

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) December 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order and conducted via video/phone conferencing.

Members Present: Andy Stevenson (Chair), Gordon Taylor (Vice-Chair), Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Charlie Commeree, Bill Biery, Richard Bloomer, Lorrie Mittman, and Wendy Clark-Getzin.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works/Road Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)

Other Participants: Kenton Hotsko, PTC Trails Maintenance Coordinator.

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Correction to agenda that approving the November 2, 2022, minutes not the September 7 and October 5 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Taylor motioned to approve the November 2 minutes as submitted, which were approved without objection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Member Taylor noted that the Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) trail maintenance coordinator is conducting a survey of maintenance needs along the length of the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) with a draft report completed for the trail sections between Diamond Point and downtown Port Angeles. He provided the County a draft of the maintenance report. The draft report will be presented at the PTC Board next meeting and is available upon request.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

ODT-Forks to La Push: Member Gray reported that the County expects to receive a draft Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) from Rayonier as early as tomorrow. He shared and reviewed a map (attached) showing the planned ODT-Forks to La Push route along SR 110 and the trail corridor acquisition project areas (Worksites 1 & 2) under the state Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grant. Worksite 1 is an ~ 7.5-mile trail section to acquire between US 101 and Three Rivers Areas and Worksite 2 is an ~ 2.2-mile section between Bogachiel Bridge and Olympic National Park boundary. Most of the 7.5-mile trail corridor in Worksite 1 is what would be acquired from Rayonier. Funding for trail corridor acquisition in Worksites 1 and 2 is through a combination of a state Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) grant and county lodging tax grants. Further discussion was had on purchase price, width of planned trail corridor, survey work completed and needed, other needed trail corridor acquisitions outside of Worksites 1 and 2, future construction schedule, and relation of trail corridor to relocation of Quileute Tribe facilities.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. *County Thursday Volunteer Crew Project Reports.* The County Volunteer Trail Crew were limited to two work party days in November on the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) due to snow and cold conditions.

Clallam County Public Works has made a conditional job offer to fill the Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator position and hope to have the person on-board by mid-December.

2. Other Reports

- Member Clark-Getzin indicated there was nothing new to report on the status of the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT) ODT trail projects east of Blyn from last month's

meeting but would welcome any questions. She also noted that an Eagle Scout has approached JSKT to identify an ODT project.

- Member Taylor: PTC will be installing broom for on their Kobota for ODT surface sweeping.
- Member Stevenson: Most of trail out west is impacted by ice and snow.
- Member Gray noted that the Clallam County Robin Hill Park is closed due to widespread hazard tree concerns and downed trees/limbs throughout the park from storm damage. The ODT corridor through the park is clear and remains open.
- Member Gray announced thanks to all the volunteer efforts along the trail to clear fallen trees from recent storm events.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Washington State Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) Trail Grants:

Beth Auerbach and Andrea Hood from the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) were introduced. Andrea Hood, RCO Grants Manager, who is the new RCO grant manager covering Clallam County. Beth Auerbach was formerly the RCO grant manager contact. Andrea reviewed RCO grant programs related to trails including the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)-Trails Category, Recreational Trails Program (RTP), and Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA). The next opportunity to apply for these three grants will be in 2024. WWRP grant funding has been awarded for a number of ODT improvements projects (e.g., Spruce Railroad, Forks to La Push) and RTP funding has been used to support the OAT. NOVA grants have also been awarded to support ODT development (e.g., Discovery Bay area) in Jefferson County. Discussion was had on potential future grant projects such as addressing ODT gaps, bridge replacements (e.g., Whiskey Bridge on the OAT, Bagley Creek Bridge), and other projects.

Member Clark-Getzin indicated that JSKT is targeting a RCO-WWRP funding to help with the rehabilitation of the historic section of the Dungeness Railroad Bridge.

Chair Stevenson: Requested the RCO staff take back the message that the RCO needs to consider offering a grant funding category for trail maintenance.

2. ODT-Elwha River Bridge to Gossett Road Section:

Review accomplishments, current trail corridor gaps and conceptual potential routes, and needs/challenges for Joyce Gap East (Elwha River Bridge to Freshwater Bay Rd) and Joyce Gap West (Thompson/Onella Road to Gossett Road). Maps describing these two gaps, potential general route alignments in the Joyce Gap East, and a potential route in Joyce Gap West on state Department of Natural Resources lands around Joyce in the Joyce Gap West were presented (attached).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

Prior to adjournment, there were several additional TAC member announcements/comments as summarized below:

- Member Gray provided updates related to the Clallam County Public Works Department lodging tax grants. The County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee supported the Department's request to extend the current \$250,000 2022 lodging tax grant to the end of 2023 to assist with County ODT-Forks to La Push trail corridor acquisition efforts. The LTAC also supported the Departments 2023 lodging tax application for an additional \$250,000 to further assist with

funding needed for County ODT-Forks to La Push trail corridor funding. Any remaining grant funds not needed for acquisition may be used to support ODT improvements and maintenance. A potential ODT improvement project is to widen a section of 25- to 30-year-old trail (up to 1-mile) from eight feet to at least 10-feet and to replace the deteriorating chip seal surface with asphalt. The County Commissioners will need to approve the 2022 grant extension and new 2023 lodging tax grant award.

- Member Gray announced his new position of Deputy Director of Public Works related to a reorganization of the Public Works Department. His new main areas of responsibility will include oversight of Public Works utilities (e.g., sewer systems) and other non-road related program areas (e.g., Rural Broadband and Dungeness River Off-Channel Reservoir projects). Under the organizational changes, he will continue to provide direction over Department ODT program areas. The County will be looking to backfill his previous position to support ODT work program areas and activities.
- Chair Stevenson noted that County lodging tax grants to support the ODT are also being targeted by other organizations and inquired if that is of a concern. Member Gray noted that the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee is very supportive of funding ODT improvement projects. He recommends that given increasing interest in lodging tax grants that coordination of potential ODT projects between organizations will likely become more important.
- Member Gleason inquired about an update on ODT projects in Jefferson County. Discussion followed with support and no opposition to invite John Fleming, Jefferson County Public Works, to provide an update to the Committee in 2023.
- Chair Stevenson. Asked for others to consider serving a term as Committee Chair in 2023.
- Question was asked who the County Commissioner liaison to the TAC in will be 2023. Member Gray noted that the Commissioners have not yet made their 2023 committee assignments.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.