

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
February 7, 2024, 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, Justin Zarzeczny, Charlie Commeree, Erik Rohrer, Bill Biery, Jim Mraz, Lorrie Mittmann, Grant Herman, Wendy Clark-Getzin.

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 Molly Erickson, PTC Board Member.

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: NONE

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of December 6, 2023, were approved with no objections.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Member Gray announced he was a guest speaker at the January 17 Forks Chamber to provide updates on current and planned west-end Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) expansion projects.
- Chair Stevenson announced that Jeff Bohman, PTC Board President, was awarded Citizen of the Year, for his years of work benefiting the ODT from the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He also indicated that this was the second PTC member that has received this award.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. *ODT improvement/expansion project updates:*

- ODT-Forks to La Push: Member Gray reported that Public Works will be briefing the County Commissioners at their February 12 work session to proceed with issuing a Request for Qualifications for geotechnical, design, and permitting support for the planned ODT-Calawah River Multi-User Bridge. He also noted Public Works staff held the following two project related meetings on January 31: (1) meeting with Rayonier on trail corridor acquisition between US 101 and the Bogachiel River Bridge along the south side of SR 110; and (2) meeting with FHWA-Western Federal Lands to discuss the draft preliminary 30% design and other project matters. Discussion followed.
- RAISE Grant Update: Member Gray reported that the City of Port Angeles held a meeting with all co-applicants and members of the Puget Sound to Pacific Collaboration (PS2P) on January 24. The focus of the meeting was on a draft project agreement between the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the 14 grant subrecipients for the 34 projects. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is part of the Agreement and would be the grant administrator for the federal RAISE funds for the 14 grant subrecipients. Subrecipients are to review the descriptions and budget for their projects and to provide project contact and authorized signer information. Member Gray will be the Clallam County project contact and Commissioner French the authorized signer.

At the RAISE grant project meeting, discussion was also had on interest in entering a more formal partner Interlocal Agreement to address things such as consultant selection, grant technical

support, and ongoing meeting. The city sent out a survey after meeting to determine interest in an interlocal agreement or more informal partner meeting. The next RAISE project meeting is anticipated towards the end of February. Discussion followed.

- RCO Local Maintenance Grant Award Update: It was reported that the grant contract was executed on January 30. The County has ordered a John Deere tractor and Loader, 60" Flail Mower Offset, 60" Heavy-Duty Rotary Broom, and 53" 4-in-1 bucket attachments. The cost of the tractor and attachments is \$52,059.73 and will be reimbursed under the grant. Delivery is expected by the end of May. Discussion followed.
- Sub-Committee work on ODT Trail Alternatives across DNR lands north of Joyce: It was reported that the subcommittee met on January 18 at the Courthouse to review maps and discuss route alternatives. The subcommittee plans to conduct a site visit on February 22 to explore route alternatives between Camp Hayden and Crescent Beach Roads. Will likely schedule another date for a site visit of route alternatives west of Crescent Beach Road. Discussion followed.

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

The County volunteer crew led by Jeff Ralston held six (6) Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) work parties during the December to January period with a continued focus on tread/drainage improvements. Trail segments improved included Milepost 2.75-3.25 (3 workdays); MP 3-4 (2 workdays), and MP 16.25 & east (1 workday). Tread work in the MP 2.75 – 4 areas included crushed rock hauling and spreading to improve the trail tread.

3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:

The Clallam County Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Coordinator conducted 14 ODT and 18 OAT field workdays between December and January performing a variety of maintenance activities.

4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

Chair Stevenson noted that the area west of Daley-Rankin Tunnel had a lot of debris and trees down due to storm events on his last trip through area. Member Taylor noted that areas west of the Olympic Park Boundary have seen a lot of clean-up work by volunteers and trail section adopters such as the Rohrer's. Member Taylor also noted major debris on the ODT-Waterfront Trail from storm events.

Jeff Bohman noted a gravel pit expansion proposal off Elwha River Road adjacent to future ODT corridor purchased by County. He also inquired about a timeline for completing the trail corridor connection from the Elwha Bridge to Place Road. Member Gray noted that planning for the trail corridor in this gap is part of the County's RAISE grant project areas.

Member Mittman reported that her recent conversation with city staff indicates repairs to the waterfront trail may not be fixed until this summer due to time to take to secure state permits. She also reported that Olympic National Park officials communicated to her that they expect to have the washout on the Spruce Railroad Trail corridor cleaned up by the March 16 Frosty Moss Relay.

Member Biery reported on an unauthorized camping on private property adjacent to the trail east of Whitefeather Way. City of Sequim code enforcement addressing. Ongoing situation. Discussion followed.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Following discussion and nominations Charlie Commeree and Wendy Clark-Getzin were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

2. *OAT Trail Segment Closure and Temporary Detour*

Member Gray reviewed the trail segment closure and temporary detour map in the meeting packet. The section closed effective January 24 between M.P. 3.6 and 5.5. There is a well-marked detour onto the DNR PA-1000 Forest Road, which did serve at one time as part of the OAT route. Closure is due to commercial forest thinning operation. Discussion followed.

3. *ODT-Carlsborg Road Crossing Safety Improvement Project Grant Proposal*

Member Gray referred to the tech memo and concept design in meeting packet prepared by the consultant for the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT). Work is in the County right-of-way. JSKT applied for federal Tribal Safety grant funding for the project. County submitted a letter of support and will work with JSKT to complete the project if funding is awarded. Member Clark-Getzin reviewed the conceptual design of the crossing. Project estimated cost is \$157,000. Member Stevenson requested County consider removal of the first set of bollards on west side of road due to difficulty to navigate by Sequim Wheelers. Discussion followed.

Commissioner French inquired if the Committee had a position for bike lanes on County roads that intersect the ODT such as Carlsborg Road. Member Stevenson indicated support provided not at expense of ODT expansion. Member Clark-Getzin noted that planning for bike routes can be done through the County's comprehensive plan update. Member Gray indicated that the County's transportation element of the comprehensive plan does have policies related to roads that can be reviewed for update.

4. *ODT-Carlsborg Road to Banana Way Proposed Improvement Project – Grant Letter of Support*

Member Clark-Getzin presented several slides showing the conceptual plan for the ODT Carlsborg Road to Banana Way improvement project. The JSKT and Clallam County are planning to jointly apply to the Peninsula Regional Transportation Organization for federal Transportation Alternative (TA) grant to support funding the improvements. Discussion followed.

Member Clark-Getzin motioned to support the Chair signing a letter of support on behalf of the TAC, which was seconded by Member Stevenson and passed with no opposition. Member Gray will prepare a draft for the new Chair Commeree review and signature. Discussion followed.

5. *Parking issues/concerns on ODT segment along Old Olympic Hwy (east of Siebert Creek Bridge)*

Member Gray reviewed the map and photos in the packet regarding parking issues and concerns at this intersection. He identified the following near-term and long-term actions:

Near-Term:

- Install no parking signs on either side of the Tributary Lane intersection area with the ODT and Old Olympic Highway.
- Install no parking on pavement/trail signs between Tributary and where ODT heads west from Old Olympic Highway.
- Add ODT emblem pavement marking and/or other pavement markings.

Long-term:

- Relocate trail west of Tributary Lane to maximize separation of trail from road.

Member Taylor indicated that PTC could add ODT emblem markings in this segment. Discussion followed.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Cindy Cross: Commented waterfront trail needs a bulldozer work to clear storm debris. Thanked volunteers who dug a small path through the debris. Requested that the TAC support the ODT-Waterfront section as a transportation corridor. Many people use the waterfront trail to commute on and hopefully some fix can be done prior to summer. .
- Jeff Bohman: Status of filling trail related position in County. Member Gray noted that planning for this position remains in the work to be tied to the RAISE grant.

G. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.