

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) December 4, 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, Judy Sarles, Lorrie Mittmann, Dick Gritman, Grant Herman, Jim Mraz, Wendy Clark-Getzin, Erik Rohrer, Jennifer Reandeau, Liz Cusanelli

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: Jeff Bohman (PTC), Fred Young, Jeffery Spaulding (PTC), John Worthington, Victoria Jones

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There were no requested changes to the meeting minutes during the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Member Rohrer requested that the minutes to be changed to reflect his attendance, and to correct a misspelling. The minutes were changed prior to the meeting. Member Taylor moved to approve the minutes, with Member Sarles seconding. The November 6th meeting minutes were approved.

C. MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- There were no modifications to the agenda

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER UPDATES:

- **New Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) Trail Maintenance Lead**
 - Member Taylor introduced Jeffery Spaulding, the new PTC maintenance lead. Jeffery will be responsible for PTC maintenance from Diamond Point Road to the Elwha Bridge.
 - Chair Commeree inquired if there were any jurisdiction controlled areas of the trail that the PTC would not be working with. Member Taylor replied that was not the intention, and that the goal would be to coordinate maintenance efforts with the various Jurisdictions from Black Diamond to the Elwha River.
 - Member French inquired if this position was an additional resource for the PTC. Member Taylor replied that he desired some of his duties be transferred to this position as he is having difficulties keeping up as both the PTC and the ODT grow.
 - Member Taylor emphasized the coordination and collaboration with the various jurisdictions along the route.
 - Member Gray expanded upon this sentiment, citing the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that PTC has with the County. The MOA illustrates what sort of actions that the PTC is permitted to undertake with and without prior county approval and notification.
- **Run the Peninsula Series**
 - Member Mittman reminded the TAC that the final race of the Run the Peninsula Series would be occurring December 7th, the Jamestown Glow Run.

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. Will informed the group that the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) had given a conditional approval to move forward on the Calawah River Bridge Park project, and that final agreements were being made with the contracting firm responsible for designing both the bridge and ODT segment northwest of the bridge. Chair Commeree inquired if this project was the project that included the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) provisions. Member Gray and Will explained that it was, but that the intention will be to have the ORV sections completely separated from the ODT sections both on the ODT, and the bridge itself. Member Gray went on to clarify why the RCO needed to approve the project in the first place. The park, though now owned and operated by the City of Forks, was originally created through RCO grants relating to water access via a boat launch. The RCO had expressed concern that the new uses of the ODT and the ORV's would create conflict with the park's original intent. Information provided by the City of Forks and Clallam County to the RCO eliminated those concerns.

- **RAISE Grant Update**

William Habel informed the TAC that the Puget Sound to Pacific RAISE funding had officially been re-signed by the Board of County Commissioners during the November 26th regular meeting. Chair Commeree inquired if all other jurisdictions had already signed, or were ready to sign. Jeff Bohman (PTC) informed the group that all had, with three exceptions: The Quileute Tribe, Poulsbo, and Kitsap County. Chair Commeree asked if when all jurisdictions had signed off, would the money be available. Member Gray replied that there would be one step prior to having access to the funding, as the County would still have to enter into an Local Agency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) prior to any expenditures, as WSDOT is the managing agency of the project.

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

There were 3 volunteer work parties during the month of November. Two work parties took place on the ODT, one on the OAT. On the 7th, the crew was out on the ODT by North Bagley Creek, cutting, trimming and chipping trees. On the 14th, the crew was on the OAT, between mileposts 2 and 3. More tree trimming and cutting, with some general tread and drainage work. For the 21st, the crew was again on the ODT, from Spring Road to Lewis Road. More tree trimming and general brush control. Will informed the group that Jeff Ralston had expressed he was happy to see that there was much less blowdown during the large November storms than he had expected.

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

Jeff spent 8 days on the ODT, 2 days on the OAT, and two days in the shop maintaining tools and getting the new/used truck ready for trail duty. For the ODT side of things, Morse Creek to Bagley Creek had the trail edge scraped, and were broomed. Morse Creek to Old Olympic were broomed the next day. Seiberts Creek to East were broomed on the 18th. Spring Road to Lewis Rd received the same treatment on the 21st.

- **Other ODT/OAT Reports**

Will informed the group that the Clallam County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee had voted to grant Public Works \$100,000 of the requested \$131,371.60 for the Sequim Bay State Park to Barker Rd Root intrusion repair project. Will told the group he was still confident that the project could still be accomplished without too significant of a reduction in scope. Chair Commeree inquired how the PTC had fared with their LTAC application. Jeff Bohman (PTC) replied that he believed they had received \$40,000 of the requested, a slight reduction of what was requested.

The City of Port Angeles should give a presentation during the February meeting.

Chair Commeree reminded the group that there will be no January meeting.

Member Stevenson asked for any updates on the Forks to La Push land acquisition project, and if Public Works had heard back from Western Federal Lands. Member Gray responded that he and Will had a meeting with one of the large landowners along the route (Ecotrust Forest Management) in December. Other large landowners were pending. Member Gray told the group that a MOA was being negotiated with Western Federal Lands, for a 30% design, and full environmental review for the Forks to La Push segment.

Member Stevenson inquired if any progress had been made with the acquisition of the US Forest Service property on the Waterline Road segment of the DNR. Member Gray replied that action would be taken once the RAISE funding had been secured.

Jeff Bohman (PTC) inquired if there had been any progress on the parking issue near Tributary Lane on Old Olympic Highway. Member Gray informed him the County intended on putting up signs that indicate that parking is not permitted in that area, and that parking can be found nearby.

F. DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Carlsborg Road Crossing Improvements**

Member Clark Getzin gave the group a brief update on the status of the ODT crossing at Carlsborg Rd. She said that work was ongoing, but there was some delay in funding and grant agreement negotiations.

- **Other notes/Discussion**

There will be no January TAC meeting. Chair Commeree expressed his desire to hear from the City of Port Angeles relating to the RAISE grant, and to the Waterfront Trail. Timothy Tucker from the City of Port Angeles Parks Department has said he or a representative will be present at the **February** meeting

G. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- John Worthington- Discussed the “Go Natural” policy.

H. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m.