

# Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) December 18, 2019 Meeting Notes

## **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was opened.

*Members Present:* Andy Stevenson, Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzeczny , Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Chuck Preble, Charlie Commeree, and Jason Anderson.

*County Representatives:* Steve Gray, County Public Works/Road Department  
Bill Peach, County Commissioner

*Public in Attendance:* Gordon Taylor and Richard Bloomer.

No changes were made to the agenda.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES:**

Andy Stevenson moved to approve the November 20, 2019 meeting notes. Gary Gleason seconded. The meeting notes were approved without amendment.

## **BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Steve Gray reminded the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) that consistent with the meeting guidelines adopted at the last meeting the TAC will be considering nominations/elections for chair and vice-chair at the first meeting in 2020.

Steve introduced Commissioner Bill Peach and noted that the County Commissioners annually look at their Committee assignments. With the remaining significant gaps in the trail being in his district, Commissioner Peach is very interested in being the Commissioner appointment to the TAC. He would be a non-voting member. Commissioner Peach expressed his appreciation for work of the TAC. TAC members welcomed having a County Commissioner resource.

### **1. Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) Training.**

Steve Gray introduced Elizabeth Stanley, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Elizabeth provided an overview of the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA), RCW 42.30, and how it relates to the meetings of the TAC. OPMA is a state law that applies to governing bodies including advisory committees like the TAC. It supports public transparency, including how the public is made aware of public meetings.

Members of the public cannot be required to sign-in to attend meetings. You may put out a sign—in or contact sheet, but cannot require the public to sign it.

Public members are allowed to record, video and take pictures during meetings. The only way you can exclude a member of the public from a meeting is only if they are being so disruptive you cannot conduct business. Just annoying you or making you uncomfortable is not enough.

Deliberations of the TAC are subject to public records requests. Elizabeth noted that the County has a public records specialist that coordinates responses to public records requests. If a request was made related to public records a TAC member(s) may possess (e.g., emails), the public record officer would ask the TAC member(s) to fill out and sign a form that documents you have searched your records and either found or did not find responsive records. The records officer would work with you to obtain any responsive records. Steve added that the County will likely have all or most records related to the business and deliberations of the TAC.

To increase public awareness of TAC meetings, Steve noted that he is working on creating a TAC web page under the existing link for Boards, Committees and Groups on the Clallam County Home Page that will be available soon and include agendas, meeting notes/minutes, and a contact link. He also noted other recent efforts to promote public awareness and accessibility to TAC deliberations including sound recording of meetings, preparing meeting notes, and starting in 2020 meeting in the County Commissioners Meeting Room that is more accessible and allows meetings to be live streamed and video recording for later viewing.

## 2. ODT 2020 Improvement Lodging Tax Grant Application

Steve noted that in early-December, the County Public Works/Road Department submitted an application to the Clallam County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) requesting \$250,000 to aid in funding of planned 2020 Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) Improvement Projects. Steve noted that he made a presentation to the LTAC on December 12 that addressed:

- ODT 2020 Planned Work Program Areas and our funding request.
- Status of ODT and remaining trail gaps and how addressing these gaps fits within the framework of LTAC 's strategic planning effort for future lodging tax grant funding.
- How the County used 2017 and 2019 lodging tax grants totaling \$325,000 to help make the current trail construction between Gossett and Waterline Roads possible.

General discussion followed.

Gary Gleason also commented on the need for lodging and camping opportunities along the ODT. Andy Stevenson noted that the trail sections in the western parts of the County will allow for dispersed camping in sections such as USFS lands and some state lands. Chuck Preble commented on a need for parking in the ODT-Gossett Road section area. .

Steve noted that the LTAC took action at their December 12 meeting to recommend approval of the \$250,000 funding request to the County Commissioners for the following two ODT 2020 projects:

- (1) Engineering evaluation/design to address stabilization and restoration of ODT trail east of Dawley Road (~M.P. 26). Funding can also be used for stabilization and restoration efforts; and
- (2) Paving of the Gossett to Waterline Rd. Section.

County Roads will be targeting the lodging tax grants on an annual basis as a source of funding for ODT improvements.

## 3. Washington Recreation & Conservation Office 2020 Trail Grant Programs

Steve noted that he met with Beth Auerbach, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, to review 2020 RCO Grant Programs and Application Deadlines, and potential targeted projects as summarized below:

- **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Trails Category.** This is the grant category the County has received previous funding assistance for ODT improvements.

Deadline: May 1, 2020

Grant Limit: No limit

Match: 50%

*Potential Targeted Project:* Land and right-of-way acquisition for the ODT- Forks to La Push section along SR 110/La Push Rd. This planned ODT segment has been selected under the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for trail construction. The County needs additional funding for land and right-of-way acquisition.

**Recreational Trails Program** – Funding to rehabilitate and maintain backcountry recreational trails and facilities and to educate users about trail safety or environmental protection.

Deadline: September 1, 2020

Grant Limit: \$150,000

Match: 20%

*Potential Targeted Project:* ODT-Adventure Trail maintenance. Such a funding request would likely to be based on more comprehensive trail maintenance needs. Another idea is trail safety/courtesy education (e.g., signage). Jennifer Reandeau noted the at-grade horse crossing at Whiskey Creek needs work.

- **Nonhighway and Off Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA) Trails.** For backcountry trails and off-road vehicle parks.

Deadline: September 1, 2020

Grant Limit: \$200,000

Match: None.

### **PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS**

- *ODT-Trail Loss East of Dawley Rd.* In late-November, the section received asphalt patching of major cracks and dips caused by previous hillside movement. As noted related to the LTAC grant, the County plans to address trail slump stabilization and restoration to the damaged approximately 100-foot trail section east of Dawley Road in 2020. The first phase will be engineering evaluation and design.
- *ODT-Diamond Pt to East County Line.* In 2020, the County is hoping to extend the ODT from Diamond Point Road to the eastern Clallam County line and also a short extension to connect to Old Gardiner Road in Jefferson County. This segment is approximately ~600 feet and would be a separated trail in the right-of-way of US 101. Requires coordination and permitting with WA Department of Transportation and Jefferson County.
- *ODT – Freshwater Bay to Thompson Rd Section.* The County Volunteer Trail crew completed construction of a segment of separated horse trail on the north side of Onella Road starting at the intersection with Thompson Road. The separated horse trail parallels the road and connects back to the constructed gravel ODT-horse trail along the north-side of Onella Road.
- *ODT - Gossett to Waterline Rd.* The approximately 1.6 mile segment trail corridor has been constructed. Paving will occur in spring 2020. 2019 key accomplishments included trail corridor clearing, grading, and drainage control; culvert installation (including two large crossing); bridge installation; and constructing the rock trail base. Pictures of progress were shown.
- *ODT – Spruce Railroad Trail Final Phase Project.* Project is out to bid by Western Federal Lands with the bid opening date of January 7, 2020. Assuming an acceptable bid, the notice to proceed date (earliest date for construction start) is currently February 27, 2020.
- *ODT – Waterline Road Segment.* Planned 2020 work is to complete the survey and secure remaining easement on the approximately 0.5 miles of the existing gravel logging road on US Forest Service land for shared ODT use and improvements (e.g., paving). The County will need to secure funding for widening and paving of this segment. Current projection is 2022 or later subject to available funding.

- *ODT – Forks to La Push.* For the planned segment connecting the Calawah River Park to the SR 110/US 101 intersection and the Sitkum-Sol Duc Rd (aka A-Road), the County has made a purchase offer to acquire approximately 11 acres from Raynonier that is pending their review. The County has a \$300,000 pledge from a private trust for a new trail bridge across the Calawah River. Additional funding will need to be secured for bridge construction that is estimated around 1 million dollars.

For the approximately 11.5 mile planned ODT segment along SR 110 (La Push Rd.) between US 101 and La Push, the County was selected for over 5 million in funding for trail construction under the Federal Lands Access Program. The County must first secure right-of-way along this corridor. The County survey crew is working on completing survey and related mapping to support needed trail right-of-way acquisition. Additional County funding will need to be secured for purchase of needed right-of-way. Western Federal Lands transportation improvement program (FY 2020 to 2024) currently shows 2023 as program fiscal year targeted to obligate construction.

Other project reports included:

- Gordon Taylor briefed the TAC on his efforts on behalf of Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) to replace batteries for the trail counters at Hollywood Beach, Elwha River Bridge and Camp Creek. Steve noted that PTC is assisting the City of Port Angeles and the County in replacing and maintaining trail counters. PTC is purchasing the battery replacements at all three sites. Gordon is also working with the vendor on trouble-shooting issues of transmitting data from the remote Camp Creek counter site.
- Steve reported that he and the new County GIS Manager met with Andy Stevenson to obtain information on his ODT map and related data layer. The County will be updating its ODT trail layer in 2020.
- Justin Zarzeczny, Department of Natural Resources, reported on the new trail being constructed by the Backcountry Horsemen between the Miller Peninsula State Park and Pierce Road.

### **ODT MAINTENANCE UPDATES/REPORTS**

Discussion was had on storm damage on the ODT-Waterfront section and status of City efforts. Steve summarized recent efforts by the County Volunteer Trails crew such as pulling thousands of tree starts on gravel horse paths along trail on ODT west end sections.

Commissioner Peach noted that Title 2 funding grant window is now open. Funds generally target projects of 10K or less. County last-time applied for funding to support chain gang work efforts.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Richard Bloomer commented on his ODT interest and the work of this group.

### **NEXT – MEETING**

TAC meetings in 2020 are moving to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month and will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room. The next TAC meeting will be on February 5, 2020. No meeting in January due to holiday.