

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)

June 2, 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, Erik Rohrer, and Bill Biery.

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

Vice-Chair Gleason added to the agenda the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) upland reroute study by the Port Angeles City Council under discussion items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dick Gritman moved and Gordon Taylor seconded approval of the May 5, 2021 meeting minutes, which were approved with all in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Gray reported:

- The Frosty Moss Relay Event was held on May 15 and had 24 teams (3 to 5 runners per team) for the 80-mile course and 20 teams (2 to 4 runners per team) for the 30-mile course. He also noted that the North Olympic Discovery Marathon Events will be held this weekend. Mr. Taylor noted the number of participants for the Frosty Moss was down about 20% this year.
- County Commissioners approved the County Public Works/Road Department to hire a full-time, County Trail Maintenance Worker/Volunteer Coordinator position. The current position is a part-time and contracted out. The focus of the position will be maintenance of the County managed sections of the Olympic Discovery Trail. He anticipates advertising for the position soon.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. ODT/OAT—Waterline Road Section

Mr. Gray noted that Chair Stevenson had inquired with the County and DNR about improving public communication related to providing advanced notice on road building/maintenance activities and major timber hauls on the Waterline Road that is also a segment of the OAT/ODT. This inquiry was related to his recent experience of road conditions on the ODT-Waterline Road Section.

Mr. Zarzecny indicated that he forwarded Chair Stevenson's email inquiry to DNR foresters, engineers, and other staff involved with the Waterline Road. He noted the message was well-received well and a good reminder to DNR staff that the Waterline Road is part of the ODT. He further noted that the current gravel Waterline Road will be maintained to forest road standards and not trail or ADA standards. DNR expects heavy use of the road over the next five years between April and November related to timber harvesting. If road conditions become unsafe to trail users, they can close it temporarily. He also noted that other entities such as the USFS and M&R also use the Waterline Road to access to their forest lands.

Discussion followed regarding the dual logging access and trail use of the ODT-Waterline Road segment. Ideas to address this dual use included providing notice on Peninsula Trail Coalition (PTC) trail maps and other public information that you may encounter logging traffic in this section. Other discussion was related to adding signage on both ends and along the route about forest management use of the road. Mr. Gray noted that even when the ODT-Waterline Road section is eventually paved to improve conditions for trail use it will still remain a logging access road.

2. City of PA Discussion of a ODT Upland Alternative Route

In response to Vice-Chair Gleason's addition of this item, Mr. Gray provided background related to the City of Port Angeles recent public hearing on the update of their Capital Facility Plan (CFP) that included an Upland ODT Plan (as unfunded) item. He noted that this item created community concern that the City was planning to create an upland ODT route to the waterfront section, but that the CFP also proposes over \$500,000 for ODT waterfront rip rap repairs. Approximately 30 members of the public commented in opposition to the ODT Upland Plan. A clear message from public is that the waterfront trail is the trail the City needs to prioritize and maintain. Discussion followed regarding the City meeting and other provisions of the City's CFP related to the ODT.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

1. OAT – Dan Kelly Road Parking Area Signage Improvements

Mr. Gray presented an example of the directional signage to OAT access and horse trailer parking to be installed in the Dan Kelly Road OAT and Colville Trail Parking Area. He noted the signs were paid for by PTC and thanked Mr. Taylor for his effort on the sign design.

2. ODT-Forks to La Push Project Update

The appraisal work continues for the trail corridor section targeted for acquisition east of the Bogachiel Bridge crossing. Mr. Gray noted that the FLAP federal funding for construction between US 101 and La Push along the SR 110 corridor has been approved for phasing. The need for project phasing is based on higher design and construction cost estimates from the original FLAP funding award. Phase 1 is for trail construction between US 101 and the Bogachiel Bridge, with Phase 2 being between the Bogachiel Bridge and La Push. Under the phasing plan, the entire planned trail corridor would include a 30% design. At this time, the preliminary engineering is anticipated to start later this year or in 2022, with Phase 1 construction initiating in 2025.

Mr. Gray provided an update on the ODT-Forks Calawah River Park to Sitkum-Sol Duc Road project. He noted that the County recently submitted for an amendment to State Transportation Improvement Program that is needed to allow for access to the \$825,000 Surface Block Grant federal funding for the construction project phase. He added that the County anticipates submitting an agreement and related documents this month to the state for approval to authorize use of awarded federal funding for the engineering design phase.

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

Mr. Gray noted that the material and labor costs for the project concept outlined at the last meeting was estimated to total around \$100,000. Project work is planned to start sometime in August.

Other Reports

Vice-Chair Gleason asked when East Beach Road would be opened. Mr. Gray noted that the road was re-opened in May.

Mr. Gray noted that the County is coordinating with Olympic National Park on the installation of a previously purchased pedestrian/bicycle counter on the ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail segment. The targeted location will be just west of the bollards at the East Beach Rd./Lyre River Trailhead. The Washington State Department of Transportation who has installed other ODT trail counters has agreed to perform the installation.

OLYMPIC DISCOVERY TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

County Thursday Volunteer Crew Efforts (May)

Mr. Gray reported that the County ODT Volunteer Crew held two work party days in May. Their work included completing trail tread improvements and drainage work on the east-side of the OAT horse trail crossing of Whiskey Creek. It also included the decommissioning of ~ 120 feet of the OAT immediately west of the "living room" around M.P. 3.5, and assisting with the final tread work for a new ~ 200 foot trail segment to replace the decommissioned section. Most of the construction work for the new segment was performed by the PTC Volunteer Trail Adopter for this OAT section. This reroute has a more favorable grade and line of site from the prior alignment. Tomorrow the County Volunteer crew will have a work party on the OAT west of Eden Valley Road in the old gravel pit area to remove Scotch Broom and perform tread work.

County Maintenance Report Highlights (May)

Mr. Gray highlighted County trail maintenance efforts over the past month that included, but not limited to: 1) support of the County Volunteer Work Crew efforts; 2) trail surface cleaning of the ODT-Gossett to Waterline Road section; 3) bollard maintenance (i.e., painting, reflective tape) and painting of bollard pavement warning lines between Health Road and Vautier Way; 4) mowing and trimming of trail corridor between Blyn and Morse Creek. He also reported that a bollard post on the east-end of the ODT-Freshwater Bay – Onella Road section was intentionally pulled off its base and damaged.

Other Maintenance Reports

Mr. Taylor noted that PTC volunteer work crews have been doing a lot of mowing and vegetation trimming along the trail corridor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Lasorsa inquired whether Mr. Gray was contacted by the attorney regarding the Khaler family property. Mr. Gray indicated that he was not contacted yet.

ADJOURNMENT