

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of February 4, 2023

Meeting date: January 20, 2023 9:00AM to 12:00PM **Location:** Zoom web conference

Present:

Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Blaine Carson, Friends of Mt Ida
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Kelsey Desilets, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewardship Society
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park
Carmen Massey, Shuswap Trail Alliance and Skwlax (Little Shuswap Lake Band)
Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society
Morgen Matheson, Shuswap Film Commission (to 10AM)
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Zach Parker, Splatsin (to 10AM)
Carly Procyshyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation (to 10AM)
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, territory was acknowledged, and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented with the exception of shifting discussion on Shuswap Trails Guide earlier. Note that quorum was not met. Regrets were noted from several people, including Jen Bellhouse.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Without Secwepemc representation present, Carmen offered the following word that she has learned:

- Sqletinuwi, pronounced "swelt-EN-oo-wee" which means sockeye salmon

3. Shuswap Trail Guide

Building on the email that was sent to the Working Group on December 12, 2022 about updates to the Shuswap Trail Guide, Phil and Morgen gave an update. They are aiming for a print release before summer tourism season. Phil made a last request for any trails stewards or organizations to **send any edits or corrections (not new content) to the current trail guide [here](#) to Phil by noon Friday January 27**. Phil noted that Suzanne from CSRD has been updating base map information in this new version, and there will also be a lot more motorized trails included. He noted that this update is being funded by the City of Salmon Arm's

municipal and regional district tax (MRDT), for which they're grateful. Phil also offered "10 000 points" for whomever finds the obvious glaring error in the current guide.

4. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from September 23, 2022 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.

4. Annual Meeting Debrief, Work Plan Review

The following was what stood out for people about the October 26, 2022 annual roundtable meeting:

- Breakout groups were best, need more time; virtual participation in breakout groups didn't work
- Presentations were relevant, especially two perspectives on Indigenous referrals
- Kukpi7 Tomma's opening comments struck a nice tone
- Need longer coffee breaks

It was suggested to consider Shuswap Lake Estates community centre (free for non-profits?) as a venue next year, as well as find the right balance between sitting and presentations vs. breakouts and interactions.

Jen is working on financial contributions and tracking the donations for 2023. As an STA board member, Carmen noted that STA is in a stronger position this year, there is appreciation for the value from many partners for the role of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable.

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

Mt Ida

- Adrian noted that the Mount Ida WG has been meeting regularly, Jen and Adrian met with Splatsin Chief and Council for an update to them – the work that has been done, advising them that the Mt Ida WG exists (focused on recreation management), and looking for direction. Acknowledge that larger land management questions exist and that Secwepemc governments are the lead on that. Set up meeting with Swlkax for next week, working on others. Another WG meeting at end of this month. Had an in person WG meeting hosted by Louis and Neskonlith, brought up past signed agreement to manage the area with BC government.

Secwepemc Landmarks

- Adrian noted that they (STA on behalf of Secwepemc governments) are looking to sign MOUs for the sentinel structures being installed, their upkeep and management. SA, CSRD, looking for other recreational partners to maintain and keep these in good shape. **ACTION:** contact Jen or Adrian if your group wants to undertake this for one or more in their areas, and to clarify which specific structures and where they are and which ones need an MOU.
- Q – is there an existing maintenance agreement in a jurisdiction such as BC Parks? Adrian said they are just starting these; haven't discussed with Wes and BC Parks yet. Some funding held for long term possible damages/graffiti, but not enough to replace them all if they were destroyed.

South Canoe Master Plan

- Adrian noted that they received MRDT funding to update the master plan, thinking about new additions, maintenance, connections to other trails. Just starting this process. He will put out a survey in the Tuesday STA e-bulletin, and he'll reach out to local user groups.

Larch Hills Nordics West Route

- Adrian updated that there has been a long running Larch Hills non-winter advisory group, they've developed a rough plan to have some mixed use signage put up from early work back from 2007. Been on low heat. In 2022 use was applied for this west route, and RSTBC came to STA about status and intended use. AB has put together a basic work plan, will send out for referral and working through RSTBC process. Probably a 2024 approval. AB will host a meeting in spring 2023; Blaine wants to be involved.
- Sue added clarification – same route as discussed in past? Adrian said yes, correct for west. Craig noted good to move forward.

Larch Hills Nordics - Craig

- Craig advised that recent changes include expanded canine trails to south loops as a temporary thing for 22/23, hoping to construct dedicated dog trail in private land, it was put on hold due to COVID. Will be meeting with private landowner soon, maybe able to build this coming summer. If so, temporary dog trail will be decommissioned
- Link trail – delayed, was hoping to walk with Splatsin rep last fall, didn't happen, hopefully in spring
- Piston bully replacement committee – actively looking for financial donations to replace it. Need \$70K more in donations, hopefully new machine in 24/25 season.

Sicamous Bike Park

- Adrian has been working with District of Sicamous – s.57 authorization was submitted in fall 2022, hoping to have approval by spring 2023. Carly added that they are working closely until they get the approval.

Skimikin

- Linda noted that in early December they (Backcountry Horsemen) learned of BC Destination Development Fund and submitting an expression of interest (EOI). They were approved for their EOI for a new non-motorized all season trail to connect with existing trails, 3.5km, now in process of the main application by Feb 9, 2023. Looking at plans and things they align with (CSRD, Hwy 1 expansion, others). SWant to promote Skimikin as a tourist destination that also supports local communities. Signage component in the application with Secwepemc and English language and names and content. She will be working with Jen Bellhouse on this too.
- Sue added – s.57 approval is already in place, it's shovel ready, funds needed for application.
- Blaine suggested to talk to Suzie Beckner (sp?) at Larch Hills Nordics about funding application support.
- **ACTION** – Linda would like letters of support from different groups or organizations send to lindaturtlevalley@gmail.com
- Phil advised that this is in good shape...it's s.57 approved. Work with Jen.
- Doing seed orchard trail next with volunteers, s.57 in place.
- One person squatting noted in the area before Christmas; also Chris is working on removal of debris

Scatchard Mountain/Chase Creek Falls Trail

- Fred noted that Nov 25 they had an in person meeting at Chase Creek Falls with multiple people including MOTI, proposed site for a Secwepemc landmark structure, some trail improvements. What funding is available? Village of Chase has secured some funding for the project.

- Phil added trail reroutes have not been approved, they are just conceptual. Phil followed up with Adrian with a technical site visit. Waiting to hear from MOTI rep on jurisdictional responsibilities for the area, if within MOTI or MOF. And the technical report. The Secwepemc landmark, artists working with Shelley and Libby, suggest keeping it within the footprint of MOTI pullout since the trail will take a while for approval and funding.
- Adrian added that to turn this into a universal trail with universal standards will be expensive, he's costing a couple of designs, as well as just improving existing alignment (not universal standards). Not a cheap fix.
- Fred advised there is other outside funding – need costs. Environmental assessment needed as well as a lot of planning work, MOTI stamp of approval, etc. Carmen reminded people that STA has funds from David Lepsoe held in trust, and an anonymous regular donor that STA board wants to direct to small communities.

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor noted that at the annual meeting she met with Ian McLellan to discuss Mallory Ridge as a priority for preservation, and she also met with Denis Delisle of RDNO. She attended RDNO trails open house meeting. Tolko contacted Gardom Lake Stewardship Society and Mallory Ridge folks, Earl Corsi noted that Tolko has no authority or plans to do operations in the area in 2023. No opposition to groups seeking protection in the area. Next step approaching CSRD board and s.56, 57 work ongoing.
- Phil has been out with Eleanor and Tom, linework for RSTBC and Secwepemc review, in next month.

Glenemma

- Ryan updated that early January got notification from RSTBC is imminent, just mapping review. In meantime he's advanced topo survey where trailhead will be, final design work for the trailhead area. When approval received they can proceed to tender quickly. Hopefully in 2023.

Rail Trail

- Ryan noted lots work going on behind scenes. Three sections – CSRD managing 0km to area along Mara Lake, with Splat's big federal grant, amending scope – now it will be rock scaling, bridge decking Rosemund L, and build as much completed trail as possible. Tender and specs for rock scaling under review, tender will be out by mid-Feb.
- Second – Enderby test area, need work with road crossings in City of Enderby, hoping to have tender specs out in spring 2023 for construction in 2023.
- Km0 to km 42 section – Splat'sin – working through scope
- No official news release on the \$12M that Splat'sin received – Splat'sin will do once finalized.

South Shuswap Trail Destination Master Plan

- Phil advised there is a steering group for this, Phil is wresting this large initiative into a summary. Imminent and with apologies. Once draft ready, with steering group and Sec leadership, it will go out more widely.
- Follow up conversation needed at this STR Working Group – first large scale plan that is part of this Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy for a whole planning subregion. Will trigger an update to the strategy. Will support and connect to a lot of things in the area.
- Barbra asked what is the timeline? Don't feel rushed, let's get it right. Ryan has relayed that too, no time constraint from CSRD.
- Maybe bring for discussion at spring (April? June?) WG meeting.

White Lake

- Patrick noted that they (WLRA) hosted a workshop in December with multiple groups, still trying to get a road relocated out of the White Lake Provincial Park. Nudged referrals to move forward on road relocation. Once completed then other trail requests will be more relevant. Need community consultation process to ensure the community is behind this.

Tsutswecw Winter Home

- Carmen advised that Wade Road Trails in park there is a beautiful winter home, biggest investment of the BC Parks licence plate program to date. Will be working to operationalize it, signage, interpretation, emerging over next few months.

North Shuswap Parallel Trail

- Ryan advised that they are still waiting for PFR and CHOA reports (work in progress), allocated leverage funding in CSRD budget for intakes once they open. Wait and see.
- Debbie noted final design was received in fall 2022. Community wants to keep going with this, want to do some fundraising, talked with STA and Jen, STA will hold in trust any funds raised, including a donation on the STA website.

Crowfoot Use and Management

- Carmen advised that this came up during and since STR roundtable. Skwlax staff have raised that there is no management planning up in the Crowfoot, RSTBC acknowledged that there was no work up there. Would it be useful to do something similar in Owlhead and Blue Lake area? Lots of very valuable places and activities for Skwlax and likely ALIB. Concerns with mudbogging and erosion. Primary concerns with non-winter use. Grizzly Lodge up there, some private interests. Snowmobile use.
- Adrian noted this seems similar to Larch Hills Nordics non-winter.
- Debbie – this has been on the radar for the North Shuswap Chamber. They want to promote year round tourism. Had Crowfoot snowmobile club out, but they don't want promotion of the area...need to fix these trails, need some signage, promote respectful backcountry riding. Chamber held a meeting with 50 people, decision at the time was for North Shuswap to collaborate with Backcountry Riders. Couldn't meet due to COVID, it wavered. Recently an AGM and 5 people from North Shuswap have joined Shuswap Backcountry Riders board. Positive move forward. Debbie willing to help.
- Phil noted it's in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy as a priority. It's a recreational access management question. Could be next major working group conversation.
- **ACTION** – next steps: STA host a conversation between NS Chamber, Skwlax to explore next steps with other stakeholders (e.g., Jay Simpson, Shuswap Backcountry Riders, etc).

7. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

The following action item from September was discussed *“Consider hosting a virtual seminar on issues of vandalism, dumping, squatting in the backcountry in winter 22/23”* and the following was noted:

- None of us are experts on vandalism, dumping or squatting.
- Refer these issues to the RAPP line.
- Adrian suggested keeping this as a standing WG topic, not a stand-alone seminar
- Barbra speculated that root cause for these issues materializing are due to increase in traffic, more development, volumes of traffic and people.
- Carmen – need to help understand the issue better, push for answers from the right authorities. Need to convene those folks dealing with this. Create a “cheat sheet” for what folks can do

The following information was shared:

- Shuswap Trail Party Feb 3rd in Salmon Arm
- Columbia Mountain Institute conference on responsible recreation <https://cmiae.org/event/responsible-recreation-pathways-practices-and-possibilities/>
- Outdoor Recreation Council newsletter has some good updates and links. Sign up for the newsletter if you haven't already: <https://www.orcbc.ca/>
- CSISS has some Zebra and Quagga Mussel and Staffing Updates and are keen to host presentations and workshops and weed pulls throughout the year

7. Next Steps

Future Working Group meeting dates (generally 3rd Friday of January, April, June, October) for 2023 will be mornings from 9AM-12PM on:

- Friday April 21 online, Shuswap winter home? Perhaps hybrid? Skwlax band office?
- Friday June 16 – aim for in person and outside?
- Friday October 20

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

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
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
Organizations to sign the LOU if they haven't already done so – original copy if possible (Phil or Jen have it)	Any groups that haven't signed LOU	Ongoing
Send any GPS/GIS linework on trails to Adrian at Shuswap Trail Alliance, adrian@shuswaptrails.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 – intent is that Secwepemc governments are seeking this information, it will be shared only with them	Everyone	Ongoing
Send any reports of erosion or trail damage from heavy rains to trailreport@shuswaptrails.com	Everyone	Ongoing
Seek support letters for funding applications from each other	Everyone	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
Seek an exemption for motorized vehicle closures in areas of 2021 wildfires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The areas are closed for 18 months, generally, due to safety concerns ▪ Applications for exemptions to the closure can be sought to allow access for disabled access, for activities required for assessment, maintenance and public safety, or for activities that otherwise support the goals of wildfire recovery ▪ More information about applying for an exemption is here ▪ Please contact staff at 2021Wildlife.closures@gov.bc.ca prior to applying, and see this link for a frequently asked questions document related to these closures 	Any trails groups that need access to wildfire closure areas	Ongoing

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Consider doing media releases when projects are complete (e.g., South Canoe Parking lot, Sorrento Blind Bay perimeter trail, Skimikin)	Jen, everyone	Ongoing
If doing a clean-up event , contact Ben van Nostrand at CSRD about up to \$500 in support for meals, supplies and waiving of tipping fees	Trail stewardship groups	Ongoing
Provide feedback or updates for Shuswap Trails Guide full reprint for 2023: anything missing? Anything to correct? Any info about existing groups to add? Website matches the content – so check out www.shuswaptrails.com to review the content	Trail stewardship groups	By mid-November
Consider joint applications/working collaboratively if future big funding calls come out . Need time to be strategic.	Everyone	Ongoing
Secwepemc Landmarks – sentinel structures : contact Jen or Adrian if your group wants to undertake this for one or more in their areas	Everyone	Ongoing
Skimikin – Linda would like letters of support from different groups or organizations send to lindaturtlevalley@gmail.com	Everyone	Feb 8
Crowfoot - STA host a conversation between NS Chamber, Skwlax to explore next steps with other stakeholders (e.g., Jay Simpson, Shuswap Backcountry Riders, etc).	Jen, Adrian	Initiate in February
Plan and prepare for Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider Shuswap Lake Estates community centre as a venue (free?) ▪ Consider the right balance of networking vs. presentations 	Mike, Jen, others	Well before November 2023
Consider hosting and field trip option for April 21 WG meeting : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Venue for in-person meeting? ▪ Technology (speaker, webcam) for virtual participation? ▪ Field trip to winter house? 	Carmen, Skwlax	By late March