

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)

February 4, 2026, 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), Gordon Taylor, Jim Mraz, Justin Zarzeczny, Grant Herman, Jennifer Reandeau, Erik Rohrer, Judy Sarles, Liz Cusanelli

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

William Habel, Regional Trails & Active Transportation Coordinator

Mike French, Clallam County Commissioner

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There was 1 request for modifications of the December 3rd, 2025 meeting minutes. It was pointed out that Ann Livingston's name was misspelled. With that change noted, the minutes were approved.

C. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- There were no modifications to the agenda.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Glenn Chipman from Forks came to thank the Committee for all of the work they do to promote and maintain equal access to those who are disabled, or in a wheelchair. He noted that he and his son average around 500 miles per year of trail travel.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER UPDATES:

- Member Reandeau inquired about the status of the equestrian adventure trail bypass near Joyce/Piedmont, and whether a decision had been made to either maintain, or discontinue the alternative route. Member Gray replied that Jeff Fitzwater and the volunteer crew had spent a work party fixing up the equestrian bypass, and confirmed that the county would continue to maintain the segment, rather than retiring existing trail segments.
- Chair Commeree inquired about timber sales along the trail, and if there were any currently closed sections. Member Zarzeczny replied that the Gossett Rd segment of the ODT was still closed, with active logging. A discussion ensued concerning the logging on the Gossett segment, ending with Member Zarzeczny proposing he would look into a solution for keeping the trail partially open during the logging operations.
- Member Taylor welcomed recommendations for new placements of trail counters.

F. TRAIL PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS:

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

Will informed the group that the negotiations with EFM for the westernmost section of needed right of way was nearly complete. He also informed the group that the company had also given the thumbs up to proceed with appraising the properties that the company had purchased from Rayonier, which would constitute over 90% of the needed right of way for the Forks to La Push segment.

Will then gave a quick update on the Calawah River Park and Bridge Segment. He told the group that a field trip out to the site with consultants was scheduled for the 5th, in order to start geotechnical work.

Chair Commeree inquired about the two DNR properties along the Forks to La Push route that were causing some difficulties. Will replied that negotiations with DNR and WSDOT were ongoing, and some preliminary solutions had been drafted.

- **ODT- RAISE Grant Update**

Will shared that there were no substantial updates relating to the RAISE grant difficulties around the multijurisdictional agreement. See recording for full discussion.

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

The volunteers spent 4 total days on the OAT, including the restoration of the equestrian bypass near MP20. December 18th through January 8th were cancelled, for holidays. During the last two work parties of January, the crew went to the ODT, near FS2918, doing general brushing, tree trimming and chipping.

G. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Banana Way to Carlsborg Crossing Project Update**

Member Commeree inquired about the status of the Carlsborg Crossing project. Member Clark-Getzin replied that the plans were at 90%, and were waiting for comments back from the County. Wendy was hoping for a spring-summer start of construction.

- **ODT- Elwha River Bridge to Freshwater Bay Rd Route Alternatives**

Will presented two possible routes to reach Freshwater Bay Rd from the Elwha River. Benefits and potential shortcomings were reviewed for both routes, followed by an intensive discussion. Please review meeting recording for full presentation and discussion.

- **ODT- Lodging Tax Updates/Proposal**

Will gave a brief update on the 2025 & 2026 Clallam County Lodging Tax projects. The root bump repairs from Barker Rd to Sequim Bay State Park, and the trail and base repair at the Dungeness River Nature Center. Will informed the group that the County was going out to bid soon, and hoped for construction in the spring.

Will then presented the County's planned application for the second round of 2026 Lodging Tax funding. The second round of funding is typically a smaller pot of money, so a smaller project is more suitable. A revitalization of the Deer Park Rest Area was the project the County settled on. Improvements will include repairs, repainting, greater integration with the ODT, adding a bike rack, lighting improvements and partial coverage of annual maintenance costs.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Rich James, board president of the Peninsula Trails Coalition, spoke about one of the two potential Elwha to Freshwater Bay Rd routes discussed earlier in the meeting. He emphasized that the PTC recommended the exploration of the southern route simply to get discussions going with the landholders, and that all routes should still be on the table.

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

Meeting recording available here: <https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3623/media>