plants, but Parks Canada also have trails people and they want to connect with Phil about trails in the Revelstoke-Golden area where the national parks areas. Louis doing Zoom talk with CP Rail and others.
- Phil noted they've had talks with Parks Canada in the past about alpine trails; now with Adrian working more in the alpine, and Keith in McPherson, there is lots to learn from National Parks folks. Two-way learning. Louis is key contact if you want to be involved.

CSISS – Kim

- There will be a Skimikin weed pull in summer, date TBD.
- There will be a weed pull with Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society (SABNES) in August.
- CSISS Will send invitations to anyone in their network (not too public to prevent numbers not >50).
- Anticipated 2 hours per weed pull.
- CSISS recently installed some boot brush kiosks on BC Parks in Shuswap, looking for place for a kiosk in Sicamous area with a boot brush. ACTION – someone advise Kim of a high traffic, ideal area; or Kim can connect with Carly of Sicamous Dev Corp. for key areas for a kiosk and boot brush. Perhaps right at mouth of Eagle River in town? Or Eagle Creek/Yard Creek?

STA website updates

- Jen noted that they are in process of doing updates to the website, including links to partners and other groups, motorized groups as well, CSISS website. Looking for pictures of diverse people using trails, summer and winter use. Aiming for launch at end of August.

Old growth forest (Louis, Patrick)

- [Intentions paper](#) recently released by FLNRORD on Forest Policy updates, rolling up old growth review, Interior Forest Sector Renewal, etc.
- Patrick noted that FPB had recent report on non-timber values, in particular forest recreation. Add link from chat box from AB. Flag back to roundtable topics. [Management of Forest Recreation in BC - Forest Practices Board \(bcfpb.ca\)](#)

Humamilt Lake

- Phil noted that a paddle-ways brochure is being created, and Blaine noted that Humamilt Lake is nice

7. Next Steps

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

- Friday Oct 15, 2021, 9AM-12PM

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Follow up on Four Year Funding Proposal : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up with RDNO board 	Someone other than Phil	ASAP
Develop new approach to sustainable funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider whether groups can each contribute a small amount this year and in years to come ▪ Submit donations to Jen at STA 	Groups	Ongoing
Consider date options for Annual Roundtable Meeting – Wed Nov 17 or Wed Nov 24, aim to finalize and send a “save the date” by early September	Local and First Nations governments	By early September
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
Standing Action Items		
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	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	Everyone	Ongoing
Share updated Working Group contact list with all participants	Mike	Ongoing
Seek support letters for funding applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Upload approved Working Group meeting summaries to website	Jen	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