

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of April 27, 2023

Meeting date: April 21, 2023 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Location: Splatsin Community Centre and online

Present (in person):

Gordon Bose, Gorge Ski Touring Association
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Linda Buchanan, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Blaine Carson, Friends of Mt Ida
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Anita Ely, Interior Health
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association
Sue Hunt, Backcountry Horsemen of BC - Shuswap Chapter
Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society
Morgen Matheson, Shuswap Tourism
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics
Kelly McDonald, Interior Health
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Zach Parker, Splatsin (9:30AM to 10:10AM)
Jeromy Schuetze, District of Sicamous
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Trevor Timmer, Clever Trail Design
Brad Vickerson, independent motorized trail user

Present (online):

Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (except 10AM to 11:30AM)
Gord Bushell, District of Sicamous
Gordon Canfield, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
Debbie Seymour, North Shuswap Chamber of Commerce (to 11:00AM)
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Kukpi7 Doug Edwards welcomed everyone, territory was acknowledged, and he thanked everyone for their work. Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Note that quorum was only met while Zach Parker was present.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

Without Secwepemc representation present, Jen informed people that the Secwepemc Landmarks website has information on place names with audio clips of pronunciations. See <https://shuswaptrails.com/points/poi/1/>

3. Working Group Purpose, Terms of Reference

Mike, Jen and Phil provided an overview of the key points of this Working Group's terms of reference, which are in Appendix 10 of the [Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy](#).

4. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from January 20, 2023 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.

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

Kela7scen (Mt Ida)

- Jen and Adrian have been meeting with all Secwepemc governments re: planning, and there have been regular Mt Ida WG meetings. They are making big progress – all councillors from Neskonlith showed up last time. Will meet again in late June.

North Shuswap Parallel Pathway

- Ryan noted that this week received preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) from Swlax arch dept, key recommendation is to do an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) for the entire length of the trail Ross Creek Park to Fraser Bay MOTI pullout. No budget to complete AIA, so asked their arch department for quote to complete AIA to use as budget indicator for Active Transportation grant application submission expected in fall 2023.
- Debbie added that group working on this in NS has launched a fundraising campaign to allocate more funds for the grant application. Setting up a booth every weekend in summer around community for engagement. Funds going through Canada Helps, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA) to enable tax receipts.

Crowfoot

- Debbie noted she hasn't moved on the January 2023 actions yet. CSRD Electoral Area F Director Jay Simpson had a town hall and Jen was invited to talk about expanding winter recreation. This needs to be framed as how can we all work together in a positive way. Outcome at town hall was good. Representatives from Crowfoot Snowmobile club were there. Chamber, Jay and Shuswap Backcountry Riders will meet – first time Crowfoot Snowmobile Club has expressed interest in working with others, so keep it small to start. Hoping to meet in next two weeks. After that, can reach out to Skwlax leadership, and then engage other recreation groups. Jen is available to help as needed.

Glenemma

- Ryan updated that they've received S.57, it's in place, have met with Marcia re: details and all clarified Working with Lawson Eng to complete final design for trailhead parking area, topo survey completed late 2023, have a final design and Class B cost estimate. And final plan from STA crew to construct the trail. Work to do on decommissioning old trails. Underfunded in terms of budget, Agricultural Land Reserve requires permitter fencing around trail head parking area, extra \$50K cost = and everything else has gone up due to inflation. Funding shortfall. Worst case scenario they don't have funding, defer to 2024. Best case they find the \$100K funding shortfall.

Loftus Lake

- Ryan noted that little to update, waiting for AIA permit to be approved by BC gov, once received the archaeologists can do the work on site, then next steps..

Sorrento Blind Bay Perimeter Trail

- Couple of trail deficiencies noted, may be a small closure to do some fix ups such as packing, will be installing an accessible vault toilet. 95% complete. Well received by community. At Davidson Road in Sorrento/BB, trail is 800m, universally designed. Compact gravel, easy access and mobility.

Reinecker Creek

- Shuffled in priority list, too much on CSR plate. Had some money for First Nations engagement work, received comments back from some, no PFR requested. Asking for appropriate environmental screening and review. Will look at for future budgeting. There are some expensive items to do (bridges, boardwalk) and STA funding application wasn't successful. Waiting on s.57 from RSTBC and need some discussion with BC Parks.

Mount Baldy (above Sorrento)

- For trailhead itself, will be installing a new vault toilet this year.

Shuswap-North Okanagan Rail Trail (website [here](#))

- Ryan noted that there are four projects based on funding
- Sicamous to Mara section: changed to Sicamous to Km 2-3: 3 main components, rock scaling along Mara Lake, bridge decking, and trail construction km 0-2. Rock scaling tender to be awarded next week, to take place soon in spring. Bridge decking – getting engineering drawings, reviewing them, then work with Adrian and team to start decking. Trail construction: not until archaeological investigation completed, working with Splatsin to do ASAP. Project manager working on design work for that section of trail go to tender soon. Jeromy noted that they are doing a feasibility study to do a pedestrian bridge in this section. Ryan noted the trail is officially closed for use by the public.
- Second part: Enderby to Brickyard Road Back Enderby Road: led by RDNO. Archaeological work completed last fall, clear to go. Revegetation plan completed. Project manager is finalizing tender specifications for construction expect to tender in next two weeks.
- Third phase Armstrong to Lansdowne – grant funding from BC Active Transportation (MOTI) to construction. Talking with City of Armstrong, lease agreement with CN Rail completed. Project manager and engineering team doing test sections, will then focus on designing tender specifications for this part.
- Still receiving concerns about motorized use in the Rosemond Lake area...reminder to inform motorized users please and thank you. Brad noted they're likely not part of an organized group. Phil reminded people that this STR Working Group is poised to help with any issues at Rosemond Lake (recall it was discussed in recent months/years).
- Fourth project - Bigger funding grant to Splatsin is in progress (\$12.5M). Pedestrian overpasses (at Stepney Road and Hwy 97, other at Grindrod) are a possible future phase 2 grant application.

Cliff Ave., Enderby

- STA has some self-funding available, some anonymous donations, that STA board is supporting small communities. Strata development at end of Cliff Ave. City of Enderby helped identify. Built 300m of recreational and green built trail linking Francis Ave to Cliff Ave, Trevor is doing the building, some STA staff too. Phase 1 completed this spring. Want to add some crushed gravel cap eventually and a small

retaining wall to get up to Francis Ave. Have a lead on funds for that, it's a good fit for Phase 2. Officially closed, strata development at bottom of trail, their sidewalks and roads will tie in nicely.

Switzmalph Cultural Heritage Trail (nature trail)

- Adrian noted that STA board allocated funding to Switzmalph Cultural Heritage Society, it's an existing trail, in disrepair, along foreshore where Salmon River enters the lake. Cultural heritage trail. Commit to long term maintenance of the existing trail. Open by invitation (in trail guide and on website) to the Switzmalph Cultural Heritage Society, access is First Nations Road. Did some LiDAR mapping, it's floodplain and flooded in spring.
- Ryan noted that CSRD did a planting project with SCHS in that area – let's make sure we're not disrupting the planted stock (3yr survival needed).

Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor updated folks that they did a petition with overwhelming support for preservation of Mallory Ridge. Waiting for a date from CSRD Electoral Area D Director Tremblay and he will follow up with CSRD board to do a presentation.
- She noted that many moose and elk were observed in the area this past winter.
- Phil did an inventory of social trail system (roughly about 15km), did a draft inventory assessment with mitigation recommendations for it to be a sustainable trail system. The draft is with the Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society now for review, then to pre-review with Secwepemc communities (have started with Splitsin, not others). Have to finish environmental screening. Then will bring up here, and Marcia at RSTBC. Trail system has some sections that are too steep, there is room for steep trails to be a lesser grade. There are two reasonable public access points. Also need BC Hydro and others to look at it (cell tower). Phil assessed types of use as part of inventory.
- Eleanor noted that motorized users use the area, as well as non-motorized.

Skimikin

- Linda noted good news – Phase 2 funding came through! Letters of support helped. \$86K for new non-motorized trails. She also applied for small grant from Backcountry Horsemen of BC Shuswap Chapter of BC for seed orchard. Other small funding sources too. Adrian noted pre-work being done later today.
- Sue gave an update on Secwepemc landmarks trail naming – they have partnership with RSTBC, they decided to have trail names (not numbers as existed) – worked with landmarks project since 2019, had elders site visit for names, had a working group meeting with trail names, went back to landmarks project, took it to Chief Atahm School to be correct translation, and permission to use, and then this spring Libby and Sue met with C&C of Neskonlith, ALIB and Skwax to present this project and seek their approval. Waiting to hear from last one if it's approved. Then get WG back together again and start getting things together for signage. There will be acknowledgement of the grant, and those people that contributed ideas.
- Jen noted that Motorized rec'd some funds from RSTBC – re-route of some existing trails. Trevor noted they'll be doing that soon.

Blind Bay Bluffs

- Patrick noted that WLRA received notification from BC Timber Sales re: proposed logging in the area. It will impact trail system. The WLRA committee will present concerns on safety; other organizations that received this referral will comment separately just on trails.

White Lake

- Patrick and White Lake Residents Association (WLRA) just received White Lake FSR (Forest Service road) relocation – just received final road designs, profiles, they will look at that.
- Submitted a parks enhancement program (PEP). Wes DeArmond noted that the PEP grant can be resubmitted, he'll advise when that funding window opens. Wes hasn't heard on FSR road designs; once feedback from Secwepemc governments, they'll follow up.

West Bay Connector

- Jen noted that ALIB submitted 3 applications to federal government for funding, total \$150K, paired with City of Salmon Arm funds and others there is a total \$305K to do the planning, archaeology, environmental, feasibility, etc.
- A request for proposals (RFP) to be issued by and managed by City of SA., to go out in August, work to start in January 2024. Big step forward.

Ribbons of Green (Vernon) – Phil read the following on behalf of Ritchie Leslie:

- “Ribbons of Green is advocating for the completion of an active transportation & recreational trail for cycling and walking between the northern terminus of the Okanagan Rail Trail in Coldstream and the town of Armstrong. Armstrong in turn will be linked to the southern terminus of the Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail.
- We've already engaged with the City of Vernon and have active support from the politicians and staff we've talked to so far. This week we're are briefing MLA Sandhu and her staff, focusing particularly on MOTI engagement and support. Likewise, we are coordinating with the Armstrong Trails Society. We are also in the process of engaging with the three concerned municipalities – Spall, Armstrong and Vernon – and will be reaching out soon to the OKIB. Our plan is to schedule a meeting of all the stakeholders as soon as possible.
- This will not be an easy or quick project. It will be expensive and complex to route and we've identified at least three municipalities, one first nation and the province as key stakeholders. But the cyclists in particular will be there as soon as Armstrong is linked to the Shuswap North ORT so we all need to be ready for it. Right now, there is no good active transportation or recreational route between Vernon and Armstrong.”

Sicamous Mountain Bike Park (lower elevation just outside of town):

- Jeromy noted they're trying to get first phase from Owlhead parking lot up and running, it's gone to Marcia at RSTBC
- Adrian noted that this has been entirely funded by District of Sicamous
- Fuel management work has been done in recent years.
- Could consider posting design concept or sharing via email. It will be technical trails, not easy. Hope to tie over to 2 Mile and Sicamous Creek falls eventually.

Larch Hills Nordics – ski trails

- Craig noted that not a lot new to report on Link trail – this spring, want to review environmental screening with Adrian, and walk Link trail with Splantsin field technician. Advantage of delay is a re-routing of Catamount Canyon trail too.
- A chunk of private land, active construction of 1.6km of trail with logging happening right now, landowner is donating timber, so it will be cost neutral. Extension of dog loop trails. May be able to continue the dog trails next year.

7. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

Shuswap Trail Alliance Volunteer days – more details [here](#)

- Mountain bike coming up April 30
- Eagle River May 27.
- Equestrian day June 3.
- Enderby Cliffs June 10.
- Heralds Bay Upper Canyon Trail June 17.
- Every Monday night volunteer at Rubberhead – 6PM meet at parking lot.
- ACTION – Morgan suggested to put the link on Shuswap Tourism website, connect Adrian.

Responsible Recreation: Pathways, Practices and Possibilities

- Columbia Mountains Institute for Applied Ecology is hosting this conference in Revelstoke May 9-10 with an online option. See [here](#) for more details, and last chance to register is April 25.
- STA and CSISS are presenting, lots of others, should be a good event.

Shuswap Trail Guide

- Morgan noted trail guide has gone to print, thank STA for the heavy lifting of the project. Printed guides to be available by mid-May. Happy with 2 year publication. Next round in 2 years will be a 4 year shelf life guide.
- Phil said thanks to everyone for their input. Phil noted they included a QR code approach for motorized trails, with links from STA site to all sorts of motorized groups sites.

Secwepemc Landmarks

- Chase Wharf May 13 1PM unveiling of new landmark

Upcoming events

- Rubberhead enduro June 11 – mountain bike
- Salty Fest Street fest, Salmon Arm, downtown, May 13, 10AM-2PM
- CSRD Trunk Sale, May 13, Salmon Arm
- Salty Dog Endurance May 14 – mountain bike
- (Lewiston) Shuswap Ultra June 25 – running
- Backyard Ultra April 28 – running

Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society

- CSISS will be hosting yellow flag iris removal workshops at Little White Lake this summer
- Jess inquired about where there is interest for CSISS to host a yellow flag iris removal workshop at Phillips Lake in the Turtle Valley area. This is outside of CSISS operating area, but they could find a way to make it happen if there is interest.
 - Linda suggested to engage a community association at Turtle Lake – ACTION – Linda will share that contact name with Jess.
 - Phil suggested engaging other groups, and Skwlax.
- CSISS will be doing workshops and training throughout the summer - reach out to her if interested

Funding opportunities

- Current grants available from [Plan H](#) include \$5K community connectedness, and \$15K for healthy public policy grants, to engage public, create new policy or amend existing ones. Deadline May 15 but

extended. Only local or First Nations governments can apply. Anita noted this fund has supported a lot of local things recently.

- [Vision Zero](#) grants are aimed at reducing deaths along roads. Contact Anita or Kelly for more info. dd Kelly and Anita’s emails for more info. No current funding window – will open again in winter 2023/24.

8. Next Steps

Annual Roundtable meeting: some very initial thoughts discussed were as follows:

- Format – Jen noted that there are sufficient funds to host this in-person
- Possible venues – Malakwa community centre (old school); Quaaout Lodge; Splatsin Centre; Larch Hills chalet was offered but deemed too small; Barbra F suggested Shuswap Lake Estates community centre
- Possible updates to strategy - Jen to contact Kevin, Tennessee re: BC gov signing LOU; updates in terms of priorities; housekeeping edits (remove Fraser Basin Council reference in Appx 9, 10; update STS Lakes Division)
- Timing – mid November to early December. Aim to finalize date by early September.
- Possible topics – quick review of ToR; Rail Trail updates; Skwlax guardians program.
- Note there are new elected officials from fall 2022

Working Group: future meeting dates, from 9AM-12PM:

- Friday June 16 – possibly at Skwlax, visit winter home; or Neskonlith
- 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, 	Any trails groups that need access to wildfire closure areas	Ongoing

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>maintenance and public safety, or for activities that otherwise support the goals of wildfire recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 		
<p>Consider doing media releases when projects are complete (e.g., South Canoe Parking lot, Sorrento Blind Bay perimeter trail, Skimikin)</p>	Jen, everyone	Ongoing
<p>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</p>	Trail stewardship groups	Ongoing
<p>Consider joint applications/working collaboratively if future big funding calls come out. Need time to be strategic.</p>	Everyone	Ongoing
<p>Secwepemc Landmarks – sentinel structures: contact Jen or Adrian if your group wants to undertake this for one or more in their areas</p>	Everyone	Ongoing
<p>Plan and prepare for Annual Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See actions noted above under next steps (April 21 meeting) ▪ Consider the right balance of networking vs. presentations 	Mike, Jen, others	Before annual meeting
<p>Consider hosting and field trip option for June 16 WG meeting:</p> <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