

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)

April 2, 2025, 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, Judy Sarles, Lorrie Mittmann, Jim Mraz, Wendy Clark-Getzin, Erik Rohrer, Jennifer Reandeau, Grant Herman

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

William Habel, Regional Trails & Active Transportation Coordinator

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There were no requested changes to the meeting minutes during the meeting. The March meeting minutes were approved.

C. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- There were no requests to modify the agenda.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER UPDATES:

- **Announcements-**
 - Member Gray informed the group that a new Trails Maintenance Volunteer Coordinator, Jefferey Fitzwater, has been hired and will begin May 1st. There were 46 total applicants for the position.
 - Member Taylor informed the group that the PTC received a grant to purchase and install six new trail counters. These counters will provide additional data that was previously unavailable, including user behavior, throughput, and two new counters on the Adventure Trail.

E. TRAIL PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE REPORTS:

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

Will Habel provided a brief update on the Forks to La Push segment of the ODT. A neighborhood meeting will be held on May 15th of landowners and residents of the 3 Rivers Area, providing them with input opportunities, and information of Rights of Entry letters for upcoming environmental and cultural review. Member Gray provided some additional information, including an extension of the RCO acquisition grant. The hope is to finish the design and acquisition by the end of 2026. Member Stevenson expressed some concerns about utilizing Western Federal Lands for construction, as Western Federal has a high overhead cost, versus the county taking on the construction on their own. Member Gray replied that at least having the shovel ready design from WFL would greatly improve the Counties ability to seek out new funding sources, regardless of who delivers the final construction. Jeff Bohman inquired if there were any property owners who might put up a barrier to trail completion. Will Habel replied that the major landholders are all on board with the project, and the smaller property owners will be addressed in the coming public meeting.

- **ODT- RAISE Grant Update**

William Habel informed the group that the somewhat surprising state requirement of adding each individual project to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) has been completed. All Clallam County RAISE projects are on the STIP. The next steps will be individual local agreements with the state on each project. Member Clark-Getzin informed the group that all trail/bicycle infrastructure projects are under review by the federal government, and that the county should be prepared to defend these projects.

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

All four Volunteer crew days were spent on the Adventure Trail. The first two days were spent at MP17.25, finishing off the rebuilding project in the recently logged section. The final two days were spent around MP11, near another logging area. Will thanked recently retired volunteer coordinator Jeff Ralston for his continued help and support. The adventure trail is now completely open.

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

There were limited County Maintenance reports, as the County is waiting for the new Volunteer Coordinator/Maintenance position to start. Will placed non-slip material on the Whiskey Creek Bridge after complaints of a horse slipping. He used rolls of roofing material, combined with deck screws and stainless washers. He asked that any trail users report on conditions or degradations.

- **Other ODT/OAT Reports**

Member Taylor informed the group that the City of Port Angeles intends on closing the Marine Drive section of the trail for a few days during April. The larger repairs from the winter flooding will be closed at the end of April, for approximately 3 weeks.

Will Habel showed the group a volunteer recruitment flyer that he produced that is to be posted at popular areas and trailheads along the ODT and OAT.

Chair Commeree inquired about the Peninsula Trails Coalition's recent LTAX grants for Kiosks. Member Taylor replied that they were under construction and hadn't yet been installed.

Member Stephenson told the group that he continues to discuss with the Quileute Tribe what the trail terminus in La Push would look like.

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F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS

There were no additional discussion or business items.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- There was no public comment.

H. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.