

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
May 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

A. 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, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Bill Biery, Richard Bloomer, Wendy Clark-Getzin, and Liz Cusanelli.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)
Mike French, County Commissioner

Guest Speaker: Brian King, Sheriff

Other Meeting Participants: Kenton Hotsko, Molly Erickson, and Rich James from the Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC).

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: NONE

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Member Taylor motioned to approve and Member Gritman seconded approval of the April 5, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted, which were approved without objection.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Member Cusanelli, USFS, reported the Backcountry Horsemen and Washington Trails Association will be working on Mt. Muller trail maintenance this summer.

Member Taylor noted that the BCHW putting on a Share the Trail event on May 20 at Mt. Muller Trailhead. PTC will have booth at the event.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. ODT improvement/expansion project updates.

ODT-Forks to La Push Project. Negotiations continue with two landowners to acquire trail corridor between US 101 and Bogachiel River Bridge along the SR 110(La Push Rd) corridor. Western Federal Lands (WFL) is working on Environmental Review for this project. Member Gray reported he participated in a meeting with the WFL project review team recently.

ODT-Pierce Road to Old Blyn Highway Improvement (widening, paving). The Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT) still plans for construction to widen and pave this ODT section to commence this summer. Required wetland mitigation work for this project anticipated to be completed this week.

ODT-Old Blyn Highway to Blyn Rd – Shared Road Section. JSKT has secured state funding for design, right-of-way, and construction of trail section adjacent to current road.

ODT-Dean Creek Bridge. JSKT anticipates permanent improvement and replacement of the ODT-Dean Creek Bridge abutments this year. Permits are secured. Next step is to get out to bid. County approved allocation of regional federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to support construction.

ODT-Railroad Bridge Park. STBG funding approved to support study for maintenance needs of the historic trestle across the Dungeness River at Railroad Bridge Park.

Discussion was had on need of advance notice of trail closure for the ODT-Pierce Road to Old Blyn Highway and ODT-Dean Creek Bridge improvement projects.

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

Three work parties held in April on the OAT that included drainage/tread work between MP 16-17 and shoulder and curb log repairs between MP 14-14.5. Plan tomorrow to conduct trail tread maintenance and repair to footbridge between MP 17.5 to 18.

3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:

Jeff Ralston, Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator, is out in the field performing both ODT and/or OAT maintenance and improvement activities daily. Besides the County volunteer trail crew projects and general maintenance activities, projects highlighted included restoration of the vandalized fence on the S curves west of the Sol Duc Bridge Crossing, painting bollards and pavement markings on west-end, and graffiti removal at the Elwha River Bridge.

4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

Member Taylor reported that PTC volunteer trail corridor mowing to begin this week. Chair Stevenson recommended additional crack sealing of the previous repair between Kacee Way and the Elwha River Bridge to avoid drainage entering cracks.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. RV's abandoned or parked at ODT trailheads or right-of-way.

Sheriff King was introduced as guest speaker on this topic. An overview and discussion were had on the history, multi-agency effort, challenges, resources/costs and ultimately outcome of RV camping and abandonment recent example at the Strait View Drive ODT trailhead. It was noted that cost for the ultimate dismantling of the RV alone was over \$2,000 for labor, equipment rental, and transfer station fees for disposal. Dismantling included chain gang assistance.

Sheriff King presented the issues, challenges, and processes the Sheriff Department follows related to RV-occupied and unoccupied, abandoned RV's. He also outlined an agreement being explored between cities, county, and local tow operator for a place to haul and store abandoned RV's while being processed and serve as a place to dismantle RV's.

Considerable discussion and questions followed.

2. Signage and other considerations (e.g., fencing) to improve user awareness and safety for the ODT segment thru the Bagley Creek Ravine and bridge crossing.

Member Gray overviewed the trail corridor on the steep east and west approaches to the Bagley Creek Bridge crossing thru the ravine. The overview included photos showing characteristics of this corridor (e.g., curves, steepness) and current warning signage. Considerable discussion and questions followed. Comments and recommendations included, but not limited to:

- Add advisory 5 mph speed limit sign on west side approach.
- Add curve warning signs.
- A longer bridge to span ravine or reduce length of steep trail preferred, but cost has always been the issue. The bridge would likely need to be 500 to 600 feet long.
- Consider pavement warning markings.
- Surface cracks and bumps and metal storm drains in trail surface added concern.
- Combination of warning signs (speed reduction, curves) and dismount recommended signs.
- Support for warning signage about steep slopes, sharp turns, and uneven surface.
- Considerable support for a sign to recommend dismount bike.
- Show steepness percent on warning sign. Over 20%.

- Warning signs first (to explain why) and then followed by recommended dismount sign.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

Commissioner French noted he met with West End Business Association, and they expressed an interest of being updated on the ODT plans for the west end. Following discussion, County will look at reaching out for a staff (e.g., Steve Gray) and possibly PTC in the fall to the West End Business Association and Forks Chamber of Commerce.

H. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.