

**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 Zarzeczny 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.