

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)  
November 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:**

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

*Members Present:* Andy Stevenson (Chair), Gordon Taylor (Vice-Chair), Justin Zarzeczny, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Charlie Commeree, Bill Biery, Richard Bloomer, Jim Mraz, Lorrie Mittmann, Erik Rohrer, and Wendy Clark-Getzin.

*County Representatives:* Steve Gray, County Public Works Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)  
Mike French, County Commissioner

**B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: NONE**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The September 6 and October 4, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Upcoming Run the Peninsula December event in Blyn.
- Vice-Chair Taylor recognized the work of Jeff Ralston, County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator. Appreciation for Jeff's work was further recognized by Member Mittmann.

**E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS**

**1. *ODT improvement/expansion project updates:***

- ODT-Forks to La Push: Member Gray reported on negotiations continue with Rayonier on trail corridor acquisition. He also noted had a meeting with FHWA-Western Federal Lands project manager and the WFL consultant on plans to send out right-of-entry letters to property owners along the SR 110 corridor. The right-of-entry is needed for the WFL consultant team to allow access to conduct environmental site assessments. Member Gray also reported that the County received permission from the City of Forks to perform borings to support design of the bridge abutments for the Calawah River trail crossing.
- ODT-Pierce Road to Old Blyn Highway Trail Improvement: Member Clark-Getzin noted the ribbon cutting ceremony for the completed project was held on October 12. The disturbed areas along the trail corridor have been hydroseeded. She also noted that the Pierce Road trail connection was assisted with partnership with County to cross County property to make for an improved connection to Pierce Road.
- ODT-Dean Creek Bridge Improvement Project: Member Clark-Getzin reported the project to put in the new bridge abutments and related work is now completed and the bridge will open today (Nov. 1) to trail users.
- Chair Stevenson thanked Wendy and the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe for working on both these projects.
- Commissioner French noted that he and Commissioner Johnson had a meeting with Rayonier officials this morning. Part of the conversation was on the County's pending request to purchase trail corridor from Rayonier. He indicated the conversation was very positive. Chair Stevenson asked whether there was any time estimate on agreement. Member Gray indicated no timeline to provide working towards agreement as soon as possible. Commissioner French responded that Rayonier has reasonable concerns that need to be addressed and that he did convey the message that the County currently has grant funding to support the purchase.

**2. *County Volunteer ODT/OAT Trail Crew Maintenance Project Reports:***

The County volunteer crew led by Jeff Ralston in October held four work parties on the OAT. The work continued to focus on tread/drainage work between Milepost (MP) 4-5 and 10.5 to 11.5.

### **3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:**

October County maintenance focus has been corridor brushing, limbing, and chipping work on County managed trail sections from Morse Creek and continuing to the east. Jeff Ralston, County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator, will be moving to a four-day work week (Monday – Thursday) effective November 1. The schedule will be reevaluated in the spring.

### **4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:**

- PTC Maintenance: Member Taylor noted that PTC is focus is on trail surface blowing and sweeping efforts.
- RCO LPM Grant Application Status: Member Commeree requested an update on state Recreational Conservation Office (RCO) Local Park Maintenance (LPM) grant award status due to expectation that the County would know by today if awarded. Member Gray reported he had not been notified yet on the County's application and had checked the RCO site before today's meeting and nothing yet had been posted. The application is for funding to purchase a tractor and attachments (e.g., flail mower, backhoe) to support trail maintenance and for roof replacement and other repairs at the restroom in the west side campground at the Salt Creek Recreation Area.
- Seattle Pedestrian Bridges: Member Gray reported the County is going to receive four pedestrian bridge spans from the City of Seattle. He recognized the work of Jeff Bohman and PS2P consultant Steve Durrant for identifying and helping to facilitate making this opportunity happen. Clallam County entered into a release Agreement with Seattle to take ownership of the bridge spans. The County is responsible for trucking and unloading of the bridge spans. The bridge spans will be stored at the County's Morse Creek gravel pit. It is anticipated that the bridge spans will be decommissioned this weekend with delivery to the County on Monday (Nov. 6). The bridges are targeted for use in future ODT projects in trail gaps, and possibly to replace the current Bagley Creek bridge to lengthen bridge span.

The bridges are metal, 13-feet wide (11-feet useable). Three of the spans are around 80 feet in length and one of the segments is really two segments welded together at a length of 113-feet. Reuse of the bridges for the trail will need to be approved by an Engineer per Agreement with the City of Seattle.

Chair Stevenson asked the reason for not being stored at Ranger Pit. Member Gray responded that the County Engineer and Road Crew supervisor felt Morse Creek Pit was more appropriate for storage due to the size of the bridge spans.

Discussion was had on possible locations (e.g., Colville Creek, Salt Creek, Whiskey Creek, others) for bridges in trail gaps west of the Elwha River

- Joyce ODT Gap: Member Gray reported that he will be conducting a site visit on Friday (Nov. 3) with Brian Turner, DNR Straits District Manager, to review potential trail alignments across the state forest lands north of Joyce between Camp Hayden Road and Gossett Road.
- Member Clark Getzin expressed interest in the process to negotiate with DNR to acquire or transfer state forest lands to support the trail. The Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe is looking at working with the state for feeder trails connecting to the ODT across DNR lands. Member Gray noted that Friday's visit is just for initial discussions about possibilities. He also noted that past acquisitions of trail corridor crossing DNR lands is to purchase an easement. Chair Stevenson noted the process and experience of the County to acquire trail corridor easement from the state such as along the Waterline Road. Member Gray noted recent County purchase and recommended that Member Clark Getzin talk more with Linda Capps County ROW agent.

- Member Commeree recommended a standing agenda item for updates on the 16 million RAISE Grant projects. Member Gray noted City is in the process of scheduling a kick-off meeting with all co-applicants on status and next steps. Discussion followed.
- Member Commeree recommended inviting the City of Sequim to a TAC meeting in 2024 to discuss City trail plans and signage to assist users to navigate through the city. Discussion followed related to the ODT through the City of Sequim. Also summarized were the three City of Sequim projects part of the RAISE Grant planning/design award.

## **DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:**

### **1. *Member Terms Expiring and Process to Request Reappointment***

Member Gray thanked everyone for their volunteer service on this Committee. He noted that all current member terms expire this year and requested that if interested in serving another term to submit a written request (either by email or mail) to him confirming desire for reappointment. Conversely, he would also appreciate receiving written confirmation if a current member does not plan to seek reappointment. Current vacant CCTAC positions include Olympic National Park, Commercial Trail Business, Off-Road Motorized Group, and Large Private Forest Company Representative. Discussion followed.

### **2. *Recommendation on Draft Clallam County Six Year (2024-2029) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects related to the Olympic Discovery Trail.***

Member Gray provided a summary on the Draft Six Year (2024-2029) projects related to the ODT as a more detailed project description and discussion was provided at the October meeting. Discussion followed. Member Mittman motioned to recommend support for the ODT projects represented in the Draft Six Year TIP that was seconded by Member Commeree. The motion passes with none opposed.

### **3. *Carlsborg Road and Other ODT Road Crossing Discussion***

Member Gray explained that this item was put on the agenda for discussion purposes based on comments the Commissioner's office received and a request by Member Bloomer related to concerns at the trail crossing on Carlsborg Road. He explained that current County signage at intersections for trail uses typically consists of a yield or stop signs, with stop signs being used at the ODT Carlsborg Road crossing.

Member Gray requested input (e.g., signage, alignment) from the TAC on the Carlsborg Road crossing or other crossings in terms of alignment, signage, or other concerns. He also asked if the Peninsula Trails Coalition received input related to crossing from the trail ambassadors' program. The hope is to identify potential improvements and solutions to further explore at a future meeting. He noted that he had a recent discussion with Member Clark-Getzin about Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (JSKT) plans for trail improvements for trail improvements on the Tribal property on the eastside of the Carlsborg Road crossing, which Member Clark-Getzin will share with the TAC.

Member Bloomer explained he was asked to put this on the agenda due to concerns occurring when the Sequim Wheeler groups cross the road. The Sequim Wheeler groups have had drivers on the road not wait and go around them while in the road crossing. The Sequim Wheelers would like to see a crosswalk and crosswalk warning lights at this intersection and improved advanced road signage prior to the crossing. He also noted that the Kitchen-Dick Road trail crossing is of concern to the Sequim Wheelers due to high speeds (50 mph) on this road.

Commissioner French noted that the County Commissioners had received a letter from the Sequim Wheelers adaptive bike program regarding the incident that Member Bloomer presented.

Member Taylor indicated that he thinks there are advanced warning signs on Carlsborg Road before the crossing and at the crossing point. There is no crosswalk.

Commissioner French noted that the Sequim Wheelers groups need more time to cross the road. The incident in the letter involved a driver that ignored the group safety person who was in road with reflective gear to help the group cross safely. The letter from the Sequim Wheelers requested County to establish a crosswalk warning lights at the intersection of Carlsborg Road and the ODT.

Other Committee comments included:

- Member Mittman noted that ideally with unlimited funding there would be an overpass or underpass both at Carlsborg and Kitchen-Dick Road crossings.
- Chair Stevenson noted that he is a Sequim Wheeler volunteer pilot and that both the Carlsborg Road and Kitchen-Dick Road crossings are issues for the Wheelers adaptive bike program, especially the Carlsborg Road crossing. He suggested improving site lines on the east approach to intersection including the alignment of the crossing and to widen and improve the trail surface on the east approach. He also supports road pavement marking for the crossing and flashing pedestrian signs that can be actuated with a button. He noted the Wheelers are not opposed to stopping at the intersection but need more time at these crossings. Also, noted that there are multiple bollards on the west side of crossing, and believe some of these could be removed. He supports more measures at these two crossings particularly related trail users such as the Sequim Wheelers traveling this part of the trail. Strongly recommend that enhanced visibility of both crossings for more protection of trail users and to make drivers more alert.
- Member Gray noted that the County previously removed one of the previous bollards on the east side of the Carlsborg Road Crossing to facilitate the ability for Sequim Wheeler adaptive bikes to pass by.
- Member Sample suggested placing road speed bumps and pavement markings.

Member Clark-Getzin requested a copy of the Sequim Wheelers letter. She shared and reviewed photos of the ODT and Carlsborg Road intersection crossing and of areas of planned trail improvement on the large JSKT property on the east side of the crossing. JSKT is planning to increase trail width, resurface the trail, eliminate the major curve, and landscape between the trail and industrial property to the north. JSKT also plans to have their design consultant evaluate and develop solutions for improving the safety of the Carlsborg Road crossing (e.g., realignment to eliminate the current diagonal crossing). JSKT hopes to have plans to share in January 2024. Chair Stevenson expressed support for the JSKT plans and efforts. Additional discussion was had on near term options such as crosswalk pavement markings, with recognition of the need to coordinate with the Tribal Plans. Member Clark-Getzin also noted that JSKT is also looking at providing trail lighting in this area.

Next steps will be to review and confirm current signage at the Carlsborg and Kitchen-Dick Road trail crossings and to schedule further review of solutions once evaluation is completed (expected in January 2024) by Tribal consultant.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

**G. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.