

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
August 3, 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), Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzezcny, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Charlie Commeree, Erik Rohrer, Bill Biery, Richard Bloomer, Jim Mraz, Lorrie Mittmann, and Wendy Clark-Getzin.

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

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Taylor moved to approve the June 1, 2022 meeting minutes and Member Gritman seconded. The minutes were approved with no objections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Member Biery indicated a growing concern in the Sequim area over increased activity of homeless population on the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) that has resulted in frequent leaving of shopping carts and garbage along the trail and alteration of signage. Chair Stevenson noted related homeless issues have occurred for years along the ODT-Waterfront Trail, and recommended the best course is to report issues to the jurisdictions. Member Biery indicated that he did initiate a report/discussion with a Patrol officer with City of Sequim.

Member Mittman noted the Tour of Lavender bicycle event will be held on Saturday. She also noted that the Northwest Bike Tandem Rally Event is scheduled to occur in Clallam County and on sections of the ODT on the 2023 Memorial Day weekend. This event happens annually at different locations in the northwest. Estimate 200-250 tandems.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

ODT—Forks to La Push: Member Gray noted that the County has received approval from Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a segment of the needed trail corridor between US 101/SR 110 intersection and the Olympic National Park boundary. Current acquisition efforts are focused on the ~ 7.5-mile needed trail corridor between US 101 and the Three Rivers Area. The DNR easement will secure and ~ ½-mile trail corridor, that is 150-feet wide and total ~ 9.5 acres. The easement cost is \$32,000. Next steps is legal review and County Commissioner approval.

Member Gray also reported that County right-of-way staff are in regular communication with Rayonier who is the main property owner in the needed trail corridor. All communications indicate Rayonier will support County purchase of trail corridor. An update appraisal is now underway for the targeted properties for trail corridor and will be done by September 15.

ODT-Pierce Road to Old Blyn Highway: Member Gray reported that the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe has secured construction funding to proceed and plans to award contracts this fall for both trail construction and related wetland mitigation work.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. *County Thursday Volunteer Crew Project Reports.* In June/July, Member Gray reported that the County Volunteer Trail Crew work party efforts included:
 - a. Additional improvements to the stock/equestrian trail crossing at Whiskey Creek on the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) to add steps and improve tread near the west-side of the creek crossing. This effort was also supported by a PTC work party.
 - b. OAT Tread work in the area around Milepost 17
 - c. Brushing on the ODT from Priest Road to Railroad Bridge Park (also supported by PTC work party).
 - d. Held two work parties to restore the OAT trail corridor west of the Joyce Access Road crossing that was impacted by harvest activity. DNR also assisted with restoration work with an excavator and contributed materials (e.g., culverts). The harvest contractor delivered two piles of gravel to support tread restoration. Justin Zarzezcny (DNR) indicated that the County can open the trail once deem ready.

Discussion followed regarding DNR contract conditions on harvests that impact the OAT related to contractor requirements to help restore impacted trail corridor following harvest activities. .

2. *County Maintenance Reports.* For June/July, Member Gray reported that County maintenance staff supported the volunteer work party efforts with most of the other work focus on corridor mowing. The new Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator received ~ 2-weeks of orientation/training on the ODT/OAT. Other work accomplished included painting over new graffiti at Siebert Creek Bridge and Elwha Bridge, and bollard painting and pavement warning lines of bollards located in Sequim Bay State Park. Member Gray further reported that the recent hire for the Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Work resigned earlier this week, and the County will be re-opening recruitment to fill the position.
3. *Other Reports:* No other reports by members.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Peninsula Trail Coalition ODT Public Survey Results

Member Gray summarized the results of a strategic planning survey conducted by PTC with about 250 respondents. Survey questions included, but were not limited to: sections of ODT most used; most common way recreate on the ODT; how often use ODT; top two ways funds raised by the Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) should be used; what do you perceive to be the top three maintenance needs along the ODT; what are the top two ways you receive information about PTC and the ODT; and other questions to help support PTC efforts to develop their strategic plan.

2. Recommendations for Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) Trail Ambassador Pilot Program.

Chair Stevenson indicated that PTC's Trail Ambassador Program has not yet launched. The primary goal of the program will be to hand-out questionnaires to trail users (where come from, how use trail, reactions to trail, etc...), and to also provide trail information to users. It is anticipated that Ambassador's would spend a day or so at various ODT trailheads. PTC supports using Ambassador's to collect other data such as e-bikes. Discussion followed on the utility of having information on e-bike counts on the trail.

3. Identify Topics of Interest to Discuss with Sheriff Department Related to ODT

Member Gray noted he initiated a conversation with Brian King, Sheriff Department, on what a trail speed limit would mean to Sheriff Department. This conversation led to Member Gray inviting Mr. King to speak to the whole Committee on the topic of speed limits as well as other items of interest such as updates on the Sheriff Volunteer ODT Patrol, homelessness encampments, and RV disposal/encampment at trail heads. Member Rohrer also noted his concern over firearm display/hunting along ODT between the US 101 crossing west of Lake Crescent to Cooper Ranch Road as another topic of interest. Chair Stevenson noted that before ODT was established through these USFS lands it was historically used for hunting, dispersed camping, and ATV recreational use. He noted that we will need to seek input from the USFS as to their rules related to hunting along the ODT corridor thru USFS lands. Chair Stevenson supported inviting Mr. King to speak to the Committee on these topics. There was no further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.