

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

30 November 2016

Splatsin Community Centre
Enderby, BC



Meeting summary as at 21 December 2016

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Introduction

Over 70 leaders from Secwépemc, local and provincial governments, along with trail user groups, environmental stewardship, industry, business, economic development, tourism, and health organizations gathered for the second annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting at the Splatsin Community Centre.

The objectives for the meeting were as follows:

- Convene all trail user groups and orders of government to build relationships and share information from across the Shuswap region
- Present progress on the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) and implementation of the [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#) to date
- Seek input on communication, education and monitoring, and sub-regional planning priorities
- Approve terms of reference and a 2017 work plan

Welcoming Comments

Phil McIntyre-Paul, Executive Director, Shuswap Trail Alliance, welcomed everyone.

Randy Williams, Councillor, Splatsin First Nation, gave a welcome to the territory, and sang the Kukstemc song. Bonnie Thomas presented a gift to Randy.

Herman Halvorson, Electoral Area Director Area 'F', Regional District of North Okanagan gave a welcome on behalf RDNO and City of Enderby.

Phil McIntyre-Paul passed on greetings from Greg Kylo, Shuswap MLA. Phil introduced Mike Simpson, Senior Regional Manager, Fraser Basin Council as facilitator for the day.

Introductions were made around the room.

How Did We Get Here. Highlights from 2016

Mike Simpson reminded participants that the Shuswap Trails Roundtable is a unique governance organization for the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy. It meets once per year to provide input to the Working Group. Chapter 13 of the Strategy has all the information and details pertaining to the Roundtable. The Shuswap Trails Alliance administers the Shuswap Trails Roundtable, with facilitation support from the Fraser Basin Council thanks to funding support from Shuswap Tourism, CSRD Parks, and Recreation Site and Trails BC.

Mike briefly recounted the history: this group (now known as the Shuswap Trails Roundtable) was convened on November 27, 2014 to give feedback on the concept for a [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#); key content was approved on June 17, 2015; the first Shuswap Trails Roundtable was held December 2, 2015; and this brings us to the present, the second annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable (this meeting summary).

The Working Group meets four times per year to implement the Strategy and includes representation from *Sexqeltkemc* Lakes Division and Switzmalph Cultural Society, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) and Shuswap Tourism, Shuswap Trail Alliance, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, motorized recreation groups, non-motorized recreation groups, commercial tourism,

City of Salmon Arm, District of Sicamous, Village of Chase, BC Ministry of Transportation, Interior Health Authority, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA), School District #83, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS), and Métis Nation.

The summary from the December 2, 2015 Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting was approved by consensus.

Phil McIntyre-Paul briefly highlighted some successes and highlights from 2016:

- Owlshead/Cummings Lake access management planning, with support from many partners
- The four Secwépemc bands will review the Kela7scen Mount Ida agreement in 2017; Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts is working on a trail inventory and educating riders about where to and not to ride, sign/kiosk installation
- Switzmalph/West Bay connectivity: Adams Lake elders' development to Sunnybrae – in phase of cost estimate
- Little Shuswap Indian Band and BC Parks is working on protecting pictographs in the Adams River area
- Master Trails Inventory: CSRD has the resources to host the data and has committed the hardware, software, and staff time to maintain and share data
- Scoping document is underway for Cumulative Effects (more information on this is below)
- Working Group has struck a committee for the purpose of trail signage with a particular focus on Secwépemc naming protocol.



Sub-regional initiatives and discussions

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

- Anything else to report on in addition to what's in the progress report?
- Any other priorities to add to the 2017 work plan?
- Any other organizations or individuals that should be involved?
- Top three sub-regional priorities?
- Any other comments for the sub-region?

Shuswap River

- Owlshead/Cummings Lake mitigation – Kiosks installed; follow-up on map/signage
- Priorities for 2017 – continue with mapping, posted, ongoing education
- Enderby Cliffs - address ATV access to Reeves Lake
- Sicamous-Armstrong rail-trail – perhaps better if it's phased? Engagement with adjacent private property owners, farmers, and industry
- Top three priorities i) Enderby Cliffs ii) Owlshead iii) Sicamous Armstrong rail-trail

Salmon Arm Bay (includes City of Salmon Arm and Mt Ida/Kela7scen)

- Partnerships re: invasive species and highway development, Switzmalph Cultural interpretive centre. Lots of opportunities for partnerships.
- Switzmalph Society - looking for options to accommodate freshet – inner trail as well as floating trail, ecotourism opportunities, and cultural and ecological education signs
- Heritage trail plan exists from Haney Park to Mary Thomas' village, major potential with Switzmalph goal to continue trail to Sunnybrae. Need to continue information exchange.
- Discussion about signage needed
- Switzmalph Cultural Centre – may be opportunities for other organizations to be involved – for display
- Kela7scen (Mt Ida) – Louis Thomas & Brad Vickerson – discussed obtaining sacred circle shape file for mapping; Secwepemc Chiefs & Councils from the Bands having meeting in January 2017 re: Kela7scen agreement
- CSRD will identify trails and bluffs in Haines Creek area, and install kiosk/bulletin board
- CSISS has \$ opportunities for restoration and weed removal at SABNES, Turner Creek, Gardom Lake. Weed pulls have taken place, working with various orgs on trail stewardship. Identifying Knotweed, Nightshade, and Yellow flag Iris as three priority invasives being found on these trails. Implement management strategy with CSISS (identification, partnerships, funding). High school students are involved.
- SABNES & Switzmalph Society – both planting disturbed areas with native species; Switzmalph also has greenhouse project transplanting/propagating native species. TC Hwy work to transplant native species – also identifying invasive species (link MoTI with CSISS for funding & partnerships)
- Continue with joint meetings with City of Salmon Arm
- Priority for 2017 – update Chiefs & Councils on group work in this area
- Top 3 priorities i) partnerships ii) eco-tourism opportunities iii) linking CSISS/MOTI/Neskonlith (Switzmalph) & other bands in their respective works

East Shuswap

- CSRD Parks to investigate hand-launch sites for blue-ways along Eagle River in 2017 (identified as priority in CSRD Parks 5-year plan)
- Gorge Creek Trail – recommended as Canada 150 project, given rail history (Last Spike National Historic Site)
- Mt McPherson – reroute lower portions of trail to avoid wetter ground (this is a brushed out trail). Also add a trailhead sign.
- Engage private land owners, groups in Revelstoke (particularly re: snowmobiling, needs additional cooperation/collaboration for grooming and firewood supply; & for Joss Pass/Mt McPherson/Mt. English recreational access management plan)
- Top 3 priorities i) rail-trail Sicamous-Armstrong ii) Eagle River blue-way iii) Gorge Creek

North Shuswap

- CSISS installed invasive species surveys in Roderick Haig-Brown park, and *Play, Clean, Go* signage and boot brushes
- Other priorities include bike trail from Adams River bridge to Cottonwoods via Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park,
- Plans to add more invasive species signage (*Play, Clean, Go*) at other trailheads
- Farrell's Field trail is underway (CSRD Parks/STA), signage being installed, complete 2017
- Identified Lee Creek Bluffs and Falls trails for development
- Scotch Creek – Hlina trail improvements and additions as another priority

- Engage organization @ Lee Creek (Lee Creek Arts & Sports Society re: Lee Creek trails)
- Also engage Adams River Salmon Society
- Top 3 priorities i) Onyx Creek falls (already on the 'list' at CSRD) ii) Lee Creek bluffs and to waterfall iii) trails at Anstey-Hunakwa (including via Wright Lake) w/ BC Parks

Falkland/Salmon River

- Haines Creek, install trailhead kiosk/bulletin board at Silver Creek; Haines Creek Crag (climbing area) CSRD Parks planning priority for 2017; will require Section 57
- Glenemma multi-use trail plan; proposing below Kelly Main non-motorized; above Kelly Main as multi-use; main trailhead as shared multi-use staging area
- Consider future priorities for Glenemma i) overnight equestrian camping. ii) switchbacks for equestrian use (horses can't go straight up trails)
- Others to involve: (Glenemma) equestrian trails, backcountry horsemen, motorized groups, and other locals (e.g. Pat & Andy Peebles)
- Find separate equestrian parking area separate from motorized vehicles
- Ongoing invasive species/weed management and education needed, host work/clean-up day, signage to include "high priority" – noted motorized users (e.g. Glenemma gravel pit area) – wheels spreading seeds – noted Rush Skeleton Weed
- Top 3 priorities i) future trail planning ii) identify motorized and non-motorized recreation areas (access planning) iii) clean up/regular maintenance parking/staging area at Glenemma

West Shuswap

- Rocky Road Extension of Scatchard Mtn Trail - is 3.7 km trail on existing road; looking to add 1 km extension. Being used as a template (Neskonlith, ALIB, LSIB, Chase). Letter of support from ALIB already received; forthcoming from Neskonlith; once received from LSLIB also, will go to FrontCounter on this.
- Vision for Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park and salmon spawning habitat. Opportunities for Aboriginal tourism, canoe tours. Working with Adams River Salmon Society.
- Skmana Lake trails – opportunity for shoulder season development - cross country skiing and snowshoeing, tourism opportunity for quiet/peacefulness/nature. Quaaout working with LSLIB, Neskonlith, ALIB on winter kekuli.
- Consider Fat Biking to complement Skmana Ski area in shoulder season
- Also noted Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park could promote snowshoeing and fat biking for winter shoulder season
- Need to connect communities: Neskonlith-Chase-Adams Lake-Little Shuswap/Quaaout
- Quaaout relationship with Village of Chase re: music in the park. Paddling route from the lodge to the village; Adams River Rafting, Segway Tours, Zipline
- Priority – to develop Secwepemc interpretive signage
- Yucwmenlucwu "Caretakers of the Land"
- Secwépemc name for Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park by 2018
- Invasive species trail sign program (see North Shuswap above) – also noted CSISS provided invasive species training to Splatsin field crew
- Organizations to involve: ALIB, LSLIB, Neskonlith, Village of Chase, private businesses, Quaaout Lodge (also note partnerships above with Quaaout, Adams River Rafting, Segway Tours, Zipline)
- Top 3 priorities i) connecting trails to the communities, ii) building local – aboriginal tourism

Inner Shuswap

- Yellow flag iris removal at Little White Lake has taken place, including Benthic Barrier Treatment research trials and survey – partnership includes Little White Lake Stewards, STA, TRU, BC Parks, & CSISS
- Looking for people to assist with weed pulls in South Shuswap/Blind Bay area – Himalayan Balsam noted
- New priorities for work plan: foreshore trail/beach walk from Sorrento to Blind Bay; connection btw Mt Baldy and Skimikin; add Bastion Mtn trails to map; new trail from Margaret Falls to Cinnemousun Narrows – make the peninsula a destination area (link existing trails, put in a few huts to make a 30-40 km trail, 2 – 3 day hike/bike circuit), circuit Balmoral/Cinnemousin/Herald/Reinecker/Balmoral; new bike trail needed to access Reinecker trail from Herald Park/Margaret Falls on west side; build beginner, intermediate, and experienced/advanced trails for all age groups, consider senior demographics in the inner Shuswap (looking for easy, flat walks); trailheads for user groups – bikers, hikers, ATV, ski/snowshoe
- Also noted: connections between existing amenities and residential areas to stimulate active transportation for day-to-day activities
- Other groups to work with include BCTS, Canoe Forest Products (doing work with BCTS), BC Parks, CSRD Parks, Backcountry Horsemen Shuswap chapter, Probus Club, Sorrento and Area Community Association
- Plot existing trails and add them to map
- Note: CSRD Parks and Trails Master Planning process underway – to be added to Strategy
- Top 3 priorities i) destination trail on peninsula (Balmoral, W Lake, Cinnemousun, Herald, Reinecker, White Lake, Balmoral) ii) White Lake – Reinecker linkage trail (finish loop Balmoral/White Lake/Reinecker) iii) separate & designated user group staging areas, iv) (also noted) connecting existing trails and add to maps



Cumulative Effects Assessment

Phil McIntyre-Paul introduced Barry Wilson, Principal of CE Analytics Ltd.

Barry presented the [Cumulative Effects Project Scoping](#) proposal that was put together with the input of a committee, and distributed in advance of the meeting. The project scoping was based on a survey of Shuswap Trails Roundtable participants from last year. Barry provided a snapshot of development impacts in the Shuswap: 3200 km trails; 25,000 km roads; 531 km² footprint; 2364 km² of cutblocks; 38,000 people; 18,000 cattle; and 6.5 million vehicles/year on highways. In summary, “we are already bumping into each other.” Barry’s presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The objectives of the CEA project are as follows (not just limited to trails):

1. To increase landscape dynamics understanding within the Shuswap Watershed using scenario planning.
2. To establish a spatial, online strategic landscape analysis tool that creates maps, graphs, histograms and imagery to very quickly and on demand:

- a. show historic changes from pre-European contact to present,
 - b. show future changes associated with proposed activities under different management strategies,
 - c. assess the risk to key values associated with uncertainty including climate change.
3. To assist long-term stewardship of multiple land uses within the finite boundaries the Shuswap Watershed by:
- applying traditional Secwépemc laws & oral knowledge through a systems view of the watershed
 - Identifying specific strategies, actions, monitoring and planning that can reduce conflict, increase shared benefits and avoid negative, unintended consequences.
 - provide valuable input into natural resource management planning in the Shuswap Watershed
 - combine historic and contemporary traditional and western science knowledge
 - inform individual project development referral responses
 - identify strategies that lead to long term resilience of culture, economy & environment
 - identify future research priorities

Many business case benefits were stated, including: streamlining project referral processes; multi-interest buy-in and support; increased investment certainty and clarity of risks; fewer unintended or unforeseen conflicting land uses; increased inter-agency cooperation; better protection of important values.

It was suggested to source all the funds up front, and complete the project in an approximate time period of 9 months to 1 year.

The question was asked: does anyone have any reservations about pursuing this? Questions and comments were as follows; answers from Barry Wilson:

- Q: Isn't this information included in land and resource management plans?
- A: No – the LRMPS are forest-sector driven primarily and not as comprehensive as a ce assessment; they were completed in the 1990s.
- Q: Trails are not a big environmental impact, compared to forestry or mining. Why spend so much to assess impact of trails?
- A: This project isn't proposing a cumulative effects assessment of trails. The Shuswap Trails Roundtable happens to be the champion. It would be assessing all land uses.
- Q: is the Shuswap Trails Roundtable the right body to be leading the charge? Definitely value for trails but it seems like it is a much bigger provincial initiative.
- A: fair statement. The agencies in charge haven't done it, and aren't doing it. This group is still championing it.

Bonnie Thomas stated that she appreciates all the feedback. She thinks the Shuswap Trails Roundtable can be a leader if it goes above and beyond the 'norm'. The Working Group has talked about traditional laws and cultural education vs. scientific vs. recreational – it's all important. All the knowledge Secwépemc people hold and bring to the group is important. There isn't a law out there that supports the knowledge – laws relating to consultation but that's different. That's what this document/assessment can do.

Phil reminded people of the philosophical underpinning of the Shuswap Trail Alliance: it's not about trails. Trails are the facilitator between people and the land through which they move. The Shuswap

Trails Roundtable could be the table that continues to champion the assessment, and brings it to other groups and agencies. It may not be the final place that it 'rests'.

Other comments:

- This would only be effective if all users are engaged in it... and it's apparent that the biggest user of the land base, the forest sector, needs to be on board.
- Switzmalph Cultural Society is willing to participate in fundraising.
- Tool needs a better explanation in terms of what would we get, who would use it. Need to simplify it. What kinds of questions can it answer, how would the tool analyze different scenarios?
- Perhaps the Secwépemc champion this concept and the STR is the catalyst that moves it forward
- CEA is the foundation of why we're here and what will make this successful

In summary, the following was agreed to about CEA Scoping Project:

- Not fully approved and endorsed
- Shuswap Trails Roundtable should pursue and champion the concept, seek buy-in and partners from other sectors who would benefit
- Simplify the business case - who would use it, what kinds of scenarios can it analyze, who would benefit

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy – updates

The [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#) current version is November 22, 2016. Key updates include:

- Brief Chapter 9 on cumulative effects assessment
- Appendix 8 Letter of Understanding is signed and scanned into the strategy
- Appendix 9 Roundtable terms of reference including quorum, consensus decision-making, opt-out clause and dispute resolution
- Appendix 10 Working Group terms of reference including enabling chairs or co-chairs, quorum, and consensus decision-making

The Shuswap Trails Roundtable terms of reference (Appendix 9) and Working Group terms of reference (Appendix 10) were approved by consensus.

Communications, education and monitoring

Phil advised participants that some of the things that the Working Group has heard over 2016 are challenges with communication and education about trails authorization processes, and monitoring of activities. Phil told a success story of Larch Hills is bringing proposals to the Working Group. The Working Group is now a collaborative body for groups to bring their trails idea to for input, before going to FrontCounter BC, as identified in Chapter 11/Appendix 5 of the [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#).

Phil said the Working Group is keen to know how to improve education about trail development protocols. It is more than just digging trails and putting up signs. How can we use the Roundtable and the Working Group to do a better job of monitoring trail developments and infrastructure?

Feedback was as follows:

- Q: do we have an inventory of shovel-ready projects if funding becomes available?
- A: yes, some of us do. STA does, snowmobiling might, and others

- Switzmalph Cultural Society is working on identifying place names that communities would like to share.
- Incorporate the ability of people to add stories, create more content or interest in the trail network. Add the First Nation heritage concepts to trails and locations in the Shuswap. Thinking more than 'just nuts and bolts' – mapping, directions, etc. What are the stories and legends, create some mystique.
- Shuswap Tourism has received lots of ideas for enhancing and improving the Shuswap Tourism website, looking at a whole new online presence. As much up-to-date information for trails as possible.

Work plan and budget for 2017

Phil presented the work plan and budget for 2017, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Items from the 2016 work plan cited as *in Progress* are carried forward to the 2017 work plan; the sub-regional priorities heard this morning will be added in.

The work plan therefore includes base facilitation (working group meetings x4 plus the STR), planning and project support (estimate 5 priority projects), and special initiatives (cumulative effects assessment).

The work plan for 2017 and budget were approved by consensus.

Next Steps and closing comments

Immediate next steps include updating the 2017 work plan to include input heard today; fundraising to meet the 2017 budget shortfall; Working Group meeting dates are set as January 20 (Salmon Arm), April 21 (Sicamous), June 16 (location TBD), and October 20 (location TBD).

Phil thanked people for attending, and acknowledged the feedback regarding CEA Scoping Project and how to champion it that the Working Group will consider in terms of moving this forward.

Other closing comments from participants were as follows:

- Good to see active transportation included; it is gaining support at all political levels
- Enjoyed the meeting, lots of communication, food was good
- Seems a bit short on time, could benefit from more time on certain discussions. A longer day to accommodate this.
- Build in more fun. Ask people to bring photos, tell stories, use Google Earth
- New reporting app for plants or animals. Google "Report Invasives" or look in the app store.

Appendix 1 – Agenda

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

Wednesday November 30th 2016 | 9:30AM to 3:30PM
Splatsin Community Centre, 5775 Old Vernon Road, Enderby, BC

OBJECTIVES

- Convene all trail user groups and orders of government to build relationships and share information from across the Shuswap region
- Present progress on the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) and implementation of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy to-date
- Seek input on communication, education and monitoring, and sub-regional planning priorities
- Approve terms of reference and a 2017 work plan

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, RDNO Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council
10:20	How did we get here; Dec 2, 2015 summary; recognition; case studies and how strategy implemented to date	Mike, Phil – plenary
11:00	Sub-regional discussions	Small group discussion by area of choice, then reporting out
12:00	Lunch (provided) Networking time	
1:00	Cumulative Effects Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project scoping proposal 	Barry Wilson, CE Analytics Ltd.
1:45	Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 • Terms of reference (Appx 9, 10) 	Mike – plenary
2:00	Communication, education, and monitoring of trails	Phil - Plenary, then small group discussion at tables
2:30	Coffee break	
2:45	Annual work plan and budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 report • 2017 plan 	Phil, Mike – plenary
3:15	Next steps, closing comments	Everyone
3:30	Adjourn & safe travels	

Appendix 2 – List of Participants

First Name:	Last Name:	Government or organization	E-mail address:
Anita	Ely	Interior Health	anita.ely@interiorhealth.ca
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