

AGENDA
CLALLAM COUNTY TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Clallam County Courthouse, Room 160
223 East 4th St Port Angeles, WA
June 5, 2024 - 1:30 p.m.

****ATTENTION****

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee meetings will also be available virtually at:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 938 0529 7962 and passcode: 12345

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://zoom.us/join> and use Meeting ID: 938 0529 7962 and passcode: 12345

This meeting can be viewed on a live stream at this link: <http://www.clallam.net/features/meetings.html>

Public comment and questions can be directed to County Public Works-Roads at 360-417-2290 or steve.gray@clallamcountywa.gov

A. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

B. REQUEST OF MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: May 1, 2024

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEMBER UPDATES: *Information sharing among members on topics of general interest related to the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT), Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT), other County trails, or about trails.*

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. County Bid Award for Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration and Levee Road Realignment Project – Phase 3.
2. ODT improvement/expansion project updates.
 - a. ODT-Forks to La Push Project Update
 - i. Multi-user Calawah River Trail Bridge
 - ii. County Commissioner letter to Rayonier
 - iii. Other Reports
 - b. OAT-Whiskey Creek Bridge Replacement and Improvement Project Update
3. County Volunteer ODT/OAT Trail Crew Maintenance Project Reports
4. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Project Reports
5. Other ODT/OAT Reports (All)

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Briefing by City of Sequim on management, maintenance, upcoming projects, and other information related to the ODT route through Sequim.
2. Briefing by Peninsula Trails Coalition on planned ODT support projects, purchases, and activities related to their 2024 Clallam County Lodging Tax Grant Award.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

H. ADJOURNMENT

Members: Charlie Commeree (City of Port Angeles Rep., Chair), Wendy Clark-Getzin (Tribal Gov. Rep., Vice Chair), Andy Stevenson (Straits Area Citizen-at-Large Rep.), Gordon Taylor (Western Area Citizen-at-Large Rep.), Jennifer Reandean (Backcountry Horsemen Rep.), Judy Sarles (Backcountry Horsemen-Alt Rep.), Justin Zarzeczny (Dept. of Natural Resources), Dick Gritman (Sequim Area Citizen-at Large), Erik Rohrer (City of Forks), Bill Biery (City of Sequim), Jim Mraz (Peninsula Trails Coalition Rep.), Lorrie Mittmann (Trails Event Coordinator Rep.), Grant Herman (Olympic Peninsula Bicycle Alliance Rep.), and Liz Cusanelli (U.S. Forest Service). Ex-officio Members: Steve Gray (Clallam County Public Works Department), and Mike French (Clallam County Commissioner)

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
May 1, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Members Present: Charlie Commeree, Andy Stevenson, Jennifer Reandeau, Judy Sarles, Justin Zarzeczny, Bill Biery, and Gordon Taylor.

County Representatives: Ron Garcelon, Public Works Utilities Manager (staff support to fill in for Steve Gray, Deputy Director)
Joe Donisi, County Engineer
Mike French, County Commissioner

Public: Maggie Walthall, Jim Stoffer, Jamie Porter, Cindy Cross, and Janine Blaeloch

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of April 3, 2024, were approved with no objections.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEMBER UPDATES:

Upcoming Trail Events: Ron Garcelon reported the following upcoming trail events:

- April 27: Run the Peninsula—Railroad Bridge Park
- May 5: Sequim Irrigation Festival Run Series
- June 1 & 2: North Olympic Discovery Marathon

Dungeness Levee/Towne Road Project Update. Mr. Garcelon reported that at their April 9 meeting, following discussion including consideration of the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendation, the County Commissioners approved call for bids to be received no later than Tuesday May 7 regarding the Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration and Levee Road Realignment Project – Phase 3. Joe Donisi, County Engineer reviewed the design approved for call for bids. Discussion followed. Member suggestions and input during discussions included, but not limited to:

- Trail user signage
- Directing bike use to road versus trail. Use of charro pavement markings
- Supplement curb separator with vertical flexible barrier, pontoon/orange cones, or similar visual barrier to add visual cues to make more apparent to vehicles.
- Pontoon/orange cones affixed to road. Cues eye of driver.
- Equestrian use of area including adjacent trails on Tribal lands
- Lowering speed limit to less than 25 mph

Chair Commeree inquired about the County's anticipated timeline to complete the project. Joe Donisi, County Engineer indicated anticipate 40 working days by contractor followed by County planning to chip seal and complete pavement markings in late-August or September. Chair Commeree noted that there is still time then to think about signage.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. ODT improvement/expansion project updates:

- a. *ODT-Forks to La Push Project Update:* The County's request for a one-year time extension grant (to June 30, 2025) for their \$905,456 state grant to support trail corridor acquisition has been granted by the WA. State Recreation and Conservation Office (or RCO). To date, 0.5-miles of corridor have been purchased.

Related to Rayonier announcement to sell off their landholdings (includes the trail corridor County has been trying to purchase), the County Commissioners authorized staff to communicate with Rayonier to convey County desire to complete trail corridor purchase negotiations and to convey County may consider eminent domain. Mr. Garcelon noted that the extended RCO grant cannot be used for a trail acquisition purchase using eminent domain. Discussion followed.

- b. *Grant Tractor and Attachment Purchase Update:* The meeting packet contained photos of the new John Deere Tractor and attachments delivered last week. The purchase price was approximately \$52,000 and is 100% grant funded through the WA. State Recreation and Conservation Office Local Parks Maintenance Grant Award to the County. This is a significant major piece of equipment to support the Public Works maintenance of the ODT.
- c. *RAISE Grant Update:* No new information to report. Multi-jurisdictional agreement is under review by federal highways.
- d. *OAT-Whiskey Creek Bridge Replacement and Improvement Project:* Mr. Garcelon showed photos of the current single, log trail bridge that recently failed. Clallam County Lodging Tax Committee recommended approval of the Public Works lodging tax grant application for \$84,000 for the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) Whiskey Creek Bridge Replacement Project. The County Commissioners approved the grant award yesterday (April 30). Next-Steps are submission of permits and bid process for bridge materials. The bridge will be fiberglass type so it can be carried in components to the site. Plan to get built this year. Discussion followed.
- e. *Update on OAT bridge repair at MP 14.3:* Jeff Ralston and ODT Trail Volunteers working on bridge repairs.
- f. *ODT-Carlsborg Urban Growth Area Improvement Grant Applications Update:* Mr. Garcelon presented a conceptual photo of the envisioned ODT-Carlsborg Road crosswalk improvement project. He reported that the County Commissioners approved the \$154,000 application by Public Works (Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe as partner) for programming of allocation of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) to support funding of this project. Discussion followed.
- g. *Update on Library Project along ODT in Blyn:* Mr. Garcelon read from an email from Wendy Clark-Getzen, Transportation Program Manager, Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe, that reported the Tribe's library project in Blyn is building an outdoor space and extended parking lot which can be used by trail users. There is more to come as the existing trail is being measured as not meeting ADA. The trail will be reinstalled and have the eco counter further out from the new driveways. The Tribe is also looking for more traffic calming through the new library complex.

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

The County volunteer crew led by Jeff Ralston held four Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) work parties during April. Three workdays were spent on clean-up and restoration of trail after logging in the Mile Post (MP) 4 – 5.5 area. One day of tread and drainage work between MP 1.25 and 2.

3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:

The Clallam County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator conducted 3 ODT and 15 OAT field workdays in April performing a variety of maintenance activities. A lot the OAT work centered on restoring the closed trail segment following logging and preparations for the MP 14.3 bridge repair.

4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

Member Stevenson reported that the new eco counter (counts trail users) in Port Townsend was stolen not long after installation. Member Taylor indicated value at \$5,700-\$5,800 for counter equipment. Discussion followed.

Joe Donisi provided an update on the ODT-Calawah River Bridge Crossing in Forks Project. Mr. Donisi reported that the Public Works Department selected Sargent as the project consultant for the design and permitting of the trail bridge crossing. Anticipate finalizing a contract with Sargent in the next month or so. Discussion followed.

Commissioner French summarized the County Commissioners recently approved for federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) programming of four ODT projects in Clallam County, including \$825,000 of construction funding (planned for start in 2026/2027) for the ODT-Calawah Park to Sitkum Sol Duc Road segment (includes the Calawah Bridge crossing).

Member Zarieczny reported that DNR has a sale (Lyre/Lyre Sale) on the Waterline Road. It is going to impact the ODT-Gosset to Waterline paved segment for access and transport. Will need to shut down the paved portion of trail when logging commences. DNR will try to provide at least two weeks' notice prior to closure. The contractor will not be loading trucks on the trail pavement. Discussion followed.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

Clallam County Regional Trails and Active Transportation Coordinator Job Description

Member Sarles requested adding equines to the job description summary with bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Garcelon noted that the County Commissioners reviewed the job application and approved it at Monday's (April 29) work session. Commissioner French clarified that the County Administrator approved the job description and the County Commissioners approved creating the new position to be funded out of the Road Fund. The position will be partially grants including from the RAISE grant. The County anticipates opening recruitment in May. Discussion was further had on the County's job position description that was included in the meeting packet. Member Reandeau reported the issue of the need for dedicated parking to accommodate horse trailers.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Maggie Walthall. Supports trail only option. Noted that ADA access not addressed. Requested reconsideration on position on moving forward with current design.

Cindy Cross. Congratulated city and county on federal disaster relief funding to support the costs of the repair work to the waterfront trail section from winter storms.

Janine Blaeloch: Surprised Committee did not follow up on the TAC's prior motion and recommendation asking the County Commissioners to delay related to the Dungeness Levee/Towne Road project. Very disappointed that no one on the TAC is advocating for the no pave option. Supports leaving as a pedestrian and bike facility only.

Chair Commeree noted that Member Biery has been advocating for the trail only option based on the April last meeting discussion and motion. The County Commissioners were informed of the TAC motion and related recommendations prior to their decision to go out for bid.

H. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.



Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493
Email: commissioners@clallamcountywa.gov

MIKE FRENCH, District 3, Chair
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
MARK OZIAS, District 1

TODD MIELKE, County Administrator

May 21, 2024

Mr. Mark McHugh, President and CEO
Rayonier Corporate Headquarters
1 Rayonier Way
Wildlight, Florida 32097

Dear Mr. McHugh:

Clallam County has been negotiating with Rayonier since 2022 on a trail corridor purchase that is a key segment of the western terminus of the 135-mile Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) that crosses the North Olympic Peninsula here in Washington State. The ODT is a multiuse, paved trail for pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, and other trail users. The ODT trail corridor segment we have been in negotiations with Rayonier to purchase is approximately 6.5-miles long and 150-feet wide located adjacent to the southside of State Route (SR) 110 between the City of Forks and the Quileute Nation coastal community of La Push. This trail corridor of interest is part of the 36,985-acre Clallam-S Package that is for sale from Rayonier and is approximately 119 acres in total.

Why Important?

The western terminus of the ODT to link the communities of Forks and La Push has been in the planning for years. There is a high level of public interest to complete this important ODT connection on the County's west end. Land acquisition and planning for the development and completion of the ODT on the west end of the county has been identified as a priority goal by the Board of County Commissioners. The City of Forks and the Quileute Nation strongly support a multiuse trail connection between the two communities, as an alternative to SR 110.

The trail corridor the County has been working with Rayonier to purchase is the last segment of a multiuse trail system that also has a strong regional and national interest. When complete, the ODT will connect communities and destinations across the North Olympic Peninsula. It will also provide for connections to other existing and planned regional trails for a multiuse trail connection to the Seattle ferry system with opportunities to connect to and continue travel on cross state, multiuse trail systems. The ODT is of nationwide interest in that it is the western terminus of the Great American Rail-Trail (GART) that will provide a multiuse trail that stretches more than 3,700 miles (over 52% complete) between Washington, D.C., and the community of La Push in our county.

ODT-Forks to La Push Project Status

We thank Rayonier for successfully working with the County on our previous purchase of a 150-wide ODT trail corridor segment from Rayonier in the City of Forks on the east side of US 101. Clallam County appreciates the time and effort the Rayonier Team has spent working with the County to achieve our goal to purchase the continuation of this ODT trail corridor acquisition on Rayonier lands west of US 101 along the SR 110 Corridor.

Clallam County recently purchased a 150-foot wide by approximately 0.5-miles long trail corridor from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources along the SR 110 corridor and are in the process of finalizing purchase of another approximately 0.6-miles of trail corridor from another property owner. The trail corridor lands the County has been negotiating with Rayonier connect on both the east and west sides of these secured and soon to be secured trail corridor sections.

The last section of the ODT-Forks to La Push trail corridor will go through Olympic National Park (ONP) and Quileute Tribal Nation Lands who are project partners. It will connect to an existing 1-mile plus separated, multiuse trail on Tribal lands, and will also connect with two ONP popular coastal trailheads.

County and Rayonier Negotiations

We would especially like to thank Mr. Chad McClung and other members of the Rayonier Team for their time and efforts spent with the County project team over the past two years for our interest to purchase trail corridor along the SR 110 corridor west of US 101. These efforts included six Rayonier and Clallam County meetings and ongoing correspondence to address Rayonier issues and concerns.

The County made trail corridor purchase offers based on land appraisals on April 5, 2022, for \$499,000 and on September 8, 2022, for \$669,000. In December 2022, the Rayonier Team drafted a Purchase and Sales Agreement (PSA). On June 7, 2023, the County made an offer of \$725,000, which included a \$56,000 administrative adjustment to the September 2022 offer. Meetings and correspondence through late-2023 have focused on understanding and addressing Rayonier concerns related to continued access to adjacent owned lands and other issues such as need for temporary trail closures to ensure long-term compatibility of a public trail with forest management operations (e.g., aerial spraying, adjacent harvest operation).

The ODT goes through other private, state, and federal forest lands. The County appreciates the importance of forest lands and management, and the need to avoid and minimize conflicts between forest management operations and non-forestry uses. In fact, it is this recognition that we targeted the trail corridor purchase on Rayonier lands to be located immediately adjacent to SR 110 within a 150-foot-wide corridor. The 150-foot corridor width allows for a trail design that provides for separation and buffering from adjacent forest management operation as well as SR 110.

A key part of discussions with Rayonier has centered on PSA language to ensure Rayonier and successors access across the planned trail corridor to access adjacent owned lands. In September 2023, the County provided the latest revised language to the PSA reserved easement language based on previous meetings with the Rayonier Team. In October 2023, the County responded with new PSA language to address a concern raised by Rayonier at an October meeting related to the County designating the ODT as a park in terms of state forest practices rules. Based on these prior mutual efforts, the County believes we were very close to agreement on PSA language in preparation of obtaining an updated appraisal.

Our Request

It is our understanding that the deadline for bids for the Clallam-S area of 36,985 is June 6, and that our request to resume and complete negotiations for our trail corridor purchase will not occur during this period. The County appreciates Mr. McClung's offer to help the County to connect with the new future owner about our interest in purchasing a trail corridor.

The County requests that Rayonier inform the future prospective landowner of County interest to purchase the 150-wide trail corridor along SR 110 in the Clallam-S area, and to convey the positive discussions and negotiations held between the County and Rayonier. We would also appreciate informing the future prospective owner of our interest in a Right-of-Entry request to gather additional information this summer of the planned alignment to support design efforts. If Rayonier does not receive bids or does not proceed with the sale of Clallam-S area, we would request Rayonier resume negotiations with the County.

We look forward to hearing back from you on our request. If you have any questions of the County regarding the ODT and our interest in purchasing a trail corridor from Rayonier please contact Steve Gray, Deputy Director Public Works, who is the project manager for Clallam County.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Mike French, Chair



Randy Johnson



Mark Ozias

Cc:

Mr. Mike Mackelwich, Director NW Operations, 3033 Ingram Street, Hoquiam, WA 98550

Mr. Chad McClung, Senior Manager, Real Estate Operations, 124 N. Cotton Square, Lufkin, TX 75901

Rayonier Pacific Resource Unit – Forks, 116 Quillayute Road, Forks, WA 98331
