

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) October 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Members Present: Charlie Commeree (Chair), Andy Stevenson, Gordon Taylor, Jennifer Reandeau, Judy Sarles, Justin Zarzeczny, Lorrie Mittmann, Dick Gritman, Grant Herman, Jim Mraz

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)
William Habel, Regional Trails & Active Transportation Coordinator
Mike French, County Commissioner

Guests/Public: Powell Jones, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (JSKT), Meggan-Uecker, City of Sequim, Michele Canale, Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC), Molly Erickson (PTC), Jeff Bohman (PTC), John Worthington, Eric Roher

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Taylor moved, and Member Herman seconded to approve the September 4, meeting minutes. The motion passed.

C. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- **Christina St. John – Clallam County Noxious Weeds – Presentation on Invasives along the Olympic Discovery Trail**

Christina started by giving a definition of what a noxious weed is. Noxious weeds are non-native plants that “when established are highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices”, and that not all invasive species are noxious weeds. She then went on to describe the damage that noxious weeds can cause, and how they spread so effectively. It’s important to ensure that equipment (such as mowers, tractors, etc) are sterilized of any possible noxious weed contamination. Common trail material such as mulch and gravel should also be certified weed free. Christina then presented some of the most common noxious weeds on the ODT, including Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, and poison hemlock. She explained some of the methods used to control these weeds.

Christina gave some tips on what members can do to ensure slowing the spread of noxious weeds. Clean your hiking gear, clean your equipment, ensure any materials brought in are certified weed free, properly dispose of noxious weeds, and learn how to identify what weeds are noxious.

To contact the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board, you can visit their website at: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/821/Noxious-Weed-Control>, or call 360-417-2442. You can also email Christina directly at christina.stjohn@clallamcountywa.gov

- **Michele Canale, PTC Grants Manager, and Jeff Bohman, PTC Board President, to overview what for projects PTC is applying for funding for 2025 Clallam County Lodging Tax Funding**

Jeff Bohman began by reminding the Committee of past projects, including the consolidation of portable toilet management (sanicans) under a single agency. He requested a letter of support from Clallam County Public Works in support of the sanican project, as well as other proposals. Michele

then informed the Committee of the projects that PTC intends to apply for with the Clallam County Lodging Tax Advisory Board. She stated a total request budget of \$50,000 for all proposed projects. Proposed projects include: trail maintenance tools, portable eco-counters, directional wayfinding signage, a continuation of the trail ambassador program, and a re-printing of the Olympic Adventure Trail map. Member Gray asked about the ambassador program, and asked if it might be possible to give a presentation at a later date illustrating the results of the program.

- **William Habel, Regional Trails & Active Transportation Coordinator, to overview Clallam County Public Works 2025 Lodging Tax Application Proposal**

Will gave a brief overview of Clallam County's proposed project, which includes the repair and repaving of a heavily damaged section of ODT from the edge of Sequim Bay State Park, to Barker Rd.

Approximately 700-1000 feet of asphalt need to be replaced. Root barriers will be installed in order to reduce future impact, and to monitor their effectiveness for possible future application in other areas of the trail. Will also stated that a backhoe attachment for the Counties newly acquired trail maintenance tractor will be wrapped into the application, as it would be useful for spot repairs on root intrusion, as well as other maintenance activities on the trail.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER UPDATES:

- **Acknowledgement of Dick Gritman**
 - Member Gray thanked Dick Gritman for his over 20 years of service to the Trails Advisory Committee. Member Gritman will be retiring after this year.
- **PTC at Washington State Trails Conference**
 - Member Sarles announced that she and Member Stevenson would be visiting the Washington State Trails Conference in Wenatchee the weekend of the 5th. Chair Commeree asked that Member Sarles introduce herself to representatives of Kitsap County in order for them to give a presentation to the TAC on Kitsap County's part of the RAISE grant.
- **Member Mittmann on ODT Events**
 - Member Mittman gave the group a brief presentation on this years Big Hurt & Little Hurt events. She informed the group that the Run the Peninsula Series is upcoming, the Spruce Railroad Run is upcoming on October 19th, and the Jamestown Run is December 7th.

E. TRAIL PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS:

- **ODT – Forks to La Push Project Update**

William Habel gave a brief update on the Forks to La Push Project, including an upcoming meeting with the Quileute Tribe & Western Federal Lands (WFL), and a recently drafted Acquisition Plan. Chair Commeree inquired about WFL's original 30% design of the Forks to La Push segment, which had most of the trail within highway 112's right-of-way, and if that had been addressed. Member Gray answered that WFL seemed to understand that the original proposal was for a 150 foot trail corridor, and that the acquisition plan was part of WFL's requests to ensure that the 150 foot trail corridor would be feasible. Member Gray reported that we would soon hear from WFL about the Acquisition Plan. Member Stevenson asked for more information about the Acquisition Plan. Member Gray answered that the document essentially outlines the progress that has been made with acquiring property along the Forks to La Push segment of the ODT.

- **OAT-Whiskey Creek Bridge Project Update**

William Habel gave a brief presentation on the completion of the volunteer constructed Whiskey Creek Bridge replacement. A timelapse of the construction was sent out to TAC members. Member Gray reminded the group that Clallam County Lodging Tax fully funded the project, and that it couldn't have been possible without volunteers.

- **RAISE Grant Update**

Member Gray gave a brief update on the RAISE grant. All jurisdictions involved have signed the agreement, except for Kitsap County. Kitsap County ran into a delay and is scheduling approval for October 14th. WSDOT has stated that all signatory parties must sign for the agreement to be valid. The County cannot yet access RAISE funding until Kitsap has signed the agreement.

- **County Acquisition of DNR River Road Property Update**

Member Gray informed the TAC that the county has closed on the purchasing of the River Road reservoir property, and that the governor has signed the agreement. He asked Member Zarzeczny about what else the DNR needs to do with the property before it is handed over, Member Zarzeczny said they just needed to remove some DNR signage. Member Sarles asked about the next steps. Member Gray said the reservoir project is moving forward, and that an open house will be hosted at the Guy Cole Center on October 22, at 6:00.

- **Towne Road/Dungeness Levee Trail Project Update**

Will Habel updated the group on the Towne Road project. The road surface has been chip sealed, and the separated trail is complete. He showed some pictures to the group. Striping would be completed later in the month, and ongoing work was being completed to finish the intersection of Towne Road and E Anderson. The road and trail were opened to the public on October 8th.

- **County Volunteer ODT/OAT Trail Crew Maintenance Project Reports**

Member Gray stated that there was 3 work days on the OAT, including a cleanup around the new bridge. 1 day on the ODT, in the Fairholm Hills area, mowing and clearing weeds.

- **County ODT/OAT Reports**

Jeff put in 10 work days on the ODT of mowing/brushing, and 2 additional work days of the OAT.

- **Upcoming OAT Detour**

Member Zarzeczny informed the group of the upcoming logging related detours. Right around milepost 10 there is active logging operations. He also told the group about an old yellow temporary barrier that should be removed. Member Gray told him that either DNR or Jeff could remove the temporary barrier.

- **New PTC Trail Maintenance Coordinator**

Member Gray inquired if the PTC had hired a Trail Maintenance Coordinator yet. Member Taylor informed the group that they had not, but had several candidates undergoing interviews.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Continued discussion on Clallam County 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) related to trail projects for the upcoming 2025-2030 update**

Chair Commeree led the discussion by advising that the TAC makes a recommendation for which projects of the RAISE Grant should be made a priority. Chair Commeree reminded the committee of the RAISE projects, which include: Waterline Road Final Design, planning studies for the Freshwater Bay Rd to Elwha River gap,

the Gosset Rd to Thompson/Onella Rd gap, the Forks to Sappho gap, the Sappho to Camp Creek Trailhead gap, and additional planning studies for two river crossings, including the Bogachiel River Crossing and the Bagley Creek Bridge replacement. Chair Commeree reiterated that the committee had decided to treat the two western gap projects as one project, and the two eastern gap projects as one project as well.

Chair Commeree then asked the committee to score the RAISE grant projects in a top 3 system in order for them to recommend a priority to the County Commissioners. Member Taylor then stated his fear that if a priority is recommended, it wouldn't be possible to move forward with a different project if the opportunity arrived. Member Gray answered that Clallam County Public Works has decided that all seven RAISE grants were to begin work in 2025, and that the priority being voted on would essentially be a recommendation of what the TAC considers to be the most important of those projects. The final hearing held by the BOCC for the 6 year TIP is to be held on November 12th. Member Stevenson stated he was happy that all projects were to start in 2025, and that importance does not necessarily equate to schedule priority.

The committee voted their top three choices. The results were as follows: Western (Forks Area) gap with 16 pts. Eastern (Joyce Area) Gap with 16 pts. And the Bagley Creek Bridge replacement study with 8 pts.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- John Worthington (Public, Online)- Opposes the Towne Rd Levee trail, as it does not interconnect with other trails.
- Member Stevenson- Reiterated that he does not agree with prioritizing RAISE sections.
- Member Gray- Inquired if the TAC has any recommendations or issues with the 6 Year TIP. Member Mittmann stated that she was in support of the TIP. Member Gray asked for a motion to approve the 6 year TIP, Member Taylor moved, Member Mittmann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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