

Shuswap Trails Roundtable Working Group

Meeting Summary as of January 23, 2024

Meeting date: January 19, 2024 9:00AM to 12:00PM **Location:** Sicamous Seniors Centre and virtual

Present (in person):

Jess Booth, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Gordon Bose, Gorge Ski Touring Association
Adrian Bostock, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Gord Canfield, Sled Sicamous/Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
Keith Cox, Shuswap Outdoors
Dave Crowfoot, Shuswap Backcountry Riders
Kyra Evans, Hunters Range Snowmobile Association
Barbra Fairclough, Sunnybrae Canoe Point Stewards
Steve Horton, Sled Sicamous/Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club
Eleanor Marshall, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Carly Procyshyn, District of Sicamous Development Corporation
Jamie Sherlock, District of Sicamous
Mike Simpson, consultant (facilitator, recorder)
Jared Taylor, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Hannah Treleaven, Shuswap Trail Alliance

Present (virtual)

Jen Bellhouse, Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA)
Craig McBride, Larch Hills Nordics
Kristina Flackman, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Patrick Frank, White Lake Residents' Association (WLRA)
Sue Ghattas, Vernon Outdoors Club
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Chris Lynd, Solstice Adventures
Sarah Megyesi, BC Parks
Brian Pratt, 4WD Association of BC
Fred Torbohm, Village of Chase
Emma Wiebe, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Shelley Witzky, Adams Lake Indian Band

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, acknowledged unceded Secwepemc territory and thanked Shuswap Backcountry Riders and Sled Sicamous/Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club for arranging the venue for today's meeting. A round of introductions took place. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented [*note that after the meeting, it was realized that the annual meeting debrief was unintentionally missed.*]

The new meeting OWL (camera, speaker, microphone) was used, with some technical support from Phil. This should improve virtual participation.

2. Secwepemc Learning Opportunity

The term used in the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Y'icwetsutce was reviewed and discussed. Phil noted that in the original strategy, it was understood to mean "you take care" as in the responsibility of taking care of the land & its resources (Secwépemc) and recognition of Indigenous title and rights. Secwépemc leadership have recommended a review of the correct Secwepemctsín (Secwépemc language) pronunciation for this term. Shelley noted that there are different dialects of Secwepemctsín and even different spellings and pronunciations by family. She offered to consult with elders and Chief Atahm School on the proper use, spelling and pronunciation of this term. She noted a reference *Secwepemc Lands and Resources Law Analysis Project Summary* is available online [here](#).

Shelley also noted that she's doing a master's degree in indigenous protected and conserved areas (IPCAs) and would welcome the opportunity to interview anybody with interest in this.

3. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from October 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.

4. Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy

Phil reviewed the summary of changes made to the latest proposed update to the Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy dated Jan 15, 2024. In particular Phil noted the updated/consistent subregion names, and the slight tweak to the southern boundary of Shuswap River/North Okanagan subregion. This version incorporates the feedback received at the Shuswap Trails Roundtable annual meeting held November 29, 2023.

There was no objection to approving this latest update, noting that the strategy is an evergreen/living document with periodic updates, subject to the following comments:

- Clarifying comment from Barbra Fairclough about the parallel trail in Sunnybrae
- Adding the signed letter of understanding from Shuswap Outdoors
- Adding the signed letter of understanding forthcoming from Hunters Range Snowmobile Association, 4WD Association of BC, Mallory Ridge Community Trails Society and any other groups willing to sign the LOU (download and sign page 2 [here](#) and email to jen@shuswaptrails.com)

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

Skimikin

- Chris noted that now that they are past the big phase with new trails in, there are still lots of existing unauthorized trails in sensitive area, cultural areas, close to lake. Hope to be part of next s.57 phase. Looking at costs for preliminary field reconnaissance (PFRs) for any new connections.
- Signage and maps coming this spring. Landmark posts installed and waiting for signage. Maps for kiosks are being finalized.

Hunters' Range Snowmobile Association

- Kyra noted that they are working on a s.57 application, are finalizing mapping. They want to connect two established trail networks together Cook Creek to Gordon Sidney trail, so that they are fully groomed and marked.
- Just put up new temporary cabin (on metal skids, gets moved out after ski season) on Laforge network, there was no shelter before, submitted April 2023 for an nominal rent application for this and completed referrals. Approval from Kelsey to do this temporary shelter, they want it to be permanent. Nominal rent tenure is better than a s.57 application so it can be bigger and more permanent. Looking to fund construction of the cabin by grants and support from local businesses. Lots of donations for the temporary structure. A nominal rent application is like a land lease.

Owlhead/Hunters Range/Blue Lake Area – Brian, Kyra, Dave

- Steve noted they need permanent parking and a staging area
- Steve was recently informed by RSTBC they need to reestablish their trails. Trail has been there 50 years. Other groups are also going through this. Larch Hills Nordics, Shuswap Outdoors. Partnership agreement as well as reestablishing authorization for trails. Advice was given to Steve to fill out a s.56 application and work with Kelsey at RSTBC.
- Two cabins at Owlhead and Blue Lake they've been told they need permits for their existing cabins.
- Brian Pratt noted that they have maintenance agreements for Elbow, Grassy and Pintail lakes in the Hunters' Range area.
- It was asked: why hasn't the **Owlhead/Blue Lake/Hunters Working Group** kept meeting? Trying to get non-winter routes sorted out...Shuswap Trail Alliance holds some funds for summer signage for ATV and motorbiking. There needed to be some fieldwork done to ID boggy sections, to get back to BC Parks and RSTBC to finalize maps and signage. Someone needs to champion this, get the small working group together to finalize this. Phil can support but not lead.
- Brian Pratt noted he's interested in this small working group for Owlhead/Hunters Range/Blue Lake. Others involved were Allan Walker. Tolko, BCTS and Splatsin were also involved. (triangular area of people – Sicamous, Vernon and Salmon Arm area)
- **ACTION:** need to get people back together. Kyra Evans and Brian Pratt will lead this; connect with Phil for contacts, background. Convene all the interested parties (winter and non-winter, motorized and non-motorized) and move this forward – specific projects but look at the overall large area.
- Connector between the two trails is key (Gord Canfield) and decommissioning of Owlhead FSR

Lizard Trail to Owlhead

- Jeromy – social trail exists but not authorized, it follows their water line. Other social trails from Owlhead over to Lizard trail area too. Adrian has a "Bayview" plan for that area, on the west side. Could look at that with the mountain bike trails. **ACTION** – Adrian share the existing plans to Jeromy. Then Jeromy and District of Sicamous look at doing a s.57 application.

Old Town Road Park

- Jeromy noted nothing been formally identified here, District of Sicamous has a municipal park (donated land) in the area, there are bluffs up there, could be a trail opportunity. Adrian has it on his list to look at. Phil noted there is some history to this area. Hanglider launch site? Very steep and interesting terrain. Potential for mountain biking. Social trails that go part way up. Sue noted hiking trails would be ideal. There are some concepts for development of trails in the area, as the subdivision of Old Town Bay gets developed. Early ideas for hut-to-hut development around the lake system (hut to hut idea in our action items list). Jeromy and Adrian to advance this and look up past information.

Larch Hills Traverse, Connection to Old Spallumacheen Road

- Need to connect these – no work done yet. Adrian working on this. Waiting on what happens with the two bridges. This will address mountain bike traffic having to cross the highway (safety issue).

109 Road and Raspberry Hill

- Section of Larch Hills Traverse on 109 road that isn't single track, plan to move this off the Forest Service Road (FSR). Also working on a connection from top of Raspberry Hill to Mara Lake. More to update as plans develop over 2024 (Adrian will share plans with me). Could create a loop opportunity on the Sicamous side.

Rubberhead

- Have funding to build a jumpline in 2024 if approval comes through. Will tender this out.

Mt Baldy Scotch Creek Hlina

- Two trails damaged by 2023 wildfires, lots of planning for rehab in 2024 or later. #1 priority for STA in 2024, build on the assessment that Forsite did last fall. Looking at funding opportunities. **ACTION:** Adrian to follow up with Barbra on collaborating. Kristina noted that Barbra in contact with her for funding opportunities.

Reinneker West

- Ongoing project, trail is on private property, want to build single track to avoid private property and gravel pit, have funding and waiting on RSTBC and BC Parks approvals.
- Kristina – got approval for that grant \$187 500 for this and other bridge.

White Lake Parks Enhancement Grant

- Successful to get a grant for this, did environmental screening and PFR and need to install signs, in prep for other steps (moving FSR out of park, expanding campsite BC Parks)
- Patrick met with BC MOECCS on water quality report for White Lake, good supporting document for the above project. Also talked to BCTS, they want to have a virtual meeting with WLRA. **ACTION:** contact Patrick if you want to be looped into this meeting. Patrick noted that there are BCTS plans for harvesting and road building that may impact the South Shuswap Destination Master Trails Plan, connect with Phil or Adrian after.

Sicamous Bike Park

- Jeromy – everything in place, waiting on RSTBC and BC for final approval, hoping to use existing funding (held for few years) this fall to start building trails. Referrals are NOT out yet, so this is still very much stalled.
- New parking area needed for Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club is part of this area.

Loftus Lake

- Kristina noted that trail construction started, funding request approved by CSRD yesterday, STA will build the trails and CSRD will tender the dog park and parking lot.
- It's a universal and accessible trail, 2m wide and low grades.

Glenemma

- STA will be finalizing decommission. Lessard Excavating awarded the work to start in early spring. Sue Ghattas requested the map be shared with her.

South Canoe Master Plan

- 2023 Adrian did an updated development plan, will be chasing approvals for these.

Chase Creek Trail

- Will be upgrading this trail to access the Secwepemc landmarks structure that will be installed soon.
- Fred asked whether this would be started in spring? Location of landmark structure to be confirmed. Trail will end at viewpoint near falls. Adrian and STA funding deadline is coming up in June 2024. Phil noted MOTI has separated the bridge and access with recent highways construction.

Mallory Ridge – Eleanor

- Trail plan done in late 2023, Adrian and Jen will follow up with the Mallory Ridge group. CSRD board meeting for February re: feasibility study on Mallory Ridge. Phil noted it is ready to go for Secwepemc review and RSTBC. Sue from VOC offered a letter of support if needed.

Secwepemc Landmarks

- Shelley noted that in Phase 2 will be completed by Dec 2024, 13 more sculptures to put up and 8 more site blessings with elders. There were some delays due to 2023 wildfires.
- They have funding for Libby until May, then seeking more funding.
- A formal thank you was given to Jen, Adrian, Phil and all STA staff that have helped with this project and to help support Libby on this project.
- Put off discussions for Phase 3 (could involve teaching youth on site with elders). Working with Skimikin to do signs there. Thanks to everyone!
- City of Enderby being looked at for proposed landmark there, meeting with them soon to look at alternatives, considering species at risk (turtle).
- 38 elders and lots of others at the last meeting (more popular than band meetings).
- Possible phase 4 – less sculptures, more engagement and events (full days, community events) and more people. Want to explore other areas (North Shuswap) open to ideas from people from this WG.
- Elders agreed to use the image of the coyote pillars, contingent that we protect the real ones. Shelley applied for funding to get to 10/18 pictograph sites on Shuswap, Adams and Mara Lakes. Took some rough non-formal pictures. Next phase documenting more fully and archival standards, training.
- Have made progress with Secwepemc people on sharing importance of pictographs

West Bay Connector

- Jen noted that there is a request for proposals and work going out later this month to start archaeological work in spring. Shelley asked whether she's met with senior staff at ALIB; Shelley will connect Jen and Ron.

Rail Trail

- Phil noted that construction will be happening this spring, Funding in place for the Sicamous section, funding getting finalized between Splatstin and federal government.
- Sue added that the gap is being looked at for the connections to the Okanagan rail trails.

6. Roundtable of New Information (non-trails)

Shuswap Trail Guide and Maps

- Adrian has tasked Hannah to review trail guide with any edits typos or wrong info. Also reviewing website. Send edits to Hannah, Adrian, or Jen. Hannah is going to fix website. Deadline is flexible (ongoing) next trail guide printing is next year. Website clean up before spring (March 31).

Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society

- Outreach program reaching out to garden centres about what they should stock and not to sell invasive species. Will follow up with site visits in spring. Winter webinars on invasive fish and other opportunities. Planning aquatic outreach and attending more water-based events in 2024 and reach more boaters. **ACTION** – any ideas or requests to Emma info@columbiashuswapinvasives.org
- Robyn added that funding opportunities and collaboration – any species at risk (SAR), critical habitat there is funding opportunities for Indigenous groups on SAR and critical habitat. Would like to discuss collaboration opportunities. Also, salmonids, whirling disease and zebra quagga mussels (ZQM). White Lake would be a good opportunity.
- CSISS will be applying for funds to monitor for ZQM.
- Recreation groups that involve anglers – help spread message to not release fish.
- April 9 is land manager meeting in Revelstoke with a virtual option.

South Canoe Fat Bike race Feb 11. Contact Adrian adrian@shuswaptrails.com

Instruction to snowshoeing 9:30AM to 2:30PM Feb 16 at Sovereign Lake. Contact Sue supepghat@hotmail.com

Shelley's last day as a councillor is Feb 23, 2024, she is not running again. Will be working closely with the bands. Her email after that date will be shelleywitzky@hotmail.com

Mike noted there is a Salmon Arm & Area Community Wildfire Roundtable meeting being held Feb 29, 2023.

7. Next Steps

Working Group: future meeting dates, 9AM-12PM (rule is 3rd Friday of January, April, June and October):

- Friday April 19
- Friday June 14
- Friday October 18

Jen confirmed there is budget to host future meetings in person with a virtual option. Suggestions were sought for future locations to move around the Shuswap. Email Jen jen@shuswaptrails.com

The following **new ACTION** items were noted:

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Consult with elders and Chief Atahm School on the proper use, spelling and pronunciation of Y'icwetsutce	Shelley	By November 2024
Contact Shelley Witzky about her research on indigenous protected and conserved areas (IPCAs) if you want her to interview you	Everyone	Ongoing
Reconvene small working group for Owlhead/Hunters Range/Blue Lake . Triangular area of people – Sicamous, Vernon and Salmon Arm area including Allan Walker, Tolko, BCTS and Splatsin as well as Hunters Range Snowmobile	Brian Pratt, Kyra Evans	Spring 2024

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Assn, EVSC and Shuswap Backcountry Riders. Connect with Phil for contacts, background. Convene all the interested parties (winter and non-winter, motorized and non-motorized) and move this forward – specific projects but look at the overall large area.		
Lizard Trail to Owlhead - Adrian share the existing plans to Jeromy. Then Jeromy and DOS look at doing a s.57 application.	Jeromy, Adrian	Spring 2024
Send edits, typos or corrections on the Shuswap Trail Guide and online maps to Hannah maintenance@shuswaptrails.com – map edits by March 31, print edits by end of 2024	Everyone	March 31

The following **ongoing ACTION** items are noted:

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
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
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