

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

A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Members Present: Charlie Commeree (Chair), Wendy Clark-Getzin (Vice-Chair), Andy Stevenson, Gordon Taylor, Jennifer Reandeau, Judy Sarles, Justin Zarzeczny, Dick Gritman, Jim Mraz, Lorrie Mittmann, and Grant Herman.

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

Guests/Public: Jeff Bohman, Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC)

B. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chair Commeree moved to approve the June 5 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Taylor and passed. Member Clark-Getzin amended the June 5 minutes to indicate she voted against the modification of agenda order. No one opposed the amendment.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEMBER UPDATES:

Member Gray noted:

- Bill Biery, City of Sequim Representative, resigned from the Trails Advisory Committee.
- Recruitment for the Regional Trails and Active Transportation Coordinator closed on Sunday with 30 applications received.
- County is closing in on purchasing the state Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) River Road Property for the purposes of Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir and future County public park. There are current trails on the property used by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Member Zarzeczny noted that trails were constructed and have been maintained mostly by volunteer efforts. County will be contacting current volunteer groups that help to maintain trail corridors. Public access and trails will remain open following County acquisition. Discussion followed. Member Sarles requested that the project be a TAC agenda item for updates.

E. TRAIL PROJECT AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. ODT improvement/expansion project updates:

- a. *ODT-Forks to La Push Project Update:* Member Gray reported that:
- County survey crew completed field work on the city park property that will support design of the bridge, abutments, and trail approaches by the consultant team. County also provided to the City of Forks a general assessment of anticipated impact areas at their Calawah River Park lands for City discussions with state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) related to prior grants that funded creation and development of Park. Awaiting scope of work and costs from consultant for bridge design, environmental review, and permitting.
 - The County continues to work on obtaining landowner signature on the purchase and sales agreement for a 0.6-mile trail corridor in the Wilson Road area that is part of the trail corridor needing to be acquired along SR 110/La Push Road between US 101 and La Push.
 - Member Gray noted that a meeting is planned to be held with the FHWA-Western Federal Lands (WFL) project team the last week of July. WFL is the lead for project design and construction on the County's approximately 8.6 million Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant. A key focus of the meeting will be to revisit project status and to reassess and confirm scope moving forward based on current budget gaps. Member Gray provided an overview of WFL project design work to date, current budget gaps, and areas and issues the County will want to address at the meeting. Considerable discussion followed. Member

Stevenson noted it was major step to get FLAP increased from 5 to 8 million previously and endorses County position to support getting design done and something built with available funding as best approach. More discussion followed.

- b. *RAISE Grant Update:* The City of Port Angeles in coordination with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) submitted the latest draft of the RAISE Agreement about two months ago to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for review. The Agreement must be in place prior to any funding eligible for work. WSDOT has entered the multi-jurisdictional RAISE grant projects (34 projects) into the 4-Year State Transportation Improvement Program.
- c. *OAT-Whiskey Creek Bridge Project:* Member Gray noted that the bridge has been ordered with delivery expected by mid-August. County is submitting permit application to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) this week. Construction expected between mid-August and mid-September.

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 June. Three workdays were spent on continued work related to improvement to the approaches (e.g., extending switchbacks) at the planned Whiskey Creek bridge crossing. The other work party day was trail tread/drainage work between MP 4-6.

3. County ODT/OAT Maintenance Reports:

7.5 days on ODT mostly mowing work various segments. Other work included repair of decking at Discovery Creek and Sieberts Creek trail bridge crossings.

7 days on OAT mostly related to Whiskey Bridge approach work and staging for the bridge replacement. Other work included corridor brushing and downed tree clearing.

4. Other ODT/OAT Reports:

- Member Sarles requested an update on the County's trail/road improvement project for Towne Road on top of the relocated levee. Member Gray reported project is under construction with completion anticipated in September. Member Clark-Getzin noted that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) modification permit has not been issued. Member Gray noted that County is permitted to do everything under current permit except open to traffic until stormwater system is approved by USCOE. County working on monitoring plan for the stormwater system with Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe as part of modification permit.
- Member Stevenson indicated the need to sweep off gravel on ODT section between Fairholme Summit and US 101 from recent maintenance work.
- Member Zarzeczny provided an update on the state timber sale in ODT-Gossett Road section area. Prior to harvest, the contractor is to provide a 15-day notice to DNR. Harvesting activity has been currently restricted due to dryness. Once harvesting activities commence the ODT-Gossett section will be temporarily closed. He will provide County notification once receive notice from contractor.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative (PS2P) Trip to Washington D.C. – Messages to Take.

Member Gray noted that the Rails and Trails Conservancy (RTC) invited a contingent of PS2P Collaborative to meet with them in Washington D.C. on July 22 and 23. RTC is leading way for the Great American Rails Trail (GART) from Washington D.C. with the ODT being the western terminus of the GART. He provided an overview of the targeted trip agenda that will include scheduling meetings with legislators (e.g., Senator Murrey), and noted that a lot of the success to complete the ODT will be reliant on federal funding. RTC is paying for PS2P representative flights and lodging for this trip.

Member Stevenson recommended if the opportunity presents a conversation with U.S. Forest Service with a message to streamline trail corridor acquisition on their lands.

Jeff Bohman indicated that this is a big deal and everybody that works on trails should feel proud of the role we have played over the years. RTC is not going to trail organizations elsewhere in Washington or other states GART crosses to pull contingent's together for this sort of purpose, at least currently.

Chair Commeree asked if the eastern terminus of GART was built. Jeff responded that the eastern terminus is in Washington D.C. and is completed.

2. First review of Clallam County 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) related to trail projects for the upcoming 2025-2030 update.

Member Stevenson inquired if TIP Project #'s 31 (ODT-Forks City Limits to Sappho Trail) and #32 (ODT-Sappho to Camp Creek Trailhead) should be combined given potential trail alignment alternatives in this gap. Member Gray responded should keep as separate projects to align with RAISE grant project descriptions. However, the County can combine the work related to the planning to identify alternative alignments in this gap.

Member Gray overviewed the ODT projects in the current Six-Year TIP (2024-2029).

Member Clark-Getzin noted adding the Jamestown S'Klallam and Clallam County ODT-Carlsborg Urban Growth Area (UGA) improvement projects as part of the update.

Chair Commeree asked how RAISE grant project timelines in TIP decisions made. Member Gray noted that these were preliminary target start dates and are flexible. He expects timelines to change. He suggested TAC look at the RAISE project to consider recommended project area priorities for scheduling work. Chair Commeree requested to make this as part of a continued discussion at the August TAC meeting.

Member Stevenson noted that almost all the RAISE project areas are related to gaps where the County lacks trail corridor right-of-way. County has traditionally operated on a will build wherever we can mode which sometimes means building pieces less important, including trail segments that don't currently connect. He recommends looking for openings in all RAISE project areas as opportunities present. Commissioner French supports pursuing opportunities but notes that staff does not necessarily have capital available to jump on every opportunity. Chair Commeree noted that County will need to identify alignments and design in place to position County to pursue opportunities first.

Further discussion tabled to the August TAC meeting.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jeff Bohman: Supports County purchasing the entire parcel for sale, separate what needed for trail corridor, and then sell the remainder. Announced the upcoming Tour of Lavender event the first Saturday in August and that this is time of year when the Warrior expedition of bicyclists comes across country and is expected to arrive here beginning in about a week.

Member Reandeau noted that when she asked a party of equestrian riders why riding on the pavement vs gravel shoulder on the ODT-Freshwater Bay to Thompson Road section they noted avoided gravel because gravel it was to sharp. Chair Commeree requested put on the agenda for further discussion on gravel surface types at the August TAC meeting.

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