

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
July 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order. The meeting was conducted both in-person and via video/phone conferencing.

Members Present: Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzecny, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Charlie Commeree, Gordon Taylor, Bill Biery and Richard Bloomer.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works/Road Department
Bill Peach, County Commissioner

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: No changes to the agenda were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gordon Taylor moved and Dick Gritman seconded approval of the June 2, 2021 meeting minutes, which were approved with all in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Miller Peninsula State Park/Sequim State Park Planning: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is in the process of developing a long-range plan for Miller Peninsula State Park Property (~ 2,800 acre undeveloped park). The property currently includes a trail system for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The project will also consider changes to the nearby Sequim Bay State Park so that the two parks provide complimentary experiences. State Parks held a virtual public meeting on June 30 related to this planning process. They do have an Internet web page about the planning process.

It was noted that the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCWH) lead efforts to complete a trail connection (unpaved shared use trail) from the state park to Pierce Road that provides a connection to the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) where the ODT crosses Pierce Road. Ms. Sample indicated that the BCHW would like the TAC to make a recommendation to the County Commissioners to support the state planning process.

Discussion followed and the general consensus was to put this as an agenda discussion item at the next-meeting to become more informed about the state park planning process, especially related to trail development, and to consider development of possible TAC comments and recommendations.

TAC Resignations: Mr. Gray reported that Chuck Preble has resigned as the Peninsula Trail Coalition (PTC) representative due to health reasons. He noted that Mr. Preble has been working on the planning and development of the ODT for over 28-years, and has also been the PTC lead for ODT signage projects. His knowledge and expertise as to the history, development of, and both current and future needs of the ODT will be missed.

Mr. Gray also reported that Jason Anderson has resigned as the Large Private Forest Company representative. Mr. Anderson noted to Mr. Gray that he has not been able to participate over much of the past year due to family and personal matters. Mr. Anderson wanted to pass on the message that he believes the experience of the Committee puts the trail in good hands and hopes to attend a meeting in the future.

Other: PTC lead on ODT signage is currently being transitioned from Mr. Preble to Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor noted that he has requested documentation from the sign vendors used by PTC for all ODT signs that have been made over the years. He will provide the information to the County once received.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Follow-up on City of Port Angeles action taken on their Capital Facilities Plan Update Related to the Olympic Discovery Trail Waterfront Section.

Mr. Gray reported that the City Council passed resolution last night to support maintenance of the ODT-Waterfront Trail including work under current permits and to support staff to apply for permits for other needed maintenance work. The alternate upland ODT route for future potential study (currently unfunded) in the City capital facility plan was renamed to the Eastern Expansion Access Project. Considerable discussion followed regarding Committee thoughts on the City actions.

A public comment was entered into the chat room by Dave Lasorsa who had to leave the meeting regarding recent City maintenance areas in the ongoing trail ponding area on the waterfront trail. He noted he observed the recent effort of two to three City employees working over 3 days to improve the drainage situation. He hopes that the City sees the benefit of keeping up with such maintenance so it does not get ahead of them.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

1. OAT – Dan Kelly Road Parking Area Signage Improvements

Mr. Gray reported that the County completed the installation of the directional signage for Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) horse trailer parking and access thru the parking area off of Dan Kelly Road. He also noted that an OAT identification sign was added to the existing kiosk to help with finding the OAT trail access at the end of the parking area.

2. ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail Counter

Mr. Gray reported that the pedestrian/bike counter at the Lyre River/East Beach Road Trailhead for the ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail (SRRT) section was installed on July 6. The County had previously purchased the counter through a grant with installation awaiting the completion of the SRRT. County staff worked with Olympic National Park to obtain their approval of the counter installation. The installation work was performed by the Washington State Department of Transportation for Clallam County. User count data from this site will need to be manual retrieved. The counter will distinguish between bike and pedestrian users.

Mr. Gleason made reference to a Rail to Trails Article that had major discussion on the ODT. Mr. Taylor noted there is a link to the article on the PTC Facebook Page.

Discussion followed related to the new SRRT and other existing ODT counters.

3. ODT- Clallam County Trail Safety and Signage Improvements on east-side of Diamond Point Rd. to Gardiner Rd. Connector.

Mr. Gray shared photos showing the recent installation of flexible bollards and pavement markings to provide a physical and visual separation between vehicles and trail users along the ODT sidepath. The sidepath is located on the east-side of Diamond Point Road and provides for a short connector between the ODT-Diamond Point to Old Gardiner Road segment and the ODT crossing

point on Diamond Point Road. He also noted the County added a stop sign for trail traffic on the east-side of the Diamond Point Road crossing.

Mr. Gleason inquired if anything to report on ODT development efforts in Jefferson County. Mr. Taylor noted was that Jefferson County is working on acquisition of trail corridor from 4 corners to Anderson Lake State Park. Mr. Gleason also inquired whether there is anyone in Jefferson County we are coordinating with on ODT efforts. Mr. Gray noted that he periodically discusses efforts as needed with his counterpart in Jefferson County Public Works. Mr. Taylor noted that PTC has a board representative that tracks and focuses on the ODT sections in Jefferson County.

4. ODT—Dawley Road Area Trail Stabilization and Restoration Project Update

Mr. Gray reported that the County plans to initiate repair work possibly starting the week of August 23 on the approximately 150-foot wide trail section between Sequim Bay State Park and Blyn that has experienced significant loss of trail width and other damage. This project site is located just east of the trail access off the east-end of Dawley Road. The estimated project cost for materials and construction is approximately \$100,000. This project goes well-beyond normal maintenance. The County will be asking tomorrow for the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee to support use of part of the County's current \$150,000 grant award for this shovel ready project. This request will support restoring this section of trail without significantly impacting our maintenance budget for the rest of County ODT managed sections. Once start the trail will be closed between Dean Creek Bridge and Dawley Road. Trail segment anticipated to be closed at least two weeks, but may be longer.

Commissioner Peach indicated that he has been fielding some questions from west end residents whether this project will delay progress on the ODT-Forks to La Push route. He suggested a press release to provide an update on the ODT-Forks to La Push project may help. Mr. Gray noted that the work on the ODT repairs near Dawley Road is not affecting work on the ODT-Forks to La Push.

5. ODT—Forks to La Push Project

Mr. Gray overviewed current funding and latest project updates for the two main segments for the planned ODT-Forks to La Push route. For the ODT-Forks Calawah River Park to SR 110 & A-Road Segment (~ 1-mile with new multi-user bridge) he reported that the County has submitted required agreement and project information for state and federal approval needed to obligate (i.e., make available) previously award federal funding for the engineering phase.

For the ODT-Forks to La Push Along SR 110 Corridor (~12 miles), Mr. Gray reported that the RCO Funding Board approved on June 30 final funding of our \$905,456 grant request to support trail corridor acquisition. The County anticipates receiving a contract soon for County Commissioner review and approval. He also noted that the appraisal of the land in the planned trail corridor between US 101 and Ballard Road area is in progress.

Commissioner Peach noted that the first segment from the Calawah River Park also provides for an opportunity to connect to the paved A-Road that itself provides opportunities for a scenic on-road bike route.

Discussion followed on the ODT-Forks to La Push project including preliminary project timelines and project phasing.

6. Other Project Reports

Mr. Commeree inquired whether all the trail bollards that are going to be removed have been removed.

Mr. Gray responded that the County has removed all the bollards on the Olympic Adventure Trail, and also the two bollards on the paved Olympic Discovery Trail section between the Deer Park Rest Area and ODT-Strait View Parking Area. The County current focus is to improve maintenance (i.e., painting bollards and pavement warning lines, adding reflective tape) of current bollard installations, but will continue to assess and make decisions of removal of other bollard sites as move forward.

Mr. Gray indicated that a bollard site on the ODT-Freshwater Bay and Onella alignment sustained significant damage from what appears to be someone pulling on the bollard post causing it to break. This is a location where vehicle thru traffic between Onella and Freshwater Bay Road is a concern.

Mr. Taylor reported that the City of Port Angeles informed PTC that they have declined to remove any bollards in the ODT city sections, but they are going to work on painting bollards and warning pavement markings to improve visibility.

Commissioner Peach noted that the state expects to reopen the closed section of SR 112 on Friday.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

County Thursday Volunteer Crew June/July Project Reports

The County volunteer crew in June/early-July worked on the following projects:

- Removed scotch broom on OAT west of Eden Valley Road.
- Brushing horse trail and removing scotch broom on OAT west of Joyce-Piedmont Road. Also weed whacked from Joyce Piedmont to Waterline Road.
- Initiate brushing of horse trail on ODT east of Kitchen-Dick Road.

County Maintenance Report Summary for June/Early-July, 2021

County maintenance work highlights in June/early July included, but not limited to:

- Volunteer work party coordination and support.
- Utility locates and sign installation at the OAT-Dan Kelly Parking Area.
- Mowing/blowing (East of Cooper Ranch Road access, between Jimmycomelately Creek and Sequim, Gossett to Waterline Rd.
- Bollard and warning line painting between Vautier Road and McDonald Creek.

Mr. Gray also reported that the County Public Works/Road Dept. is finalizing candidate selection for the full-time, Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator Position.

Other Maintenance Reports

Mr. Taylor reported that PTC work crews completed a mowing and trimming along a number of ODT sections. He also reported the recent resignation of the coordinator of PTC's trail

maintenance adopter program for the OAT. The person that resigned is only resigning from coordinator duties and plans to continue to volunteer to maintain his current adopter section on the OAT. PTC is in the process of finding a new volunteer to help coordinate adopter work on the OAT.

Discussion was had on improving communication lines between PTC volunteer adopters and the County on trail maintenance.

Discussion was also had on update on planning for addressing the trail gap due west of the Elwha River Bridge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Gordon Taylor moved and Dick Gritman seconded to adjourn the meeting.