

# Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

## Meeting Summary as of Sept 27, 2022

**Meeting date:** Sept 23, 2022 9:00AM to 12:00PM

**Location:** Zoom web conference

### **Present:**

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)

Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)

Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors

Kevin Eskelin, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association

Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park

Chris Lynd, Shuswap Backcountry Riders (ATVBC) and STA

Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society

Morgen Matheson, Shuswap Film Commission

Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics

Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Roger Parenteau, Shuswap Community Foundation

Carly Procyshyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation

Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)

Natalie Sorkilmo, Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club

### **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. Note that quorum was not met. Regrets were noted from several people, including Phil McIntyre-Paul.

### **2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity**

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

- Seme7úy, pronounced "semma" which means white, in referring to settlers or white people

### **3. Previous Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary from June 17, 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 Planning**

Building on discussions from the last working group meeting, it was confirmed that the annual meeting will be hybrid (in person with virtual option) on Wed October 26, 2022 at the Sorrento Centre.

Jen reported that they've received additional funding since we last met: \$2500 from Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC); neighbourhood grant of \$500 applied for by Roger Parenteau; funds from local clubs, businesses and organizations (Cycle Club, White Lake Residents Association, North Shore Chamber of Commerce, Apple

Auto Glass), so the deficit is now only \$683. [During the meeting, an additional \$500 was donated by Carl Kuster Mountain Park.] Jen therefore announced that lunch costs will be covered, people do not have to pay.

The following agenda content was confirmed:

- *Welcomes* – Kukpi7 James Tomma has been asked, not heard back. JB will confirm. CSRD electoral area welcome would be Electoral Area G Natalya Melnychuk was acclaimed. Sorrento Centre lead Michael Shapcott to do welcome as venue host.
- *Indigenous content* – goal of this part of the day is to allow Secwepemc governments to do an update on PteS governance, function and build a better understanding between trail stewardship groups and Secwepemc governments how we should engage and work together. Specific topics:
  - PteS presentation – possible contacts are Zach Parker at Splatsin, or Vicky Tronson exec assistant at PteS. Rob Hutton is still leading PteS. Dianne Francois at LSLIB.
  - Neskonlith presentation – our understanding is not officially part of PteS, not using Nations Connect. Manuel \_\_\_ is a possible contact.
  - Nations Connect referral system – Adrian to lead this
  - Secwepemc Elders Group – Libby Chisolm manages this group.
  - Overall discussion – in a world with limited resources and time and always too much to do, how do we best build relationships and work together for the things we want in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy?
- *BC government content* – goal of this part of the day is to allow BC to do an update on things that trail stewardship groups should know about and hear feedback. Specific topics:
  - Recreation Sites and Trails BC update – Tennessee Trent (Kevin Eskelin as backup), to cover new mountain bike policy, signage standards, lessons learned from 2021 wildfires and rec site and trail closures and opportunities for collaboration, vandalism and squatting/homelessness impacts in backcountry (short, perhaps an online seminar in winter)
  - Forest landscape planning – Rachael Pollard key contact to approach. What is a FLP, what's the status of FLP in Shuswap, where is it at, what does it mean for recreation and trails groups? What are the opportunities to engage?
  - BC Watershed Security Strategy – Jennifer Vigano is key contact to approach. What is the strategy, what is its status, what does it mean for recreation and trail groups?
  - Overall discussion – what do these BC government initiatives mean for our Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy? How do all these pieces fit together? How do we engage?
- *Sub-regional planning in small groups* – best done with people in the room. Virtual participants can choose one group (no moving) need pre-assigned breakout rooms, and each of 7 sub-regional areas need to have a laptop since there will be good wifi.
- *Roundtable business* – report on 2022, plans for 2023
- *Success stories* – short, snappy, lots of photos – 3min max, email to Mike in advance or bring on stick
  - Secwepemc landmarks project – Shelley or Libby
  - Lighting project at Larch Hills – Craig McBride
  - East Canoe Creek and Larch Hills Traverse trail and South Canoe parking lot – Adrian
  - Skimikin – Chris, Linda or Sue

*Registration questions* – to go out by Sept 29 at latest:

- Name
- Contact info
- Group or organization
- In person or virtual?
- If virtual, which sub-regional group?
- If in person, dietary restrictions – veg, allergies?
- Do you want to display information about your group? Need a table?
- Share contact info?

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

### Skimikin

- Chris reported that trail filters were put in place to regulate width and type of use, will address break-ins at seed orchard and other vandalism. Were break ins at seed orchard, so these trail filters being narrowed to prevent trucks was a win-win. Narrowed some other trails to avoid use on sensitive areas and single track trails, used boulders (more natural than cement blocks or gates).
- Earlier in 2022 more trails authorized for building and maintenance, a big equestrian trail. Re route of some trails authorized. Three quarters of choice ATV route will be built by this fall if all goes well. Trevor from Clever Trail Design will do the work.
- Shout out to Seth and Garfield from Shuswap Dirt Riders to help clean up abandoned squatters' camp. CSRD contacted about removing tipping fees – CSRD noted if there are organized clean up days that they would support up to \$500 for expenses, meals, coffee for volunteers. Contact at CSRD is Ben van Nostrand (add info). Q – were COs involved? CL – not sure. Suggestion to report any unauthorized squatting on “Crown” land to the RAPP line 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or [online](#).

### Glenemma

- Ryan reported that the Agricultural Land Commission supported the application to remove a portion of the trail that was in agricultural land reserve, therefore the s.57 submitted to RSTBC will resume being evaluated by Marcia at RSTBC.

### Sorrento Blind Bay Park Perimeter Trail

- Ryan noted that this is now complete and seems to be being well used. Adrian added that an accessible toilet being installed this fall, would be last step.

### Loftus Lake Fen and Dog Park

- Ryan reported that CSRD has received grant funding of \$155 000, they are doing archaeological work first. LSLIB did a preliminary field reconnaissance (PFR) and are recommending an archaeological impact assessment (AIA). AIA cost is not in budget, cost outside of CSRD procurement, so getting a few quotes then will proceed. AIA likely not until spring 2023, then construction to commence in fall 2023.

### North Shuswap Parallel Trail

- Ryan reported that this is advancing, have final design work in hand from Ross Creek park halfway to Lakeview park (section C1), submit to MOTI to get in their review system, and concurrently sending to LSLIB for arch review. Once complete can budget costs. Class B cost next, but archaeological is unknown at this point. Won't meet Oct 21 Active Transportation Grant deadline (BC one) so they will look at federal grant. Meet with locals in mid-October.

### [Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail](#)

- Ryan reported that there was a big \$12.5M federal grant through Splitsin. Technical operation committee meeting to support planning work. Big piece is archaeological work, meeting with Splitsin archaeological team. Enderby test section 3km in City of Enderby to be done first. Previous grant funding from Sicamous to Mara – rock scaling work to be tendered over winter, then commence in spring. Bridge decking at Rosemond Lake in spring. Looking at trail grading options from that grant to use last dollars up.

## Mallory Ridge

- Eleanor noted that STA has been contracted with private funding to complete a s.57 application.
- Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society has been formed -trail maintenance of self propelled trail system and funding platform for future upgrades.
- Unrelated to the s.57 application, the following projects are completed that reflect the 22 year history of community advocacy work to protect Mallory Ridge:
  - Promo video of Mallory Ridge including drone footage, interviews. Section on flora and fauna contributed by community photographers
  - Hydrology report funded by West Coast Environmental Law
  - Wayne McCrory of McCrory Wildlife Services and staff were commissioned to provide an independent Ecological and Conservation Assessment of Mallory Ridge and a Protected Area Proposal. A GIS spatial analysis was done of potential mature forest recruitment values for provincial old-growth retention as part of this work. Private funding.
  - In future the above reports will be available of the Gardom Lake Stewardship Society [website](#).
- Eleanor noted that both candidates for Area D CSRD Director have pledged their support for the Mallory Ridge Protected Area Proposal
- Contact Eleanor Marshall for a hike on the trail system to see this beautiful area.

## Eagle Pass Mountain

- Adrian noted that STA crews did some work on the trail this summer, still installing an outhouse (supply issues) at the parking area, so not until 2023. Lookout structure burned down by suspected lightning in July. Lots of erosion on the road up was noted.

## Mara Lookout

- Adrian working on boardwalks, did summer of work but short season, seeking extension of grant for another year. Another year of work to do.

## Gorge

- Adrian noted that the Gorge Ski Touring Association and Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club (EVSC) met last week, put together a draft co-management user agreement, taking back to EVSC board for decision. Natalie noted they they're hopeful to move things forward.

## Ida View

- Adrian noted that STA completed a trail that has been worked on for almost 20 years, got permit in 2019, S Canoe to Rubberhead, ties into Larch Hills Nordic area, and also part of Larch Hills Traverse. Build large bridge with lots of support from the community (Shuswap Community Foundation, Backcountry Horsemen of BC, more) and finally in use – start of last weekend's race. Changed how MTB community can use the trails.
- Grand opening Oct 1 at 10:00AM at South Canoe Trailhead, guided and group rides that day.

## West Bay Trail

- Jen updated folks that Adams Lake Indian Band has submitted 3 applications to federal grant stream for \$150 000 total, this could be partnered with funds in reserve and other funds could do all the planning work this fall. Would issue RFP this fall. If not all awarded, will do it in pieces.

#### Scatchard/Chase Creek Falls

- Jen updated that STA ready to submit reroute for Secwepemc review. Anonymous donation received by STA and they're using part of it to support this and other projects in smaller communities.

#### Salmon Arm Greyways

- Greyways are sidewalk connectors between neighbourhoods. They are ploughed, sanded and salted on hills all winter.
- Concept put together for SE Salmon Arm for Greenway committee to review soon. All within City boundaries.

#### Salmon Arm Active Transportation

- Jen noted the final draft plan will be presented to Council for approval shortly (this current council). Once plan is adopted by Council, they can apply for infrastructure funds to do things such as bike lanes, traffic calming, etc.
- Urban Systems hosted meeting with City on Sept 20.

#### [South Shuswap Destination Trail Master Plan](#)

- Jen reported that Phil is working on draft report to bring to steering group for review in October, then present to public in November. Waiting for input from Secwepemc leadership. October roundtable will inform this too.

#### Owlhead/Blue/Cummings/Hunters Range

- Jen noted that ORV leadership was to finalize maps and routes and to bring to Secwepemc leadership – Phil will reach out to Brent and David re: was anything mapped over the summer.
- Owlhead road – pulled out of wildfire closure? Natalie said yes, 7-16km is now open for anyone to use, don't need an exemption.

#### Owlhead Bike Park

- Adrian added to Carly's update, STA contracted by District of Sicamous to develop draft management plan for this to Secwepemc. They have done environmental screening of this area. Working on getting Splatsin to do a PFR of the whole area (big zone). Hopefully picked up by RSTBC for approval this fall, to start building in spring. District of Sicamous excited to see this built. Likely to get tendered out, not built by STA but to be determined.

#### Hidden Lake (Enderby, towards Kingfisher, south of Shuswap River)

- Jen updated that there were some BC Rural Dividend funds to do some site visits, trail planning assessment report is in progress. Plan is to develop a trail around the lake. Lots of "social trails" already. It's a recreation site, working with Ian McLellan on this.

#### Kela7scen/Mt Ida

- Jen updated that the Kela7scen Working Group met last week, going to send a couple of people to present to Pespesellkwe te Secwepemc (PteS) on October 10 to get approval to proceed with some work while waiting for stewardship plan being developed that is Secwepemc-led. Want to manage some recreation in the interim. Louis is pushing for this. Committed as a whole to care for Kela7scen – clean up garbage, don't build new trails, don't advertise use.
- Motorized groups have completed assessments of their trails.
- Working Group has been meeting every 1-2 months, less over summer.

### Larch Hills Nordic Cross Country Ski Trails

- Craig reported that the lighting project is complete. Ready to light 6km of trails this winter. Some money left over for backup generators and backup power for chalet.
- Craig thanked volunteers such as Keith Cox for keeping backcountry trails clear over summer and prepping for winter.
- Proposed link trail s.57 application being worked on, started 2 years ago, sending out referrals, used Nations Connect and referrals to Neskonlith. PFR in coming weeks. Other groups will be getting letters this fall. Hope to submit s.57 in next few weeks. Marking the trail – crossing of Catamount Canyon to get away from an erosion problem on a trail, this adds 0.5km of trail to reduce the grade. Shift junction from Link trail and an opportunity to get trail out of the gully and put in better place.
- Adrian added s.11 for culvert replacement on Treebeards trail was submitted this month, it went through BC government website

### Switzmalph Nature Trail

- Jen noted they've been approached by Switzmalph Cultural Society to look at upgrading/improving an existing trail and other connections in Salmon Arm Bay and River. Bonnie Thomas is the lead.

## 7. Roundtable of New Information, and Other Updates

The following information was shared:

- **BC Bike Race** was last weekend, Sept 17-18, an international Race – 50km route, 2000m elevation gain. Winning time was 3 hours (average time was in 5 hour range). Significant event for Shuswap to host.
- **Trail Guide** – Jen noted that they have funding confirmed between Shuswap Tourism and municipal and regional district tax (MRDT) tax so there will be a full reprint ready for spring 2023. ACTION – anything missing? Anything to correct? Any info about existing groups to add? ACTION: Contact Jen or Phil by mid-November with edits. Full guide 46 pages to be printed. Website matches the content – so check out [www.shuswaptrails.com](http://www.shuswaptrails.com) to review the content.
- **Shuswap Ultra Running Race** – South Canoe to Sicamous 60km, then 20km next day this weekend. Probably 500 participants.
- **Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society** is hosting a restoration day at Blanket Creek tomorrow, Sat Sept 24.
- Little Shuswap Lake Band is hosting **Salmon Day**, public event Friday Sept 30 also National Reconciliation Day. Ceremony, games, feast all open to the public, as kickoff to Salute to the Sockeye.
- Adams River [Salute to the Sockeye](#) – runs Sept 30 to October 23.

## 7. Next Steps

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

- Friday January 20
- Friday April 21
- Friday June 16
- Friday October 20

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

<b>Task or activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Start <b>hut to hut opportunities</b> , overnight stays. Build on history. Larger areas, not just Owlhead, Blue Lake, Hunter's Range.	Louis, others	Future meeting
Work with <b>Shuswap Tourism</b> or current organization to publish and advertise authorized trails	Everyone	Ongoing
Organizations to <b>sign the LOU</b> 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 <b>GPS/GIS linework</b> on trails to Adrian at Shuswap Trail Alliance, <a href="mailto:adrian@shuswaptrails.com">adrian@shuswaptrails.com</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Trails groups – send <b>suitable berry picking sites, locations of cultural plants of interest</b> (highbush cranberry, hazelnut, yellow avalanche lily, spring beauty/Indian potatoes, soopalalie, saskatoon) as trail reports to <a href="mailto:trailreport@shuswaptrails.com">trailreport@shuswaptrails.com</a> – intent is that Secwepemc governments are seeking this information, it will be shared only with them	Everyone	Ongoing
Send any reports of <b>erosion or trail damage</b> from heavy rains to <a href="mailto:trailreport@shuswaptrails.com">trailreport@shuswaptrails.com</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Seek <b>support letters for funding</b> applications from each other	Everyone	Ongoing
Consider opportunities for funds to do <b>cumulative effects assessment</b> on a complex project	Everyone	Ongoing
<b>Secwepemc Plant Knowledge cards</b> - order from Georgia Jules at Neskonlith Education Centre by email <a href="mailto:educationassistant@neskonlithec.net">educationassistant@neskonlithec.net</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Download the <b>Secwepemc language app</b> for your smart phone	Everyone	Ongoing
Seek an exemption for <b>motorized vehicle closures</b> in areas of 2021 wildfires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The areas are closed for 18 months, generally, due to safety concerns</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ More information about applying for an exemption is <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>▪ Please contact staff at <a href="mailto:2021Wildlife.closures@gov.bc.ca">2021Wildlife.closures@gov.bc.ca</a> prior to applying, and see this <a href="#">link</a> for a frequently asked questions document related to these closures</li> </ul>	Any trails groups that need access to wildfire closure areas	Ongoing
Consider doing <b>media releases</b> when projects are complete (e.g., South Canoe Parking lot, Sorrento Blind Bay perimeter trail, Skimikin)	Jen, everyone	Ongoing
If doing a <b>clean-up event</b> , contact <a href="#">Ben van Nostrand</a> 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 <b>Shuswap Trails Guide</b> full reprint for 2023: anything missing? Anything to correct? Any info about existing groups to add? Website matches the content – so check out <a href="http://www.shuswaptrails.com">www.shuswaptrails.com</a> to review the content	Trail stewardship groups	By mid-November
Consider hosting a <b>virtual seminar on issues of vandalism, dumping, squatting</b> in the backcountry in winter 22/23	Jen, Adrian	November
Plan and prepare for <b>Annual Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Send out registration link</li> <li>▪ Line up speakers (see above)</li> <li>▪ Arrange logistics for virtual participation, venue</li> </ul>	Mike, Jen, others	Well before Oct 26