

Callam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
March 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Members Present: Wendy Clark-Getzin (Vice Chair), Gordon Taylor, Jennifer Reandeau, 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)
Mike French, County Commissioner

Guests: Judy Sarles, Backcountry Horseman of Washington, Peninsula Chapter; Jeff Bohman, Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) Board President; and Rich James, PTC Board Member.

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Member Biery requested adding an agenda item for the TAC to consider a letter to the County Commissioners in favor of the Dungeness Levee trail only option. This item was added for discussion as Agenda Item F3.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of February 7, 2024, were approved with no objections.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Member Herman inquired whether the TAC had any formal or ongoing relationship with state parks related to the Miller Peninsula Park trail system. Member Gray indicated there is no current active Committee discussion with state parks.
- Member Mittmann noted the upcoming 80-mile Frosty Moss Relay on Saturday, March 16 that follows the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) and Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) from the Camp Creek Trailhead to Blyn.
- Vice Chair Clark-Getzin reported that the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe was invited to participate in the City of Sequim comprehensive plan update and will be involved in other local jurisdiction comprehensive plan updates. Suggested TAC may want to keep an eye on local comprehensive plan updates.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. *ODT improvement/expansion project updates:*

- ODT-Forks to La Push: Member Gray provided the following project related reports:
 - The County Commissioners acted on February 20 to issue a Request for Qualifications for engineering services for the multi-user trail bridge crossing over the Calawah River from the Forks Calawah River Park. Statement of qualifications are due by March 29 and consultant interviews targeted for April 11.
 - The lead Rayonier representative the County has been working with for purchase of trail corridor will be in the Forks area this week to look at the trail route and plans to get back to the County in a couple of weeks.
 - Public Works continues to work with Timberland Team LLC to acquire approximately 0.5-mile of the ODT trail corridor along SR 110. The landowner continues to support working towards selling a trail corridor to the County but is first waiting for a decision on County permits for their site development plans.

- Public Works will be requesting an extension of the County's state Recreation Conservation Office grant for ODT-Forks to La Push trail corridor acquisition. Public Works also has a \$500,000 County Lodging Tax Grant to assist for trail corridor acquisition.
- Member Zarzeczny noted that Marbled Murrelet special habitat is mapped on the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) property located in the planned trail corridor west of the Bogachiel Bridge crossing. The impact may be that the trail through this area may need to be in SR 110 right-of-way. He will send Member Gray the habitat map.

Member Gray noted he had a recent meeting with City of Forks and Quileute Tribe staff on potential coordination on RAISE grant projects between the County-City-Tribe.

- RAISE Grant Update: Member Gray reported that the City of Port Angeles held a RAISE project meeting on February 28. The focus of the meeting was on a draft project agreement between the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and the 14 grant subrecipients for the 34 projects. The latest is likely a three-to-four-month process to execute the Agreement. Discussion followed.
- Sub-Committee work on ODT Trail Alternatives across DNR lands north of Joyce: Member Gray reported that the subcommittee conducted a site visit on February 22. The focus of the site visit was on two potential route alignments on the DNR land between Camp Hayden Road and Crescent Beach Road. Andy Stevenson, Lorrie Mittmann, and Steve Gray from the TAC participated. Rich James, PTC Board, also attended. The subcommittee plans to conduct another site visit in March/April. Discussion followed.

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

The County volunteer crew led by Jeff Ralston held two Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) work parties during February with a continued focus on tread/drainage improvements. Trail segments worked included between OAT Milepost 2.75 to 4.0. Work included hauling and spreading crushed rock in certain sections. Two other scheduled work parties were cancelled due to the weather.

3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:

The Clallam County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator conducted 8 ODT and 9 OAT field workdays in February performing a variety of maintenance activities.

4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

Member Taylor reported doing similar maintenance work as County including surface sweeping, blowing, and tree clearing. PTC is coordinating work party activities with Jeff Ralston at County to avoid duplication.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. City of Port Angeles ODT and Other Bike/Ped. Project Reports

Tim Tucker, Port Angeles Parks and Recreation Manager, reported on: ODT Waterfront Completed Repair and Improvement Projects; plans and general schedule to address recent major storm damage to the waterfront trail; budget and expenditures spent on waterfront trail repairs; existing and needed permits to address waterfront trail repairs; City RAISE grant ODT projects; Race Street Complete Street Project; Marine Drive rehabilitation and resurfacing project (will not include ODT section); and other trail related reports. Committee and public questions and discussion with Mr. Tucker followed.

2. OAT-Whiskey Creek Bridge Replacement and Improvement Project Design Concept

Member Gray reviewed the history and status of the deteriorating log bridge crossing of Whiskey Creek. He noted the new crossing will be at the current stock crossing just downstream of the log bridge crossing and be a multi-user bridge crossing, including for equestrian crossings. The design concept is for a 60-foot long by 6-foot-wide bridge fiber reinforced polymer bridge. Bridge installation will be assisted by volunteer labor and possibly also with chain gang help. Estimated cost of materials and delivery is \$85,000.

The County Public Works Department will be submitting a lodging tax grant for the bridge costs. The application deadline is March 15. Member Gray requested the Committee approve him to draft a letter of support on behalf of TAC to support the project grant application. Member Taylor motioned to support drafting the letter of support. The motion was seconded by Member Hermann and passed with all in favor. A letter of support for the project has already been received from the Peninsula Trails Coalition. Member Mittmann noted that her trail event business Peninsula Adventure Sports will also be providing a letter of support. Member Zarzeczny shared information related to similar bridges recently ordered by the Dept. of Natural Resources. Discussion followed, including identifying the need also for improvements to the switchbacks on the east side of the planned new bridge to support equestrian trail users.

3. Dungeness/Towne Road Levee

Member Biery requested the TAC support maintaining the existing Dungeness River levee trail as a trail only and explained his rationale for the request. Member Gray shared a map showing the project area and current concept of the road and trail design on top of the relocated levee that is found on the County's project web page. Considerable discussion followed. Member Taylor motioned to table further discussion to the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Mittmann and was passed with no opposition.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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