

Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Andy Stevenson, Dave Burt, Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzeczny, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Chuck Preble, Charlie Commeree, and Gordon Taylor.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works/Road Department

Steve Gray opened with announcing that Dave Burt informed him he is stepping down and thanked him for his many years of service on the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC). Steve also noted that Gordon Taylor was recently appointed by the County Commissioners as the Western Area Representative, and introduced Brian Turner who will filling in today as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representative for Justin Zarzeczny.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES:

Andy Stevenson moved to approve the December 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Gary Gleason seconded. The motion passed.

BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Nominations/Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Kat Sample nominated Andy Stevenson as Chair, which was seconded by Dick Gritman. The nomination was passed with all in favor.

Dick Gritman nominated Gary Gleason as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Andy Stevenson. The nomination was passed with all in favor.

2. Trails Advisory Committee Web Page

Steve distributed and reviewed the contents of the new TAC web page that describes committee functions, representation, meeting times, and other information. It will also include upcoming meeting agendas and adopted minutes.

3. Other Discussion

Gary Gleason noted that he also serves on the Planning Commission (PC) and provides the PC updates on the trail based on TAC meetings. He also restated his concern about need for development of camping facilities to support trail users on the west-end and review of County zoning to allow for such facilities. Andy Stevenson noted that Gary could bring back any questions the PC may have of the TAC. Gary noted that the County's annual 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update is generally the time the PC provides input on ODT projects. Steve noted he could attend a PC meeting if needed in advance of the 6-Year TIP review.

Charlie Commeree commented that during his time on the TAC the focus has been on the ODT and ODT-Adventure Trail. He asked why other trails such as the Striped Peak trail in County Parks are not in our purview. Steve noted that TAC was formed with a focus on completion of the ODT, but that the TAC can provide input on other trail efforts. Andy Stevenson concurred that the primary focus of the Committee has always been on the ODT because the Committee is supported by the County Road Department who is responsible for the ODT. If want to change that direction to open to all County trails, we should make it explicit.

Chuck Preble commented that another reason for the focus of the Committee on the ODT is that is a transportation corridor that is different from park trails. County Parks focuses on the park-related. I don't think we want to change that, but we may want to provide liason between us and the Parks Department. Steve Gray added that there is a County Parks Advisory Board that focuses on recreational facilities within County Parks. Communicating between advisory boards and other agencies on trail planning and connections is an appropriate focus of the TAC.

Brian Turner, DNR Representative, commented that DNR is expanding trail system on Stripped Peak. DNR has three designated trails in Clallam County: 1) Foothills, 2) Stripped Peak, and 3) Sadie Creek. There are other trails on DNR lands, but these are the state designated ones. The DNR Sadie Creek and Foothills trails are also open for ORV users.

PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

Steve Gray provided ODT project updates:

- *County Lodging Tax \$250,000 Grant for Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) Improvements.* County Commissioners approved contract for \$250,000 grant funding with Road Dept. on January 21, 2020 to assist with the funding for two projects: (1) paving of the approximately 1.6 mile, new Gossett Rd to Waterline Rd section this spring; and (2) engineering evaluation and design for the ODT Dawley Rd area trail slump stabilization and restoration.
- *ODT-Port Angeles Waterfront Storm Damage Repair Update.* The City hopes to complete the repair of the two sections of ODT waterfront that experienced trail loss due to storm and wave damage, and also removal of landslide debris by the end of week. The County will be assisting with the repairs. Chuck Preble asked if detour signage was installed while section is closed. Gordon Taylor indicated that a detour information sign was installed by him as a Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) volunteer working with the City. Chuck noted the importance of detour signage on future ODT segment closures by all trail jurisdictions, and suggested that PTC can assist.

The City is working on obtaining ACOE and WDFW permits related to emergency repairs and also on-going normal routine maintenance and repairs of the waterfront section. The County issued shoreline permit approvals for current repairs and future normal routine maintenance actions.

- *ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail Final Phase.* 10 bids were received with the low bid being from Bruch & Bruch Construction at just over 5 million dollars. The pre-construction meeting is targeted for February 20, 2020, with construction to begin in early-March. The trail section will be open for the Frosty Moss Relay event. Based on bid documents, anticipate construction to be completed in October. The project will include completing the paving of the trail around the lake.

Andy Stevenson asked whether County will be maintaining this trail section. Steve indicated that the trail is located in the Olympic National Park (ONP) and ONP is ultimately responsible for maintenance. Gordon Taylor noted that PTC is in discussion with ONP to develop agreements for PTC volunteer efforts to help maintain this section of trail. Steve indicated that in the interim the County volunteer coordinator and County volunteers have assisted with trail maintenance.

- *ODT-Dawley Rd Area Trail Slump Stabilization and Repair Update.* The County Assistant Engineer has done initial site evaluation and met with WA. State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) engineers to discuss potential drainage maintenance issues

related to highway runoff collected on the south-side of US 101 that is directed under the highway and outletting below the slump area. The County is also repairing pipe on the east side of slump that conveys stormwater drainage from north side of highway and above the gabion baskets along the trail. The County has also requested use of state Geotechnical drill rig to support the evaluation.

- *ODT-Forks to La Push Update.* County is still awaiting decision from Rayonier on County offer to purchase land for trail between Calawah River and the A-Road. Steve noted he will be meeting with city staff to discuss trail route, funding, and issues for the first section between Calawah River Park and the A-Road located with the City limits. He also noted County nearing completion of survey right-of-way plat for planned trail section between SR 110 and Three Rivers Area (Mora Rd. area).
- *Waterline Road Section Paving and Widening.* Brian Turner, DNR, noted that the DNR plans to do timber harvest and clearing along the Waterline Road corridor in 2020. Steve noted that this benefits the future planned widening and paving of this section. Brian also noted that large timber sales/harvests planned to occur with next three years, and may be best not to pave to after harvesting operations.
- *ODT-Adventure Trail - New Trail Courtesy Signage.* County has started installing the trail courtesy signage provided by PTC on the ODT-Adventure Trail. In addition, the County will be assisting in installing Trail Crossing warning signs on DNR road crossing along the ODT-Adventure Trail. The Trail Crossing signs were provided by DNR.
- *ODT-Port Angeles (10th Street to Valley Creek Estuary Connection) Update.* 30% plan designs are available on the City's web site, with complete plans anticipated soon.
- *Jefferson County ODT Updates.* Steve referred to Jefferson County ODT project updates at the Jefferson County web page links provided previously. Chuck Preble expressed concerns on how Pope selling out to Rayonier will affect trail corridor acquisition in Jefferson County. Brian Turner, DNR, thinks negotiations with Rayonier may be easier related to experience with trail in Clallam County.
- *Diamond Pt. to County Line/Old Gardiner Road.* The project remains on the County's Six-Year Transportation Program with the plan to get the trail corridor cleared in 2020. The County will need to obtain permits from WSDOT to perform the clearing and trail preparation work in the highway right-of-way, and also coordinate with Jefferson County for the small section between the county line and Old Gardiner Road.
- *Pierce Road Area.* Andy Stevenson asked for any updates of the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT) plan to pave the ODT-Pierce Rd. area section. Steve noted that Annette Neese, JSKT Transportation Program Manager, indicated that the plan is to pave this summer.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

Steve reported that the County volunteer trail crew January efforts included pulling tree starts in trail shoulder west of Lake Crescent. A County ODT Volunteer Crew appreciation potluck was also held in January at the ODT-Adventure Trail. Prior to the potluck, volunteers did maintenance on the first section of the Adventure Trail. There was a great newspaper article on the appreciation event and volunteers in the Peninsula Daily News. In January, the County trail maintenance staff and volunteers also spent significant time removing numerous fallen trees from storm events.

Steve indicated the rock protection of the Dean Creek Bridge repair was so far holding up to the rising waters. To be prepared, the County chain gang will assist on Friday filling sand bags for staging at the site.

Steve indicated he has visited the Whiskey Creek horse crossing on the ODT-Adventure Trail and discussed the maintenance/improvement need with County trail maintenance staff. Jennifer Reandeau volunteered to arrange a site visit to bring a horse to assist with how best to improve the switchback turns. The County will be planning a future volunteer work party to improve trail surface and switchbacks.

Andy Stevenson noted would like to discuss at a future date the renumbering of trail mileage starting from the County line. Gordon Taylor noted would need to coordinate any changes with emergency services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A comment of appreciation was noted related to repairs at ODT Milepost 26 and reopening the Dean Creek Bridge crossing.

Andy Stevenson thanked Dave Burt for his many years of service. This appreciation was shared by all and Dave was applauded for his service.

NEXT – MEETING

Next meeting will be March 4, 2020.