

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
September 6, 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), Jenneifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzeczny, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Charlie Commeree, Erik Rohrer, Richard Bloomer, Jim Mraz, and Wendy Clark-Getzin.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)
Mike French, County Commissioner
Jeff Ralston, Trails Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator

Guests: Jeff Bohman, Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) Board President

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: NONE

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The July 5, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Member Gray announced the County work related to reestablishing the first ~ 700 feet of the West Elwha Trail at end of Herrick Rd that goes on into Olympic National Park (ONP). Jeff Ralston and the County Thursday Volunteer Trail crew cleared and constructed the new permanent trail alignment.
- Member Mittman noted the upcoming GOAT Run upcoming this Saturday (Sept. 9). 400 runners have signed up. This is the highest number of participants ever for this event with a long waiting list.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. ODT improvement/expansion project updates.

Updates were given on the ODT-Pierce to Old Blyn Highway, ODT-Dean Creek Bridge, and ODT-Forks to La Push projects. Discussion followed.

2. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Project Reports

Jeff Ralston provided an update he has been busy over past two months especially related to maintenance preparations related to the Tour de Lavender, Sea to Sound and GOAT run trail events. Each event takes several weeks of advanced trail maintenance. Discussion was had regarding access routes and signage between ODT and ONP Fairholm Campground. Jeff also summarized recent significant work by the volunteer crew on restoring tread to three feet on the OAT with volunteers. Discussion was also had on the OAT-Whiskey Bridge replacement recent planning efforts.

3. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

- County staff summarized the upcoming September 14/15 project scope and closure of the ODT between Vautier Rd and Kitchen-Dick Rd to remove a large cottonwood tree. Tree removal bid estimates received by County ranged between around \$5,000 to \$19,000.
- Member Gray summarized the application being prepared by Public Works for the state RCO Local Parks and Maintenance funding. The application will include purchase of a tractor with flail, backhoe, and post hole attachments to support ODT trail maintenance. Tractor and attachment estimated cost between \$50K to 58K. Discussion followed.

- Member Gray noted PTC and County working with City of Seattle to explore opportunity to receive soon to be decommissioned Marion Street pedestrian bridge sections.
- Discussion was had regarding trail user parking issues and potential solutions along Old Olympic Highway just west of the Siebert Bridge.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. *DNR Timber Sales on the Olympic Adventure Trail*

Discussion was had on the future closures of the first several miles of the OAT related to the TCB23 and Power Plant timber sales.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jeff Bohman, PTC Board President, Asked for any news on the ODT-Calawah Bridge? Member Gray indicated an engineer has now been assigned to address design. Mr. Bohman noted that PTC is working on exploring updates to ODT trail counter infrastructure. He also noted that PTC on October 1 will be hosting an Annual Volunteer and 35th Anniversary Celebration at the 7 Cedars Casino. Mr. Bohman provided updates related to PTC efforts to continue to support assisting Port Angeles related to getting the paperwork and agreements in place for the RAISE grant. He indicated that Federal Highways expects up to 10 to 12 month timeline.

G. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.