

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

Meeting Summary – January 19, 2018

Meeting date: January 19, 2018 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Location: Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board Room, Salmon Arm

Present:

- Bonnie Thomas – Switzmalph Cultural Society
- Herman Halvorson – RDNO Area F
- Tom Dickson – Revelstoke ATV
- Allan Obrigewitsch – Revelstoke ATV
- Robyn Hooper – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
- Nancy Cooper – City of Salmon Arm
- Joni Heinrich – Village of Chase
- Avis Deneault – Adams Lake Band
- David Lepsoe – Village of Chase
- Marshall Kronewitt – Carl Kuster Mountain Parks
- Terry Rysz – District of Sicamous
- Shirley Bates – EQ Trails Association
- Keith Cox – Shuswap Outdoors, Larch Hills Nordic Society
- Craig McBride – Larch Hills Nordic Society
- Andreas Meerza – Shuswap Cylce Club
- Veda Roberge – CSRD Parks
- Ryan Nitchie – CSRD Parks
- Louis Thomas – Neskonlith Band
- Joe McCulloch – District of Sicamous
- Chris Larson – City of Salmon Arm
- Tess Tomma – Little Shuswap Band
- Sue Davies – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
- Danielle Dornik – Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- George Zorn – Larch Hills Nordic Society
- Carmen Massey – Shuswap Trail Alliance
- Phil McIntyre-Paul – Shuswap Trail Alliance

Regrets:

- Rennie Heare – Sicamous Quadders
- Allan Walker – Salmon Arm Natures Nomads, ATV-BC
- Darren Gridley-Haack – Shuswap Dirt Riders (SORES)

Discussion Summary:

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Neskonlith Councillor Louis Thomas welcomed everyone, acknowledged Secwepemc Territory, and gave a prayer. Phil McIntyre-Paul provided facilitation, noting new funding was needed to continue with Fraser Basin Facilitation. Agenda was reviewed and accepted. Everyone present introduced themselves. October 2017 minutes were not reviewed.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunities for the Working Group

- Secwepemc language – reviewed words: “Tmicw = the land”, and “Knucwetwecw = working together; helping one another” (this is a core value of Switzmalph Cultural Society’s vision)

3. Roundtable (Nov 20, 2018) Follow-up – Action Item: Funding Strategy

- Acknowledged benefit of having Fraser Basin facilitate – solid, consistent, knows history
- Interest to see where Province sits in supporting; **ACTION: Phil** has a conference call with RSTBC Trails Manager, Tennessee Trent, on Monday January 22nd
- Confirmed importance of bringing together more partners to share financial support including municipal/regional governments, Secwepemc governments
- Also acknowledged possible additional funding support from organizations like Mountain Equipment Coop – but possibly better suited for specific recreational access management project support
- Discussed funding support for specific planning and development projects and acknowledged additional funding would be needed for these – also noted ability to leverage support from local government public works departments, in-kind space contributions, etc.
- Proposal recommendation: a) to seek shared financial support for base-line maintenance of the Roundtable and Working Group meetings between all levels of government (Secwepemc, Province, Municipal/Regional), and b) in-kind support from stewardship and sector organizations
- **ACTION: Phil McP** – to prepare draft funding proposal based on Nov 29/2017 Roundtable Workplan Update for leadership to take to their respective governments by the end of March. (STATUS: draft ready for presentation)
- **ACTION: Bonnie Thomas** – willing to meet with 4 local band councils to seek support and direction, and invite consistent representation
 - **ACTION:** Call Naomi August at LSIB to arrange meeting with Chief Oliver and Councillor’s Dale and Wes
- **ACTION: Ryan Nitchie** – to take proposal to CSRD
- **ACTION: David Lepsoe** – will take the proposal to Chase Council
- **ACTION: Herman Halvorson/delegation** – Herman Halvorson said this could be considered for RDNO Community Works Funding with Area F and Enderby – someone needs to contact Patti Juniper to complete a delegation form to RDNO board meeting.
- **ACTION: all stewardship/sector organizations** – to bring proposal to their boards/management for consideration of commitment (in-kind/or funding)

4. Brief Discussion re: Inclusion & Collaboration

- leadership attending from the Revelstoke ATV club asked about the balance of motorized/non-motorized representation on the Shuswap Regional Trails Roundtable and working group -

everyone present acknowledged the strong collaborative approach and solid motorized/non-motorized representation on the Shuswap Roundtable to-date, as well as Secwepemc First Nations/local government inclusion – it is well established; welcomed Revy ATV leadership to join and learn from the Shuswap Roundtable culture and approach.

- Neskonlith Councillor, Louis Thomas, spoke of the demonstrated desire by all the organizations that have participated to-date to help care for the land; to connect and develop friendships
- Clarification was also provided on the role of the Shuswap Trail Alliance in helping to administer the Roundtable and Working Group as a forum for collaboration, but noting the STA and the Roundtable/Working group are different entities.

5. Discussion re: First Nations Referrals

- Little Shuswap Band leadership noted they now have a new referrals officer on staff (Warren Fortier). Tess Toma recommended meeting with Warren and Stacey Coutlee (Squilax Aboriginal Interests) first, then meeting with Chief and Council.
- Acknowledged desire to look at the overall referrals process; raised question of how best to coordinate between all four band offices, and how to resource being able to look at referrals together
- Louis Thomas suggested the Bands work on a consent-based approach to referrals
- **ACTION:** set up meeting with Warren Fortier and Stacey Coutlee to brief on Shuswap Trail Strategy and Roundtable and discuss referral process, then meet with Little Shuswap Chief and Council. Suggestion: to link with Roundtable Funding Strategy presentation.

6. Information Sharing, Communication and Relationship Building

- **Larch Hills Nordic Society - Beginner's Trail Plan** - LHNS presented on desire to establish a new low-grade beginners trail for Nordic skiing close to the main chalet. Shared maps and slides on the concept. LHNS approaching Splat'sin Title & Rights to discuss plans, as well as Tolko. Also following up with Range Licensee. The following discussion/feedback/questions were shared to guide LHNS planning:
 - Is there and education re: respect for the land and Secwepemc values built into the plan/signage?
 - Consider all trails as an educational tool - LHNS noted their ski programs with schools as an opportunity to build on this
 - Question is a cultural plant survey has been budgeted for? Bonnie Thomas noted the Switzmalph Cultural Society is able to provide leadership on this, noted they have developed cultural interpretive signs for indigenous plants (CSRD Parks is currently working on plans to use these.)
 - Recommended conducting a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) - each of the Secwepemc Natural Resource offices can provide these field surveys
 - Noted 20 foot width of track-set ski trails will require timber harvesting permit to cut trees - will be consulting with Tolko; it was noted Splat'sin have an MoU with Tolko, so go through Ray Cormier at Splat'sin.

- Question re snowshoe trails impacted - noted some reroutes required
- Proposed trail avoids the existing Ridge Run non-track-set ski trail and the Upper Violet Creek Provincial Park protected area
- Invasive Species - connect with CSISS to review proposed trail location and discuss mitigation strategies, concern re movement of soils introducing invasives, can provide info on species to revegetate
- Question asked of RSTBC if it is helpful to get signed letters of support from other groups to include with new trail applications to province - Danielle Dornick noted these are not necessary to include, but if you have them it helps give confidence that consultation homework has been done - even just to note letters of support in the application form which asks who has been consulted. Full stakeholder referrals are required at the initial stage. She acknowledged Shuswap Roundtable and Trail Alliance are setting the bar high, an example to others as best practices, gives confidence for accepting proposals.
- See Shuswap Trails Strategy Pre-Approval Process for guidance
- General comments of support for the beginner trail concept were shared
- **Adams River-to-Cottonwood Parallel Pathway** - CSR D Parks - Ryan Nitchie provided update on application for funding to MoTI's BikeBC grant program to develop the previously planned section of parallel walk/bicycle pathway between Adams River Bridge and the Cottonwoods corner
 - The original plan, which goes from Squilax to Scotch Creek, was developed with Little Shuswap Band and BC Parks. This is a section of that plan.
 - Tess Toma with LSIB recommended CSR D Parks meet with Chief and Council to give an update. **ACTION: Ryan Nitchie** to set up meeting with LSIB Chief and Council.
- **Salmon River Road (Silver Creek) Parallel Pathway** - CSR D Parks - also applying to BikeBC grant to develop a parallel walk/bike path along road between Silver Creek store and community park at Haines Creek.
 - Initial plan delayed due to clear zone variance concerns from MoTI, including need to route bicycles toward oncoming traffic on bridge, but new BikeBC funding parameters allows 75% matching funding for rural communities, so inclusion of a walk/bike bridge is possible. Moving ahead with grant application
 - Noted ROW acquisition costly, but assessing options
- **Switzmalph Cultural Society Nature Trail Bridge Concept** - Bonnie noted they are also looking at a pedestrian bridge across Salmon River connecting Salmon Arm Greenways to cultural trails. Possible opportunity to share design specs from Silver Creek project. Looking to meet with Adams Lake Band & City SA leadership.
- **Regional Active Transportation Strategy** - discussed desire for a regionally integrated Active Transportation Strategy incorporating all municipal and regional areas. A draft funding proposal has been developed (by Phil McIntyre-Paul STA with Anita Ely and Tanya Osborne at IHA) and used by Chase and RDNO Area F. Chase was successful in leveraging a \$30,000 grant to

compliment \$10,000 already secured, and are implementing planning in 2018. City of Salmon Arm hope to leverage Greenway Strategy. CSRD Area C Master plan includes Active Transportation strategy as priority. Regional/Municipal leadership are sending motions through SILGA and UBCM to push for MoTI road design standards to incorporate parallel active transportation infrastructure.

- **Haines Creek Crag** – CSRD Parks/STA – Ryan Nitchie updated on stakeholder meeting Monday night this week. Louis Thomas also attended. Hope to apply for formal Section 57/56 approval for Rock Climbing area and establishing a formal hiking trail to the crags. Working closely with local community leadership. Mountaineering Club, and Motorcycle Club. Preliminary field reconnaissance has been done with concept trail proposed. Follow-up with First Nations, Tolko, and MFLNRO underway. Environmental screening completed. Spring field plant inventory planned. Awaiting direction on First Nations PFR.
- **Kela7scen (Mt Ida) Management Agreement** - bands have issued a no-go zone until the agreement is reviewed and formalized with a process in place
 - A community consultation will come after Secwepemc leadership have met with province
 - See this to become a bigger agreement than just forestry building wider relationships
 - Considering possible no-go zones in culturally significant areas
 - Noted Provincial land management concern over motorized recreational impacts in the area expressed during recent meetings
- **Glenemma** - CSRD Parks/STA - Ryan Nitchie updated on planning process to-date. Joint leadership advisory guiding planning. Concepts currently being prepared for further review by area stakeholders and Secwepemc, Okanagan, and Provincial land managers.
- **Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail-Trail** - Sicamous Mayor Terry Rysz provided update - inter-jurisdictional leadership to meet right away - working on vision statement and building implementation plan now the corridor has been acquired. Acknowledged the First Nation/Municipal/Regional/Provincial government collaboration has been unique.
- **Eagle Pass Trail** - noted preliminary trail upgrade plan has been developed for review this coming season; Joe McCulloch noted being keen to be involved.
- **Secwepemc Cultural Signage** - desire to evolve all trail signage is strong. . .
 - CSRD & Switzmalph Society working together to incorporate Secwepemc cultural plan interpretive signage on regional trails.
 - Question: shall we include the Secwepemc Nation flag on the signage?
 - Question: what about winter interpretation?
 - Switzmalph Society looking at developing animal interpretive signs
 - Following up on place name signs and showing where key areas are - in conjunction with STS indigenous cultural tourism process
 - Louis Thomas noted Haines Creek Bluffs planning group are open to renaming

- Also acknowledged interpretive sign project at Adams River Pictographs, Sicamous Greenways signs all acknowledge Secwepemc Territory, and Enderby-Splatsin River Walk extension interpretive sign project.
- **South Shuswap Destination Trail Plan** - CSRD Parks - Ryan Nitchie and Phil McP updated. Preliminary concept plans developed for White Lake & Reinecker Creek; CSRD using Gas Tax funds to advance master parks plan to include master destination trails plan for the region. Consultation and planning scheduled for 2018.
 - Tess Toma acknowledged Traditional Use Values in this area, and importance of consultation and PFRs to guide planning
- **Skimikin Lake Trails and Rec Site** - RSTBC looking at improvements to Rec Site, STA working with EQ Trail Association on upgrade ideas for surrounding trails, noted flooding last year, and high use of the rec site - RSTBC note EQ and motorized use is accessible, and working well together.
- **Invasive Species Signage** - Robyn Hooper updated on Play, Clean, Go! Trailhead sign project.
 - Worked with CSRD, STA, BC Parks, RSTBC, Salmon Arm, and others to install signs at trail heads.
 - Also working on partnership with trail events to set up cleaning stations and hand out flyers in the race package
 - Connecting with Salty Dog, High School Mountain Bike Championships, and Lewiston Ultra
 - Also do Clean, Drain, Dry signage at boat access - so will also connect with Salmon Run at Adams River
 - Can also do survey work with groups
 - Reporting is by phone with photo
 - **ACTION: Andreas Meerza** - Shuswap Bike Club offered to take signs/info to their AGM
- **City of Salmon Arm Greenways** - Chris Larson provided update on City SA greenway progress and 2018 plans. Question re: possibility of water at South Canoe trailhead to have sign to rinse bikes. Chris noted city plan to develop Klahani Park as formal trailhead with washrooms and water. Long term plan. Uncertain on feasibility at current trailhead. Call Chris Larson for questions re Salmon Arm Greenways.

NOTE: at this point several had to leave. The rest agreed to continue for another 30 minutes and discussed the following:

- **Commercial Backcountry Recreation Regulations** - raised by leadership from the Revy ATV Club regarding a [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition regarding a commercial recreation application by Mike Weigle. **ACTION: Revy ATV** will send an email with info. (FOLLOW-UP NOTE: petition is specific to a management area in another region, so not applicable to the Shuswap. The Shuswap Trails Roundtable promotes a dialogue approach to complex issues, rather than petitions and position-based advocacy, and therefore we don't want to inadvertently encourage Shuswap

groups from weighing in on issues in a context we may not fully understand if they are not local. So recommend we discuss this at our April Working Group meeting. Phil McP, Mar. 24/18)

- **Eagle Pass Lookout** - no news on provincial compliance review underway on the cabin built on fire lookout foundation; delegated decision maker will be setting date for opportunity to be heard; anticipating sometime in spring
- **Outdoor Learning School (SD83)** - South Canoe School proposed to become an outdoor learning based school opening in September. Connection with South Canoe trails will be a key part of it. Louis Thomas spoke about the importance of education, dispelling fear of being outside, and the need to learn and respect animals.
- **Joss-Tsuius-Mabel Recreational Access Management Plan** - quick update on progress; follow-up to December meeting to be scheduled in spring; Revy ATV club leadership noted desire to get permission to maintain Two Moon Lake Trail which falls within the 1700 meter grizzly habitat management area.

7. Next Steps:

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Date Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Phil McP – to prepare draft funding proposal based on Nov 29/2017 Roundtable Workplan Update for leadership to take to their respective governments by the end of March. (STATUS: draft ready for presentation) 	Phil McIntyre-Paul (STA)	Draft ready Mar. 9/18 – sent to RSTBC; sent to Roundtable Mar. 24/18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Phil conference call with RSTBC Trails Manager, Tennessee Trent, January 22nd to discuss funding proposal 	Phil McIntyre-Paul (STA)	RSTBC \$10,000 funding support confirmed Mar. 21/18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Bonnie Thomas – willing to meet with 4 local band councils to seek support and direction, and invite consistent representation • ACTION: Call Naomi August at LSIB to arrange meeting with Chief Oliver and Councillor’s Dale and Wes 	Bonnie Thomas (with support from Phil)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Ryan Nitchie – to take proposal to CSRD 	Ryan Nitchie	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: David Lepsoe – will take the proposal to Chase Council 	David Lepsoe	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Herman Halvorson/delegation – Herman Halvorson said this could be considered for RDNO Community Works Funding with Area F and Enderby – someone needs to contact Patti Juniper to complete a delegation form to RDNO board meeting. 	Herman Halvorson	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: all stewardship/sector organizations – to bring proposal to their boards/management for consideration of commitment (in-kind/or funding) 	All Stewardship & Sector Organizations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: set up meeting with Warren Fortier and Stacey Coutlee to brief on Shuswap Trail Strategy and Roundtable and discuss referral process, then meet with Little Shuswap Chief and Council. Suggestion: to link with Roundtable Funding Strategy presentation. 	Aaron Arnouse/Tess Toma/Phil & Bonnie???	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Ryan Nitchie to set up meeting with LSIB Chief and Council. 	Ryan Nitchie	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Andreas Meerza - Shuswap Bike Club offered to take signs/info to their AGM 	Andreas Meerza	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION: Revy ATV will send an email with info on a change.org petition re Commercial Backcountry Recreation Regulations. (See Update Note above. Recommend bringing to April Working Group meeting for discussion.) 	Tom Dickson/Allan Obrigewitsch	Link sent Jan 19/18 (Discuss at April Working Group Meeting)

8. Next Meeting: Date, Time, Location

April 20th, 2018 – 10 am – 3 pm (Location: TBA – suggestions included Neskonlith Melamen Health Centre at Switzmalph, Sicamous, Splatsin)

Meeting Summary Prepared by: Phil McIntyre-Paul

Updated Version: March 24, 2018