

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
April 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Members Present: Andy Stevenson, Gordon Taylor, Jennifer Reandeau, Judy Sarles, Justin Zarzeczny, Dick Gritman, Erik Rohrer, Bill Biery, Jim Mraz, Lorrie Mittmann, Grant Herman, and Liz Cusanelli.

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

Member Stevenson (and former Chair) volunteered to chair committee with excused absence of chair and vice-chair. No one opposed.

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of March 6, 2024, were approved with no objections.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Member Gray reported that job description for new Clallam County Regional Trails and Active Transportation Coordinator position in the Public Works Department has been prepared and reviewed with the County Administrator. The position will report to Member Gray who is the Deputy Director in the Public Works Department. A key funding source for the position will be the federal RAISE grant. The plan is to issue a job announcement in April/May. Discussion followed.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. ODT improvement/expansion project updates:

- *ODT-Forks to La Push Project Update:* Member Gray referenced and highlighted the County Public Works letter in the meeting packet to the WA. State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for a one-year time extension request for the ODT-Forks to La Push Trail Corridor Acquisition Project. He anticipates the granting of the request based on discussion with RCO. He noted that Rayonier has informed the County they will be selling all their land holdings in Clallam County. Rayonier has put a freeze on land transactions such as the ~ 6.5-miles of trail corridor the County has been trying to purchase from them. The County will be looking at legal option of eminent domain, while continuing to try to bring Rayonier back to the table. Discussion followed.

Member Gray provided status of negotiation with another landowner for approximately 0.6-miles of trail corridor. Resuming negotiations are waiting on the decision on the landowners zoning conditional use permit for development of property including camping. He also reported Public Works received four responses to the County's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to support the design, environmental review and permitting of the planned ODT-Calawah River Bridge crossing. County will be holding interviews soon with the four consulting firms that submitted statement of qualifications.

- *RAISE Grant Update:* Information from all 14 jurisdictions has been collected to put into the draft project agreement and sent to FHWA for review. Once FHWA completes review it goes to USDOT for approval. Once USDOT approves comes back to get official signatures from all project applicants.
- *OAT-Whiskey Creek Bridge Replacement and Improvement Project:* Member Gray referenced and highlighted the \$84,000 Clallam County Lodging Tax Grant Application that was part of the meeting packet that the Public Works Department submitted to the Clallam County Lodging Tax Committee to fund the

project. Public Works has already done early consultation with WA. Department of Fish and Wildlife on permitting for the new bridge crossing. Discussion followed.

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 March. Two days were spent on corridor trimming, tread work, and drainage improvements between MP 20-21.5. The other two days were spent on work to improve the switchbacks (e.g., installing gabion baskets) on the eastside of the planned new OAT Whiskey Creek Bridge location, which is the current stock crossing.

The upcoming work party planned for this Thursday is on tread work and crushed rock placement at logging skidder crossings between MP 4.5 to 5.5 in the recent commercial harvest area. Will also work in this segment on April 11 with the goal to get this closed section reopened for the OAT run April 13.

3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:

The Clallam County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator conducted 5.5 ODT and 10.5 OAT field workdays in March performing a variety of maintenance activities. Other highlights of March work included:

- Installed a new Memorial Bench about halfway between Kitchen-Dick Road and Vaultier Rd.
- Discovery Creek Trash Pick-up.

Member Gray thanked Gordon and other PTC volunteers involved with the significant clean-up of left trash and materials in the ODT-Discovery Creek Area. Member Taylor noted he removed 500 lbs to dispose of at the transfer station. County staff Jeff Ralston also assisted with removal of several shopping carts and taking a truck load of trash to the Transfer Station. Discussion followed.

4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

Member Taylor noted he painted ODT medallion pavement markings on the ODT segment along the shoulder of Old Olympic Highway west of Tributary Lane and the Siebert Creek Bridge to discourage vehicles parking on the trail route in this section. Discussion followed.

Member Gray reported that noxious weeds staff will be treating spotted knapweed along the ODT from Carlsborg Rd to the Dungeness River Nature Center tomorrow, April 4th. They will have signs up letting people know what herbicides are being applied and their contact information.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

Clallam County Dungeness/Towne Road Levee Project

Member Gray indicated that this discussion item was requested by Member Biery at the last meeting and was tabled for further discussion today. He referenced and highlighted the project background information in the packet materials, and presented five slides (attached to minutes) to provide an overview of the project location, an aerial showing the restored floodplain area after relocating the levee, and the proposed Towne Road segment to be reconstructed with a space for a trail/path (varying 6 to 12-feet in width) on top of approximately 0.6-miles of the relocated levee. County Engineer, Joe Donisi provided additional project overview and road/trail design information. The County Commissioners will be considering approval of a bid opening for the project at their April 9 meeting. Questions and discussion followed.

Member Biery presented information and points for Trails Advisory Committee to consider supporting a non-paved recreational path only. His information included highlights of the draft letter in the meeting packet that he prepared for Committee consideration to send to the County Commissioners. Questions and discussion followed.

First Motion: Member Biery motioned to:

Recommend to the County Commissioners a three-year stay on request for bids on Towne Road and include a letter that strongly supports the advocacy effort fits the needs of the community. The motion was seconded by Member Stevenson.

Following discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with Member Biery voting yes; Members Stevenson, Reandeau, and Hermann voting no; and Members Zarzeczny, Gritman, Taylor, and Mraz abstaining. The motion failed.

Following the failed motion, discussion followed with Member Stevenson making a motion that:

The Trail Advisory Committee advises the Commissioners that the design is not adequately safe for user population. Request Commissioners delay to create a plan that safely uses space available.

Following discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with Members Stevenson, Taylor, Reandeau, Gritman, Mraz, Biery, and Hermann voting yes; and member Zarzeczny abstaining.

Members Rohrer and Mittmann left the meeting earlier and did not vote. Member Gray did not vote because he is an ex-officio member.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Jamie Porter noted she was a member of the Dungeness Levee Trail Advocates. She strongly recommends the Committee consider visiting the site to get a better sense of what the area is like that you can't get from just looking at the maps.
- Meggan Wilshaw noted she has lived in the vicinity of Towne Rd for 22 years. County presentation in March 2019 was for Towne Rd to dead-end with cul de sacs. Current Towne Road sections need repair with planned improvements identified in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for decades; however, no longer in TIP except for minor improvements. Where the planned trail narrows to 6-feet wide is for a length of 350-feet.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

Member Gray noted that he will not be able to attend the May meeting and asked if the TAC wanted to still hold the meeting. He noted that can have other staff from the public works department present to support the meeting. There was general support to hold the May meeting with no one in opposition.

- I. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.