

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

29 November 2017

Chase Community Hall
Chase, BC



Meeting summary as at 21 December 2017

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Introduction

Seventy people from Secwépemc, local and provincial governments, along with trail user groups, environmental stewardship, industry, business, economic development, tourism, invasive species and health organizations gathered for the third annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting at the Chase Community Hall.

The objectives for the meeting were as follows:

- Provide update on progress of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy this year
- To seek feedback on priorities for the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy for next year, and endorse the annual work plan
- Convene all trail user groups, build relationships, share information

Welcoming Comments

Phil McIntyre-Paul, Executive Director, Shuswap Trail Alliance, welcomed everyone and introduced Mike Simpson, Senior Regional Manager, Fraser Basin Council as facilitator for the day.

Chief Judy Wilson, Neskonlith, invited all other Secwepemc people to join her to provide a welcome and acknowledge Secwepemc territory. She unveiled the Secwepemc flag that acknowledges all 32 original communities, noting that many were wiped out by smallpox and that there are 17 communities remaining in the Shuswap Nation. Chief Wilson acknowledged the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy and the Shuswap Trails Roundtable as a good start by recognizing Aboriginal title and rights, language and culture. Councillor Louis Thomas gave a prayer.



Rick Berrigan, Mayor of the Village of Chase, gave a welcome and thanked everyone for having the Shuswap Trails Roundtable in Chase this year.

Phil acknowledge the support from all partners throughout the year, but noted the following for helping make this meeting possible:

- Village of Chase
- Sexqéltkemc te Secwepemc (STS Lakes Division)
- Interior Health Authority
- Shuswap Trail Alliance
- Adams Lake Band GIS Department

Introductions were made around the room.

History and Purpose of Shuswap Trails Roundtable, Previous Meeting Summary

Phil McIntyre-Paul noted that although this is the third annual Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting, the initiative started over 10 years ago in 2005. A pivotal joint meeting in May 2010 facilitated by STS Lakes Division leadership and the Shuswap Trail Alliance confirmed the approach of

developing a Regional Trails Strategy, partner MoU, and formal Roundtable. Mike Simpson reminded participants that the Shuswap Trails Roundtable is a unique governance organization for the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy. *[Note: quorum was not achieved; in the process of following up with Secwepemc governments and two municipalities on key decisions.]*



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 (CSR) 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. Working Group members were identified and acknowledged.

The summary from the November 30, 2016 Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting was approved by consensus.

Numerous partners briefly highlighted some successes and highlights from 2017 throughout the day, showing photos on screen:

- Owlhead/Cummings Lake/Blue Lake access management planning
- Kela7scen (Mount Ida) and Haines Creek
- Glenemma
- Adams River Pictographs/Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park
- Joss/Tsuis/Mabel Mountain access management planning

Morning Presentations

The morning session had presentations from the following governments and organizations on tourism, trails, active transportation and recreation, land use and parks.

Shelley Witzky, Political Coordinator, Sexqeltkemc te Secwepemc (STS Lakes Division) provided an update from the STS Lakes Division on an Indigenous Tourism Strategy, trails signage protocol, and cumulative effects assessment. Shelley's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Anita Ely, Specialist Environmental Health Officer, Interior Health Authority gave an overview of active transportation, the role it plays in encouraging individual and population health, and the opportunities available. Anita's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Joni Heinrich, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Chase shared that they have received a grant from BC Healthy Active Communities to develop a Chase Walking Master Plan.

Ryan Nitchie, Team Leader Community Services, Columbia Shuswap Regional District spoke about a parallel path proposed along the Salmon River Road from the Silver Creek community park, north towards the school and store. This is in conjunction with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Greg Hopf, Indigenous Tourism Specialist, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) spoke about their Indigenous initiatives as part of their 2012-2022 strategic plan. TOTA has identified over 300 Indigenous artists in the region, are developing resources to simplify starting a business from concept to implementation, and supporting local Indigenous initiatives as well as working with Aboriginal Tourism BC (ATBC). Background on the TOTA Indigenous Tourism Program can be found [here](#).

Mike Overend, Destination Development Program Specialist, TOTA spoke of their initiatives underway to support Rail-Trail development. TOTA currently has funds to update signage, infrastructure and web presence of the Kettle Valley Railway, which they hope will be connected to the Sicamous-Armstrong corridor eventually. He and Greg noted the recent Biosphere Designation granted to TOTA by an international organization for meeting 17 principles of sustainability across 137 topics. TOTA is one of 21 destinations around the world to receive the Biosphere Designation; this means a lot more people will likely be coming to experience the Thompson-Okanagan. It sets out a Charter of Sustainability and best practices to guide the region in becoming a global leader in sustainable destination development. Background on the TOTA Regional Rail Trails program can be found [here](#), and the Biosphere program [here](#).

John Hawkings, Director, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), part of Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) gave an overview of how RSTBC has grown to 50 staff over the last decade, all but two of which are technical field staff. RSTBC manage 1300 recreation sites and 800 trails around the province. This past year's challenges include delays due to the spring election and delays until a government was formed, and deployment of staff to wildfire operations. The Minister of FLNRORD's mandate letter included reference to modernizing land use planning, but there is no certainty around what that means yet. John anticipates increasing the planning and policy capacity within RSTBC over the next 5 years.

Wes DeArmond, Eastern Lakes Area Supervisor, BC Parks provided an update on BC Parks capacity and initiatives. Before the spring election, \$22.9M was announced for campsite expansion, mostly for BC Parks but a portion for RSTBC as well. Wes noted that staffing in his area has grown from 5 to 9 full time park rangers, and there is a community liaison officer starting in January.

During the morning presentations, participants were asked to think about the following questions:

- What are the implications for the Shuswap?
- What opportunities exist?
- How do we align with these initiatives?

The following were what participants noted as **opportunities to align with these initiatives**:

- Develop the Secwepemc Indigenous Tourism Strategy and local capacity by aligning with TOTA and ATBC; however TOTA and ATBC need to ensure they're not over-riding, duplicating or minimizing efforts made by Secwepemc entities
- Many Secwepemc individuals are ready to get involved in the tourism industry
- Pay indigenous artists, performers and business people an appropriate wage or fee
- Enabling Secwepemc content, language and names on trails, tourism and recreation signage
- Develop new complementary recreation sites, trails and/or parks adjacent to the Sicamous-Armstrong rail corridor
- Engage Secwepemc youth and realize multiple wins – anecdote was shared of Indigenous youth in Carcross-Tagish, Yukon who developed mountain bike trails into an international destination with wide economic benefits, a lower suicide rate, and improved mental health

- Enable Secwepemc involvement in BC Parks, building on what has been done in the past, and emulating a Guardian Watchman program used elsewhere
- Identify and develop the kind of tourism we want, such as those appreciating the environment and Secwepemc culture
- Promote education of values respecting the environment for a variety of different user groups (e.g., boaters, campground operators, dirt bikers, hikers), in the context that enforcement resources will never likely be sufficient
- Utilize cumulative effects assessment as a tool to identify areas that need to be closed due to high incidence of values, or significant pressures or risk of degradation
- Access BC Parks grants from license plate funds through the new BC Parks community liaison officer (liaise with Wes DeArmond for now)
- Opportunity to share interests in “modernizing land use planning” with MFLNRORD as the concept gets developed (e.g., bringing Indigenous values to land and resource decision making more extensively than in the past)

Lunch was catered by L & S Gourmet Food Services, Lana and Pete Louis of Adams Lake Indian Band, 778-257-9247.

2017 Annual Report and Challenges Encountered

Phil presented the [Work Plan Summary 2017: Update Report](#), version November 25, 2017, and the current [Trails-for-Review Project Update Summary \(Nov 25, 2017\)](#) When reviewing the budget and actual expenses for 2017, Phil noted that the original funds from Shuswap Tourism, CSRD and RSTBC originally obtained in 2010 have been leveraged to fund the past 7 years, but are now drawn down to the extent that no income sources are identified for 2018 for facilitation support. New grant funding for 2018 has been unsuccessful to date.

Participants were asked to work in small groups at their tables for 10 minutes and consider the following questions:

- How can we resource the Working Group to keep it going?
- How can we better collaborate?
- Other comments or suggestions

The following were the responses shared in plenary:

- Given the number of organizations involved, split the funding request between them
- Consider bronze, silver or gold sponsorship amounts and approach local governments or businesses, with a letter stating what has been accomplished to date
- Consider Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Develop a 3-5 year business plan, rather than seeking funding each year
- Several people noted the value of collaboration on this initiative is present
- Consider a registration fee on future Shuswap Trails Roundtable meetings
- Sicamous-Armstrong rail trail initiative in 2018 could spearhead the regional discussion; nest this with that discussion
- Consider a proposal or seeking multiple quotes to minimize costs
- Consider membership fees for those part of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable
- Consider advertising
- Trail groups could approach their provincial or federal organizations for funding

Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy – updates

The [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#) current version is November 22, 2016. Key updates to be approved at this Roundtable gathering include:

- [Chapter 3 – Existing Plans and Land Uses](#)
- [Chapter 9 Cumulative Effects Assessment](#) – summarizing
- [Chapter 11 Application flow chart](#)
- [Appendix 7 Environmental Screening, Adaptive Planning](#)

The proposed updates were approved by consensus. *[Note: quorum was not achieved; in the process of following up with Secwepemc governments and two municipalities on key decisions.]*

Key updates to be completed by the Working Group in early 2018 include proposed updates for [chapters 4 & 16](#). These will be forwarded to the January 2018 Working Group meeting.

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 not included to report on?
- Any other priorities for 2018 work plan?
- What can you do? Who can you partner with?
- Top three priorities for 2018

Shuswap River

- Nothing noted – follow priorities as noted in 2017 update

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

- Larch Hills Nordic Society – completed new trail plan for novice ski trails, will be sent for referrals and then submitted for application
- Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society completed habitat restoration work in Salmon Arm Bay in 2016-17 with Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation funds
- Top priority – Kela7scen/Mt. Ida, and the west bay trail into Tappen



East Shuswap

- Eagle Mountain Fire Lookout is an opportunity
- CSRD Area E parks committee has plans and priorities of its own – add them
- Revelstoke ATV Club – Iron Road to Two Moon Lake, would be above elevation limit, they need to have input to the process
- Use logging roads, North Fork, Seymour Arm, etc.
- Lots of snowmobiling opportunities
- Top priorities – Joss Pass/Tsuis/Mabel Mountain area

North Shuswap

- Lee Creek Bluffs include side trail to the Lee Creek waterfalls – add to work plan
- Blueways, paddle trails and marine campsites on Shuswap Lake all need infrastructure – add to priorities for 2018
- Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band and BC Parks are partner opportunities
- Top three priorities are Onyx Falls (important but expensive; raised walkway needed), Lee Creek Bluffs, and Wright Lake Trails (BC Parks)



Falkland/Salmon River

- Nothing noted – follow priorities as noted in 2017 update

West Shuswap

- Additional priorities to add are the Lake Trail around Skimikin Lake, plan trails for short loops south of Skimikin Lake, and re-route trail #10 near trail #8 where washed out
- Partner opportunities are Shuswap Trail Alliance, EQ and Backcountry Horsemen and ATV groups
- Top priorities are RSTBC upgrade to trails at Skimikin Lake rec site, and restore trails damaged by spring 2017 flooding

Inner Shuswap

- Nothing else to report on
- Other priorities to add: rather than a Tappen-Sunnybrae trail, the community would like a trail from Sunnybrae Park to Sunnybrae Estates and Mobley Road trailerparks, until MOTI intersection plan is resolved
- Trail access for Sherry Road and Reineker Creek is a priority
- Large parking area at east end of White Lake is needed, to be a trailhead for equestrian and ATV users, trailers
- Balmoral trails need to be cleared and re-routed
- Top three priorities are South Shuswap destination trail planning, White Lake-Balmoral trails re-route, Balmoral-Sherry Road access, and planning of Sunnybrae trails noted above

Work plan and Budget for 2018

The 2018 work plan will be built based on today's input. Budget will be flushed out based on resourcing questions earlier.

Working Group – 3rd Friday of January, April, June, October. 2018 dates will be:

- January 19
- April 20
- June 15
- October 19

Next Steps and closing comments

A summary will be prepared from today's meeting and circulated to all Shuswap Trails Roundtable members (currently over 250 in the database).

Mike invited others to email himself or Phil about 2018 regional events, workshops and training that their organizations may be hosting. Some known events include the following:

- Spring trail stewardship training
- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society training

Phil thanked people for attending, for their continued commitment and support of the Shuswap Trails Roundtable and the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy.

Other closing comments from participants were as follows:

- Liked the short, snappy progress reports
- More networking time needed
- Next year, focus on Sicamous-Armstrong Rail Trail

Appendix 1 – Agenda

Shuswap Trails Roundtable

Wednesday November 29, 2017 | 9:30AM to 3:30PM
Chase Community Hall, 547 Shuswap Ave., Chase, BC

OBJECTIVES

- Provide update on progress of the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy this year
- To seek feedback on priorities for the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy for next year, and endorse the annual work plan
 - Convene all trail user groups, build relationships, share information

Time	Topic	Who and/or format
9:00	Doors open, coffee available, networking	
9:30	Welcome, introductions around the room, review objectives and agenda, acknowledgement of funders, history and purpose of roundtable	Adams Lake Indian Band, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band, Neskonlith, Splotsin, Village of Chase Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council
9:55	Nov 30, 2016 summary to approve	Mike
10:00	<i>2017 progress highlight - Glenemma</i>	Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
10:05	Secwepemc updates on various initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous Tourism Project ▪ Trails signage protocol ▪ Cumulative Effects Assessment <i>Q & A to follow</i>	Shelley Witzky, Sexqéltkemc te Secwepemc (STS Lakes Division)
10:30	Active Transportation Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interior Health Authority ▪ Chase Walking Master Plan ▪ Silver Creek Parallel Path <i>Q & A to follow</i>	Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority Joni Heinrich, Sean O’Flaherty, Village of Chase Ryan Nitchie, CSRD
10:50	Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rail Trail Initiatives ▪ Indigenous Tourism Initiatives ▪ Biosphere Designation <i>Q & A to follow</i>	Mike Overend, Greg Hopf, TOTA
11:10	Provincial government updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) ▪ BC Parks <i>Q & A to follow</i>	John Hawkings, RSTBC Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
11:30	From the morning’s presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the implications for the Shuswap? ▪ What opportunities exist? ▪ How do we align with these initiatives? 	Small group discussion then report out

Time	Topic	Who and/or format
11:55	<i>2017 progress highlight – Owlhead</i>	Gord Bushell, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club Brodie Rundel, BC Parks
12:00	Lunch (suggested donation \$10) and networking time	
12:55	<i>2017 progress highlight – Joss Mtn. area</i>	Andrew Walker, MFLNRORD Adam Neil, Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land)
1:05	2017 annual report and challenges encountered	Phil, then small group discussions on funding, collaboration
1:30	Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative Effects Assessment • Other key chapter updates • Other additions? 	Mike Simpson – plenary
1:40	<i>2017 progress highlight – Kela7scen (Mt. Ida), Haines Cr.</i>	Louis Thomas, Neskonlith Ryan Nitchie, CSRD Brad Vickerson, Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts
1:50	Sub-regional discussions – detailed updates and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What can you do? ▪ Who can you partner with? ▪ What are the 2018 priorities? 	Small group discussion by area of choice then report out highlights and 2018 priorities
2:40	<i>2017 progress highlight – Roderick Haig-Brown Park</i>	Aaron Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
2:45	Coffee break	
3:00	Annual work plan and budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018 work plan including Working Group dates 	Phil, Mike – plenary
3:20	Next steps, closing comments	Everyone
3:30	Adjourn & safe travels	

Appendix 2 – List of Participants

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email address	Phone number
Allen	Walker		Salmon Arm ATV club / ATVBC	a61walker@gmail.com	250 503 8828
Anita	Ely	Specialist Environmental Health Officer	Interior Health	anita.ely@interiorhealth.ca	250-833-4114
Art	Dick	JCP team member	Invasive Species Council of BC		
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Blair	Acton	Manager	Squilax General Store and Hostel	shuswap@hihostels.ca	250 675-2977
Brad	Vickerson	President	S.O.R.E.S. (Shuswap Dirt Riders)	brad@vickerson.ca	(250) 833 - 7705
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Brittany	Lowden	Supervisor JCP Program	Invasive Species Council of BC	jcp.revelstokelead@bcinvasives.ca	778 228 2277
Brodie	Rundel	Senior Park Ranger	BC Parks	Brodie.Rundel@gov.bc.ca	2504620770
Bruce	Nelson	Vice Chair	Chase District Health Services Foundation	brucenel46@gmail.com	
Cindy	Derkaz	Board member	Shuswap Trail Alliance	cindy@cindyderkaz.ca	250 253 2684
Clint	Smith	Volunteer / Snow Shoe Trails	Larch Hills Nordics	cjlsmith@telus.net	250 832 7921
Cosmin	Man		Shuswap Trail Alliance; Forsite Consultants Ltd.	cosminman@hotmail.com	250-832-3366, x205
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Debbie	Phillips		Land Use and Trail Planning: Larch Hills Nordic Society	deb.phillips@telus.net	2508338266
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Frank	Antoine	Cultural Liaison	Quaaout Lodge	fantoine@quaaoutlodge.com	250-318-0742
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James	Demens	Regional Transportation Manager	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	james.demens@gov.bc.ca	
Jan	Thingsted	Planner	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	jthingsted@csrd.bc.ca	
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Reg	Walters	Chairperson of Trail Alliance Board	Shuswap Trail Alliance	regwaltersbc@hotmail.com	250-804-3234
Rennie	Heare	President	Sicamous Quad Club	bcrheare10@gmail.com	250 833 2495

Rhona	Martin	Director	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	rmartin@csrd.bc.ca	250-517-9471
Rick	Berrigan	Mayor	Village of Chase	rick.berrigan@chasebc.ca	250.318.1318
Rick	Mahoney	JCP team member	Invasive Species Council of BC		
Ritchie	Leslie	President	Vernon Outdoors Club	frleslie@yahoo.ca	
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