

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)

June 1, 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, Gary Gleason, 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)

Guest: Jeff Bohman, President of the Peninsula Trail Coalition

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Member Taylor moved to approve the April 6, 2022 meeting minutes and Member Mraz moved to approve the May 4, 2022 meeting minutes. Both the April 6 and May 4 meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Member Gray provided the following announcements:

- Dungeness Railroad Bridge Project: The Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT) plans to close the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) across the Railroad Bridge from June 6 – 8 and between July 18 – October 18 related to construction activities to extend the bridge.
- Sadie Creek Trails Expansion. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is planning to add 2.75 miles of motorized trails, a 22-foot bridge, and a day use shelter to the Sadie Creek multi-use trail system west of Joyce. The 2.75 miles of new trail will include 2 miles of double track (tread width 60 inches) and 0.75 miles of single track trail (tread width 36 inches).

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

ODT Improvement/Expansion Project Updates

- *ODT—Forks to La Push.* County is nearing completion of negotiations for an easement across DNR lands for the planned trail corridor between US 101 and the Bogacheil Bridge along the SR 110 Corridor. No approvals yet from Rayonier and other property owner in corridor. The County may need to update the appraisal.
- *STBG Funding Related to ODT.* It was reported that the County Commissioners approved regional allocation of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant federal funding to benefit the ODT route: 1) \$400,000 to JSKT to support the widening and paving of the ODT-Pierce Road to Old Blyn Highway; and 2) funding for an asphalt overlay on Sequim Ave. between Washington and Deytona that is part of a shared road ODT section.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. *County Thursday Volunteer Crew Project Reports.* In May, the County Volunteer Trail Crew held seven work party days. Five of those days was in support of bridge replacement project at M.P.

2.0 on the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT). The project also included support from PTC volunteers, County Chain Gang and County Public Works staff. The other two volunteer work days was related to OAT tread work between M.P. 16 & 17 and near the HWY 112 Trail Head. A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held on May 19 at the Fairgrounds following the morning work party.

Jeff Bohman, Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) Board President, noted that PTC will hold a volunteer appreciation event on September 11 in the afternoon at the Dungeness River Nature Center. The event will be catered with planned entertainment.

2. *County Maintenance Reports.* Highlights of County trail maintenance in May were provided that included support of the OAT M.P. 2 bridge replacement project, east-end mowing, bollard maintenance work at Sequim Bay State Park, tread work on OAT, and mowing at Deer Park Rest area.
3. *Other Reports:* Member Gray noted that Kat Sample reported that at the Whiskey Creek stock ford crossing an equestrian rider informed her that the step down to the creek for the stock ford crossing is too big. She also indicated the need to replace the foot log crossing at Whiskey Creek as has been previously discussed by the Committee.

Member Bloomer shared observations on trails he experienced on his recent trip. He also requested consideration of removal of bollards between the west-end of Robin Hill Park and Pinnell Road, and noted a concern of rotten posts near the east-site of Johnson Creek Bridge.

Member Taylor provided an update of City of Port Angeles work on the waterfront section of the ODT.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. *Continued discussion on Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) request for public input on use of E-Bikes on non-motorized natural surface trails that will inform state policy on E-bike use on these types of trails on state lands, including the Olympic Adventure Trail.*

Chair Stevenson summarized the public process being conducted by DNR and WDFW based on direction from the state legislature. He also shared his observations of the related public webinar discussions that were held. Discussion followed. Chair Stevenson called for the question for whether the TAC should submit comment related to e-bike use on the OAT. No motion was made to prepare and submit a TAC letter.

2. *Peninsula Trail Coalition ODT Trail Ambassador Pilot Project to be funded in part by a County Lodging Tax Grant*

Jeff Bohman noted that the PTC was founded in 1998 and currently has an operating budget is approximately \$150,000 a year to cover PTC projects, equipment, maintenance, and volunteer support. Mr. Bohman noted that PTC received a Clallam County Lodging Tax Grant to support a ODT Trail Ambassador Pilot Program. The idea behind the pilot program is to build more appreciation and support of the ODT trail. Trail ambassadors would interact with users to obtain input on user experience and may also support work on specific trail maintenance activities.

Members Bloomer and Clark-Getzin expressed thoughts on and support of the trail ambassador project.

Chair Stevenson inquired if there was adequate coordination and understanding between PTC and others for PTC's application for lodging tax funds. Member Gray responded that Clallam

County and the three cities have lodging tax grant funding they allocate and indicated in terms County grants that better coordination is needed. He noted that on the day of the Clallam County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) meeting to consider grant applications that Commissioner Johnson asked him if he knew anything about the PTC application. Member Gray followed-up to read the application and let Commissioner Johnson know seems like a project that is a good fit. Commissioner Johnsen at the LTAC meeting encouraged more coordination in the future.

3. Peninsula Trail Coalition ODT Public Survey Results

Jeff Bohman noted that PTC as part of their strategic plan cycle did their first ever survey. The survey was distributed to several hundred people to obtain information on perception of PTC's work and also trail user experience. PTC is still in the process of compiling the results in a presentable fashion and plans to have the results available for the next-TAC meeting. He noted that the notion of having trail ambassadors was influenced in part based on survey response.

Member Gray asked if PTC was a targeted survey or available to the whole public. Mr. Bohman indicated it was directed to a sampling of people from PTC's email lists.

Member Gray suggested an ideal to use the trail ambassador program to assist with the collection of baseline information on e-bike counts/use such as on a weekend to supplement existing user count data. Mr. Bohman responded that PTC is open to ideas of information to collect by trail ambassador program.

Member Mittman noted that at Hollywood Beach the owner of Discovery E-bikes who operates at that location may be willing to help with e-bike use counts. She also commented that under the owners insurance that he cannot rent e-bikes for use east of Morse Creek due to the Bagley Creek steep trail grades.

Chair Stevenson noted there are a number of national and statewide efforts for trail counting that can be tied into ODT count efforts.

Member Gleason asked if we our being too narrow to just E-bike counts, what about the other e-type users on trail such as skateboards, single wheel devices, etc.... Chair Stevenson agrees that any data count should expand to address other types of users. He recommends holding several counts at two to three locations a year. Member Gray added that periodic user counts also be considered on the OAT where no counters where no counters currently exist.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

It was noted that there was a motorcycle rider on the SRRT recently. Member Taylor recommend we encourage trail users to call the County Sheriff dispatch to report such incidents when they see it.

ADJOURNMENT: Member Taylor moved to adjourn with no objections.