

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

2 December 2015

Enderby Drill Hall
Enderby, BC



Meeting Summary as at 9 December 2015

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Introduction

Over 75 leaders from Secwepemc, Regional, Municipal, Provincial, trail and environmental stewardship, industry, business, economic development, tourism, education, and health organizations gathered for an historic gathering to officially launch the Shuswap Trails Roundtable and begin implementation of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy.

The inaugural Shuswap Trails Roundtable follows the 17 June 2015 workshop that established the governance structure of the Roundtable and Working Group. The outcomes of that workshop were as follows:

- The governance structure of the of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable and the Working Group was approved (Chapter 13 and Appendix 8)
- The annual planning cycle was approved (Chapter 14)
- The template for developing agreements with other sectors was approved (Chapter 6 and Appendix 4)
- The pre-authorization process and Shuswap Trail Protocol was approved (Chapter 11 and Appendix 5)
- The implementation and work plan was approved (Chapter 16)

Since 17 June 2015, the Working Group met once, the letter of understanding was presented to councils and boards, and numerous sub-regional planning initiatives moved forward in a collaborative manner.

Objectives for the Roundtable Meeting

The objectives for the meeting were as follows:

- Convene all trail user groups and orders of government, build relationships, share information
- Learn about Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) and explore opportunities for its use in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy
- Sign the Letter of Understanding
- Endorse the 2016 annual work plan, including a financial strategy

See Appendix 1 for the agenda, and Appendix 2 for a list of participants, with contact info if they consented to sharing it.

Accompanying Documents

The following accompany this meeting summary:

- Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy, 2 October 2015 version, click [here](#)
- Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy map, click [here](#)
- Dave Nordquist's presentation on Cumulative Effects Assessment, click [here](#)
- Barry Wilson's presentation on Cumulative Effects Assessment, click [here](#)
- 2016 Work Plan summary click [here](#)

Welcoming Comments

Phil McIntyre-Paul, Executive Director of the Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA), welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He introduced Mike Simpson, Senior Regional Manager, and Erin Vieira, Associate Regional Manager who would facilitate and record the meeting.

Randy William, Councillor with Splotsin First Nation, gave a prayer and a welcome, and expressed support for planning and collaboration and acknowledged dedication by many for the trails initiative. Phil presented Councillor William with a gift.

Brad Case, Councillor with the City of Enderby, gave a welcome on behalf of the City.

Herman Halvorson, Director Area F, Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO), gave a welcome and noted the commitment to work together with Splotsin, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) and STA on rails trail initiative.

All participants around the room introduced themselves, and Mike reminded them that a key objective of today was to build relationships and share information, and encouraged participants to meet someone new today.

Mike Simpson outlined the meeting objectives, and gave a brief overview of the accomplishments of 17 June 2015 workshop at Adams Lake Indian Band.

Cumulative Effects Assessment

Dave Nordquist, Manager of Title and Rights for Adams Lake Indian Band, gave an overview of Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) and how it relates to Secwepemc perspectives and understanding of the land and ecosystems as an integrated whole over a long time period.

Barry Wilson, Principal and Systems Ecologist with ce analytic ltd and an associate of the ALCES¹ Group, further defined CEA and what it can do. Barry gave three examples of using CEA: the edge impact of linear features (e.g., trails, roads); wildfires; and grizzly bear habitat and impact of road densities. Barry also relayed the story-telling power of CEA, and that communication and stewardship are the two top approaches for using CEA related to linear features.

Participants worked in small groups to discuss the opportunities for CEA. A summary of those discussions are captured here:

¹ ALCES A Land Cumulative Effects Simulator

What opportunities are there for using CEA in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy?

- Promote education and awareness about CEA and its utility as a tool, including map outputs, among First Nations, the public, stakeholder groups, schools, resource management industries and companies
- Help determine type, appropriateness and amount or intensity of land uses in an area (e.g., impact or effects management)
- Educate and inform users, public, stakeholders regarding land and potential impact of its uses; use this to help set priorities, establish indicators, recognize impacts, avoid conflicts
- Identify historic and cultural values and uses
- Expand the model to incorporate other existing models (e.g., European).
- Possibility of re-establishing old trails
- Connection with official community plans
- Adapting to the Greenways strategy, accounting for where urban growth is occurring; greenway strategy needs some long-term forecasting
- Zoning for user groups - to ensure needs are being met by users
- Displaying sustainable trail user forecasts in an area, does it meet long-term demand
- To consider impacts of humans and how we impact other people
- Use the assessment and apply it to undisturbed areas, increase 'green' areas
- Assess deactivation and rehabilitation opportunities for existing roads, trails on the landscape
- Watershed-related assessment (10-20 year)

What risk assessments or evaluations could CEA contribute to?

- Grizzly bear habitat - restrict usage of these existing sensitive areas to winter only and with proper respect
- Look at damage use in an area over time; look at all the impacts per Barry's presentation (trails impact many factors - e.g., access to bush, illegal dumping, etc) and use it to manage impacts
- Clearinghouse of information to challenge accuracy of data that feeds into models. Challenge currently held assumptions, contribute to new research.
- Where to avoid new access (knowing that taking people close, but not exactly "there" will only prevent some from gaining access)
- Avoid conflicts between overlapping land uses (e.g., avoid building trails where other uses will take precedence)
- Collaboration in defining what will be identified as sensitive areas (everyone has different definitions of sensitive area)
- Drinking water source protection

How could a holistic cumulative effects simulator help with Shuswap trail planning for the following: existing trail maintenance; future trail development; access management; zoning?

- Identify culturally sensitive areas of First Nations
- Increased trail development along roadways
- At what point is the edge effect of a linear development naturalized

- Avoid conflicts between overlapping land uses (e.g., avoid building trails where other uses will take precedence); this minimizes wasted time and resources
- Combining stakeholder groups, identifying self-interests to identify any conflicting interests; include industry in discussions

This input will be considered by Working Group in the further development of Chapter 9 of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy (it was also noted that Chapter 9 will be renamed Cumulative Effects Assessment, not Impacts).

Letter of Understanding

Phil McIntyre-Paul explained the history and significance of the letter of understanding (LOU). The LOU was collectively drafted by the Steering Committee (predecessor organization to the Working Group) in spring 2014, and endorsed in principle at the 17 June 2015 workshop.

Phil explained that the significance of the LOU is that it is really about how we relate to one another in the landscape, and demonstrates a commitment of people in the region to work together as a simple but meaningful gesture.

It was acknowledged, however, that some orders of government and organizations do not have authorization to sign the LOU yet. For some, this will be forthcoming once resolutions are passed at boards or councils; for others, this will be more challenging. Specifically, provincial government staff noted the complicated relationship between the province and First Nations and that they are unable to sign the LOU as currently worded. It was noted that provincial government staff are very supportive in principle of this initiative.

Secwepemc leadership from Adams Lake, Little Shuswap, Neskonlith, and Splatshin all spoke to the historic nature of the Letter of Understanding that acknowledges Aboriginal Title and Rights along with a commitment to work together. The Mayors, Directors, and Councillors from Chase, the CSRD, Enderby, RDNO, Salmon Arm, and Sicamous echoed their acknowledgement and support prior to signing the commitment to work together.

In total, one First Nation, two regional districts, four municipalities, Interior Health Authority, and thirteen other trails or tourism related organizations signed the LOU on 2 December 2015. Other orders of government and organizations are anticipated to sign the LOU once their resolutions are in place.

Annual Work Plan, Budget and Financial Strategy

Phil distributed copies of the Work Plan summary for 2016, including a budget and financial strategy. Gord Bushell explained the work on Owlshhead that has occurred since summer, the priorities, decommissioning of old trails have occurred, winter trail development, signs and kiosks are in place. Aaron Arnouse described the collaborative

work underway on restoring damaged pictographs on the Adams River, and education and awareness for culture and heritage that is in the works.

The Annual Work Plan, Budget and Financial Strategy were approved by consensus.

Working Group Membership

The following were noted as members of the Working Group, and their participation was acknowledged:

Organization	Member
<i>Sexqéltkemc</i> Lakes Division - Splatsin	Jack Andrews, Ray Cormier
<i>Sexqéltkemc</i> Lakes Division - Neskonlith	Louis Thomas, Nesa7 White
<i>Sexqéltkemc</i> Lakes Division - Adams Lake Indian Band	Greg Witzky, Steve Murphy, Iva Jules, Avis Denault
<i>Sexqéltkemc</i> Lakes Division - Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band	Aaron Arnouse
Switzmalph Cultural Society	Bonnie Thomas
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Susan Abbott, Ryan Nitchie, Darcy Mooney
Shuswap Tourism	Robyn Cyr
BC Parks	Wes DeArmond, Valerie Poulin
Recreation Sites and Trails BC (part of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations)	Kevin Eskelin, Ian McLellan, Marcia Bennett
Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club	Gord Bushell
Sicamous Quadders	Rennie Heare; Marvin Tansey
Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts	Brad Vickerson
Shuswap Trail Alliance	Phil McIntyre-Paul, Winston Pain, Brian Sansom
City of Salmon Arm	Chris Larson
District of Sicamous	Gord Bushell
Village of Chase	David Lepsoe, Joni Heinrich
School District #83	Ceren Caner
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Peter Gooch

The absence of industry was noted, including at today's meeting; the Working Group will explore how to address this.

It was agreed by consensus to include the following in the Working Group:

- Back Country Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA)

Sub-regional Initiatives

Participants were invited to gather in small groups, according to their sub-regional area of interest, and discuss amongst other interested participants the following:

- *What has happened since June?*
- *What new information is there?*
- *Are there other organizations or individuals that should be involved?*
- *What should happen next?*

East Shuswap:

- Work on Owlshead and Cummins Lake and approached BCTS for resources; signage for Eagle Pass (non-motorized); inventory and GPS mapping of existing trails expanded; North Fork Wild has two phases of trails completed; Shuswap Outdoor Club completed 2-day reconnaissance for north access trail along McPherson Creek
- Discussion re: duplicating Revy Riders club at Sicamous
- Other organizations to be involved include heli-skiing and cat-skiing (Grizzly Lodge, Mustang Powder, Eagle Pass Heliskiing), ranchland managers, wildlife managers, trappers
- Would like to see potential for Gorge Creek trail when Hwy #1 is expanded at Craigellachie; parking would be needed; potential Forest Watch program to report tree-poaching

Shuswap River

- Hand launch plan in Enderby finalized, put out for proposal, slated for February completion; River Walk extension plan was finalized as part of active transportation plan; implementation of ALCES program; working on CliffCrunch App (similar to Grouse Grind) for Enderby Cliffs trail; working on interpretive signage with voice application/recording; input received by RDNO on proposed motorized boat restrictions on Shuswap River; ongoing discussions regarding Sicamous-Armstrong CPR rail trail
- Reeves Lake issues being addressed and has involvement from Tolko, Splatsin, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA), and RDNO
- Other organizations to be involved include boat users on the river; youth organizations and groups; Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society; industry (agriculture, forestry, mining), City of Armstrong and Spallumcheen
- Would like to work closely with local tour operators, expand on local experience; take ALCES to schools and community groups; and have smoke-free trails

Salmon River/Falkland (focus on Glenemma)

- CSRD has applied for Section 56; nothing much else has happened. Use by local horse riders and quad/ATV riders. Conflict between horse and motorized users at Kelly Main. Need to look for different staging area for horses. Bike groups coming in from Spanish Lake side.

- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) needs to be involved; Shuswap Off-road Enthusiasts Society (SORES); BC ATV; Spaw (Spall?) Lake snowmobile club; Back Country Horsemen; EQ Trails; Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC); STA; Secwepemc; RCMP to address vandalism
- Would like to see more education, kiosks at staging areas; get user groups signs and rights-of-way in place. Mitigate conflict.

North Shuswap

- Evelyn Falls trail and trailhead is completed
- Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band (LSLIB) and CSRD need to better collaborate on Ross Creek (e.g., LSLIB has application in to fund stream restoration); need to better manage trails at Scotch Creek (near bridge). Opportunities for coordination with CSRD Parks Committee; engage RSTBC.
- Farrell's Field trail is on the radar; Ross Creek park is being enhanced in 2016 and will include trail along lakeshore and additional parking
- Local interest in parallel trail on Squilax-Anglemont road, Lee Creek to Anglemont; need to talk to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)

West Shuswap

- Fly Hills snowmobile club had some clearing done
- Work on Adams River pictographs underway; flume trail upgrade is complete
- Other organizations to involve include the Province, BC Parks, RSTBC, Sun Peaks, ALIB, Neskonlith, CSRD, Chase, Thompson Nicola Regional District
- Would like to have discussions and awareness re: no-go trails in sensitive areas

Inner Shuswap

- Working with CSISS on yellow flag iris on blue-ways; recon on Cedar Creek trail at White lake, scheduled for rehab; Phase I for Cedar Heights bike park complete; Mount Baldy trail had bridge replacement and trail re-routes; Balmoral area, ongoing work with BCTS; parallel trail from Tappen Co-op toward Sunnybrae is shelf-ready
- North & South Shuswap Children's Recreation Association (NSSCRA) trail orientation sessions took place in spring 2015
- Age-friendly trails need to be developed (i.e., seniors)
- Need to identify local stewards better - who are the trail people?
- Need to have a walk-around with BCTS and the Balmoral community
- Need interpretive signage throughout the Shuswap; GIS-based way to share stories and incorporate them into mapping
- Opportunity for Sunnybrae trail is ripe with opportunity concurrently with highway expansion
- Develop destination trail between Sunnybrae and Blind Bay - planning, fund development

Salmon Arm Bay

- New sidewalks and crosswalks, improvements to railway crossing in Salmon Arm; S. Canoe development and re-routing; Agreement w/ Salmon Arm,

- Neskonlith, ALIB and _ regarding West Bay trail; Improvements to Park Hill trails (above Canoe Beach); New Bridge at Christmas Island
- Sanitary sewer main is under trail at SABNES; pending improvements to sewer main is an opportunity to simultaneously improve trail system there; trails disconnect within City of Salmon Arm because the process hinged on new urban developments
 - Highway #1 expansion - opportunities for new trails at same time
 - Rapattack crews (Wildfire Management Branch of MFLNRO) - use of crews for trail maintenance/clearing
 - Other organizations to include Interior Health Authority - Healthy Built Environment team; CP Rail; MOTI
 - Would like to see more budget planning and fund development; finalize West Bay trail development; look for opportunities to connect existing infrastructure, and signage for those trails; foreshore connector trail from Raven neighbourhood to Coyote Park; connect cemeteries with trails; would like to see safe crossings of Hwy 1 which are a barrier for active transportation.

Next Steps

A meeting summary will be produced from today. The Working Group will meet in January. A coordinated approach for sign production will be explored. The original LOU will stay with the Shuswap Trail Alliance, and can be signed by other orders of government and organizations from time-to-time.

Closing Comments

Councillor Daniel Joe of Splantsin confirmed that Splantsin is committed to this initiative, and that Ray Cormier is the technical lead. Splantsin looks forward to continued collaboration, and invited everyone to the grand opening of the Splantsin Community Centre on Saturday.

Phil McIntyre-Paul acknowledged everyone's time and commitment, and expressed thanks all around.

Councillor Louis Thomas of Neskonlith noted Secwepemc pride and promotion of Secwepemc culture and heritage.

Councillor Randy William of Splantsin sang the Kukstemc (thank you) song. "When I help you and you help me that helps our children."

Meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.

Appendix 1: Agenda

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

Wednesday December 2nd 2015 | 9:30AM to 3:30PM
Enderby Drill Hall, 208 George St., Enderby, BC

OBJECTIVES

- Convene all trail user groups and orders of government, build relationships, share information
- Learn about Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) and explore opportunities for its use in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy
- Sign the Letter of Understanding
- Endorse the 2016 annual work plan, including a financial strategy

Time	Topic	Who and/or format
9:30	Doors open, coffee available, networking	
10:00	Welcome, introductions around the room, review objectives and agenda	Splatsin, City of Enderby, RDNO Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council
10:15	Brief overview of June 17 th workshop outcomes	Mike Simpson
10:20	Cumulative Effects Assessment	Barry Wilson, ce analytic ltd. Dave Nordquist, Adams Lake Indian Band
11:00	Opportunities for using CEA in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy - where, how and what?	Small group discussion, then reporting out
11:30	Signing Ceremony - Letter of Understanding and group photo	Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance; all groups present
12:00	Lunch (provided) Networking time	
1:00	Annual work plan and financial strategy; Working Group membership	Phil McIntyre-Paul
1:45	Update and feedback on sub-regional issues, building on what is in Chapter 16 work plan	Small group discussion, then reporting out
3:00	Next steps, closing comments	Mike Simpson, Phil McIntyre-Paul,
3:30	Adjourn	

Appendix 2: Roundtable Participants

Name:	Government or organization	E-mail address:
Aaron Arnouse	Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band	fisheries@lslib.com
Alan Journeau	Shuswap Cycling Society	ajourneau@me.com
Anita Ely	Interior Health - Healthy Built Environment Team	anita.ely@interiorhealth.ca
Avis Denault	Adams Lake Indian Band	adenault@alib.ca
Blaine Carson	Larch Hills Nordic Society, Shuswap Outdoors, Shuswap Trail Alliance	wbcarson@shaw.ca
Blair Acton	Squilax General Store and Hostel	shuswap@hihostels.ca
Brad Case	Enderby City Council	casebrad@telus.net
Brad Payne	CSRD	bpayne@csrd.bc.ca
Brad Vickerson	SORES (Shuswap Dirt Riders)	brad@vickerson.ca
Brenda Bushell	Sicamous and District Chamber of Commerce	brendaandgord@cablelan.net
Brian Sansom	Shuswap Trail Alliance	bsansom@hotmail.com
Byron Noble	Noble Adventures	byron@nobleadventures.net
Carmen Massey	Shuswap Trail Alliance	Ctmassey@hotmail.com
Chris Larson	City of Salmon Arm	clarson@salmonarm.ca
Christina Weiler	Enderby B.C.	
Clint Smith	Larch Hills Nordics, Shuswap Trail Alliance	cjlsmith@telus.net
Councillor David Lepsoe	Village of Chase	david.lepsoe@chasebc.ca
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Name:	Government or organization	E-mail address:
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Jean Brown	Splatsin	jean_brown@splatsin.ca
Joni Heinrich	Village of Chase	cao@chasebc.ca
Karen Tanchak	Back Country Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter	oms@tanchak.com
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