

# Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group

## Draft Meeting Summary as at April 25, 2018

**Meeting date:** April 20, 2018 9:35AM to 1:30PM

**Location:** Columbia Shuswap Regional District office, Salmon Arm, BC

**Present (in person):**

Mel Arnold, MP, North Okanagan-Shuswap (10:10AM to 12:00PM)  
Shirley Bates, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter  
Sutra Brett, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Gord Bushell, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club and District of Sicamous  
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors, Larch Hills Nordic Society  
Tom Dickson, Revelstoke ATV Club  
Sue Davies, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society  
Paul Demenok, Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority  
Kevin Eskelin, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of MFLNRORD\*) (to 12:00PM)  
Herman Halvorson, Regional District of North Okanagan (to 12:00PM)  
Brad Harrison, Backcountry Lodges of BC Association (to 12:00PM)  
Rennie Heare, Sicamous Quadders  
Joni Heinrich, Village of Chase (to 12:00PM)  
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society  
Sarah Kylo, Assistant to Mel Arnold MP (10:10AM to 12:00PM)  
David Lepsoe, Village of Chase (to 12:00PM)  
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics  
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Brodie Rundel, BC Parks (to 12:00PM)  
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)  
Clint Smith, Larch Hills Nordics  
Jan Thingsted, Acting Chair, Shuswap Trail Alliance  
Bonnie Thomas, Switzmalph Cultural Society  
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith Indian Band  
Tess Tomma, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band (to 12:00PM)  
Miranda Williams, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter  
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band (to 12:00PM)  
*\*Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations*

### 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. The CSRD was acknowledged for hosting the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Quorum was confirmed as being met.

### 2. January 19, 2018 Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from January 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:

- Commercial backcountry recreation, role of advocacy - it was cautioned that some commercial backcountry operations are seeking to expand into larger areas; and that a balance needs to be struck between commercial opportunities, environmental protection and non-commercial uses; it was suggested to be proactive in implementation of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy in addressing this balance, through collaboration and dialogue as opposed to petitions and online advocacy
- Cumulative Effects Assessment update - as reported at the Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting on November 29, 2017, the Sexqéltkemc te Secwepemc (STS) Lakes Division is leading a Shuswap-wide initiative, and resourcing from multiple partners is needed
- Trails signage and indigenous tourism initiative - as reported at the Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting on November 29, 2017 by Shelley Witzky, an Indigenous Tourism Strategy is being developed, and a tourism coordinator is being hired. Part of this initiative will be signage, incorporating Bonnie's cultural heritage signs about traditional plants, QR/bar codes to scan, phonetic pronunciations and more. More to come.

### 3. 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.

### 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](#)).

#### *White Lake/South Shuswap/Balmoral*

Ryan reported that reconnaissance level work for trails is underway for the South Shuswap Destination Trail Plan. Robyn Hooper noted that funds are available to remove yellow flag iris from White Lake and Little White Lake in early June. The draft South Shuswap Destination Trails Plan, covering the entire peninsula needs referral and input. Shirley noted that the trailhead at Balmoral is leveled out and would accommodate horse trailers, and wondered if this is appropriate use. Bonnie committed to making site-specific cultural information signage for the South Shuswap peninsula.

#### *Sicamous to Armstrong Rail Trail*

Ryan noted that the owners of the rail trail - CSRD, RDNO and Splatsin - met on Feb 19, to initiate governance structure and policy. Risk management and reconnaissance of the trail was completed last fall. Initial next steps needed is signage to note the non-maintained current status (especially bridges and walkways), have some level of enforcement, and then communications to address community expectations. Management intent is for non-motorized use; next steps will be to advance this as an infrastructure project to develop an international destination trail.

#### *Salmon River Parallel Trail, Haines Creek*

Ryan noted that a funding application for \$760 000 was submitted to MOTI and Bike BC to develop a trail parallel to Salmon River Road from Silver Creek to Haines Creek Park; there are also trails being

developed to access rock climbing. This is also within the area of Kela7scen/Mt Ida, where discussions are ongoing between Secwepemc governments and MFLNRORD about land use.

#### *Adams River to Cottonwood, North Shuswap*

Gas tax funds from CSRD Area F are being considered for a trail, but the challenge is there is insufficient space within the MOTI right of way to build a parallel trail, and some of the adjacent areas, even if they were acquired are steep cliffs. Want to avoid widening the shoulder and encouraging pedestrian or bike traffic on the shoulder due to safety concerns. Ryan noted that MOTI is actively engaged and want to find a solution. Anita suggested a transportation engineer [Dr. Gordon Lovegrove at UBC Okanagan](#) is seeking “capstone projects” to work on.

#### *Larch Hills Nordics Beginner Trail*

Craig and Clint reported that their application to Front Counter BC is almost ready to submit for the 1.3km 7m wide new trail. They want to do a walk-about once the area dries out. Louis suggested letting him and other Secwepemc representatives know if suitable berry-picking sites are identified, as they have lost this local knowledge over time and it would benefit members.

#### *Sunnybrae Parallel Trail to Tappen*

Paul noted that seniors in the area want a parallel trail, not just use alongside the Sunnybrae Road due to speed and safety concerns; traffic calming has been resisted in the past. Ryan noted that MOTI doesn't own parts of the road so that's been the challenge for developing a parallel trail. It was suggested that in addition to local MOTI representative Ken Namislo, James Demens, Regional Transportation Manager based in Kamloops be engaged in these tricky situations. Tess noted that from the COOP store to Sky Blue Waters is an important medicinal plant area.

#### *Owlhead/Blue Lake/East Shuswap Alpine Areas*

Sutra has done some inventory of existing trails and planned upgrades; Phil noted that provincial Rural Dividend funding has been approved for meeting support and recreation access management planning. Hoping to re-engage soon, building on the December 14, 2017 meeting held at Splatsin. It was agreed to keep access management planning separate for the following three areas, but inform each group of the “bigger picture:” Joss/Mabel/Tsuis, MacPherson, and Owlhead/Blue/Cummings Lakes. Gord noted that 8 kiosks are built for Owlhead/Blue Lake area, including one at bottom of road where District of Sicamous purchased land. BC Parks put in some funds for signage. MFLNRORD's plans for motorized closures above 1700m are working their way through the process. The need for broader access management planning is to address mountain biking, hiking, helicopter access and all forms of access and use.

#### *Turner Creek*

Robyn Hooper noted that Royal Bank of Canada's Bluewater fund is helping pay for yellow flag iris control at Turner Creek.

#### *Gardom Lake*

Robyn Hooper noted that Royal Bank of Canada's Bluewater fund is helping pay for yellow flag iris control at Gardom Lake. Also, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and Shuswap Watershed Council are helping fund monitoring for aquatic invasive mussels in 2018, with Gardom Lake one of many sites.

#### *West Bay Trail/Hwy 1 Expansion*

Louis noted that an environmental engineering plan is needed, at a cost of about \$75 000, to overlay the development of a parallel trail to be completed in conjunction with Hwy 1 expansion. Some

funds are secured already through City of Salmon Arm and hotel tax revenue. Bonnie suggested CP Rail and Fisheries and Oceans Canada for construction funds.

#### *Scatchard Mountain*

Anita reported on behalf of David Lepsoe that they are waiting for approval on the trail authorization from Recreation Sites and Trails BC. Phil reported that \$2300 is sitting in reserve at Shuswap Trail Alliance, but likely more funds will be needed. Consideration for having a trail workshop at Scatchard in June.

#### *Chase Active Transportation Plan*

Anita reported on behalf of Joni that the committee has met twice, developed a vision and goals, and next stages are to get community input and connect with surrounding Secwepemc governments.

#### *Larch Hills/Rubberhead/South Canoe*

A partnership with Shuswap Cycling Club and Recreation Sites and Trails BC for the Rubberhead Trails is in process (These trails are primarily for mountain bike use, with hiking and winter snowshoeing). A similar agreement with the Shuswap Trail Alliance and the South Canoe Trails Advisory is also underway for the South Canoe Trails (these trails are for hiking, biking, equestrian, and winter snowshoeing use.) The final piece to connect the trail all the way from Canoe to Sicamous is under development, and needs review. Jan suggested to do a public launch when finally complete.

#### *CSRD Area C Parks and Age Friendly Trails, Blind Bay/Sorrento*

Paul noted that 55% of the 8000 people living in Area C are over 55 years old, and they want age friendly, FLAT trails to walk on, year round but especially in the winter. Could components of the existing parks plan be analyzed for these opportunities, could CSRD purchase land for trails? Options used this past winter were clearing paved trails around the golf course, but this is private land and may not always be available; other options suggested including walking on the beach during low water in the winter. CSRD Parks Commission will investigate options.

## **5. Roundtable of New Information**

*Mel Arnold, Member of Parliament (MP)* - noted that the Shuswap Trails Roundtable, by being inclusive of multiple interests and involving Indigenous governments, is on the leading edge and enables funding opportunities more easily than other non-inclusive initiatives. He noted that the precedent has been set by federal funding being provided for the Okanagan Rail Trail, which may mean that funds will be available for the Sicamous to Armstrong Rail Trail in the future.

Questions and discussion with Mel Arnold were as follows: federal funding streams are often set up in multiple streams, so applications need to be separate, but should be referenced as part of a larger initiative; non-motorized trails parallel to major highways are important; connections of trails to a the built environment and health outcomes was made; and Mel recommended to watch for a green infrastructure funding call in the future.

*Miranda Williams, Backcountry Horsemen of BC Shuswap Chapter* - noted that the Backcountry Horsemen recently paid consultants to utilize software available on smartphones to map trail networks, and that there could be a future presentation on this. Phil noted that CSRD holds the master repository of trails information and maps, and that georeferenced maps are available on the Shuswap Trail Alliance website [here](#).

*Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society* - noted that spring training is coming up at both beginner and advanced levels in Sicamous (May 15), May 16 (Revelstoke), and May 17 (Salmon Arm). Paul requested future training in Sorrento/Blind Bay area, noting 8000 people in the area. There will be a marina demonstration day on June 14 in Sicamous.

Bonnie Thomas, Switzmalph Cultural Society - noted that Adams Lake Indian Band and Switzmalph Cultural Society are hosting an Aboriginal Day event June 21 at Pierre’s Point. There will also be a traditional gathering at the old Switzmalph village site at the end of September.

*Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics* - advised that private land near Larch Hills is being subdivided into 14 parcels of 5 acres each, with opportunities for ski in/ski out.

*Louis Thomas, Neskonlith* - noted a Shuswap Salmon Symposium is coming up Sept 30-Oct 1 at Quaaout Lodge, being organized by a number of groups including Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band and Adams River Salute to the Sockeye Society.

*Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance* - noted that the Lewiston Ultra is coming up September 29 and volunteers are needed. Also noted Recreation Sites and Trails BC will be hosting a mountain bike trail building workshop at Rubberhead Trails in June.

## 6. Next Steps

Future meeting dates:

- Working Group - June 15, 9:30AM to 1:30PM - possibly at Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band, and Bonnie offered that Switzmalph Cultural Society could provide lunch
- Working Group - October 19, 9:30AM to 1:30PM
- Shuswap Trails Roundtable - late November

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
<b>Joss Pass-Mtn/East Shuswap Access Management Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circulate Dec 14, 2017 summary</li> <li>▪ Keep three areas separate, but inform each group of the “bigger picture” initiative</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	Shuswap Trail Alliance to coordinate with Splatsin, Province, lead orgs and BCRDP funding	May
<b>Follow up on Four Year Funding Proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local governments and Secwepemc governments to get it on their board/council agendas, with a delegation/presentation if needed</li> </ul>	Local government and Secwepemc representatives, Phil as needed	ASAP
Pass a band council resolution to <b>sign the LOU</b> - Splatsin; then sign the original (Phil has it)	Ray Cormier, Stuart Lee	Ongoing
Other organizations to <b>sign the LOU</b> if they haven’t already done so - original copy if possible (Phil has it)	Any groups that haven’t signed LOU	Ongoing
Send any <b>GPS/GIS linework</b> on trails to Sutra Brett at Shuswap Trail Alliance, <a href="mailto:earthboundprojects@gmail.com">earthboundprojects@gmail.com</a>	All Working Group members, trail stewards	Ongoing

<b>Task or activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Balmoral trails - OK for equestrian use?	Ryan, Sutra to confirm and follow up with Shirley	ASAP
Trails groups - send suitable berry picking sites to all Secwepemc reps on WG; or submit as trail reports to STA at <a href="mailto:trailreport@shuswaptrails.com">trailreport@shuswaptrails.com</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Share updated Working Group contact list with all participants	Mike	ASAP