

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
September 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order. The meeting was conducted both in-person and via video/phone conferencing.

Members Present: Andy Stevenson, Justin Zarzecny, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Gordon Taylor, Charlie Commeree, Bill Biery and Richard Bloomer.

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

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Chair Stevenson suggested a future agenda item for discussion be an inventory of restroom facilities along the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) and who is responsible (i.e., paying the bills) for them. Steve Gray will work with Gordon Taylor to develop the inventory to report back at a future meeting. Mr. Taylor noted that he believes all of the chemical toilets are being rented from Bill's Plumbing.

Richard Bloomer inquired whether to add a discussion item regarding removal of bollards in Sequim. Chair Stevenson added whether intent is to tie into a process for the TAC to advocate for prioritizing bollards for removal. Mr. Gray noted that bollard removal will be up to the trail jurisdiction responsible. Discussion followed with no action taken at this time on what the role of the TAC should be on prioritizing bollards recommended to be removed.

Mr. Biery reported that the City of Sequim is working on finalizing a contract to remove trail root bumps between Whitefeather Way to Hendrickson Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gordon Taylor moved and Gary Gleason seconded approval of the July 7, 2021 meeting minutes, which were approved with all in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

Mr. Gray provided the following announcements:

- The Clallam County Public Works/Road Department hired Tanner Boggs for the Trail Maintenance Worker/Volunteer Coordinator position effective August 1. Tanner has been performing similar duties for the County for the past 3-years as a part-time, contract worker.
- The anticipated temporary closure and detour (due to harvesting on state forest lands) of the approximately 2-mile, section of the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) starting from the west side of the Joyce Access Road is not expected to occur for at least three weeks; and therefore, will not impact the GOAT Trail Event on September 11. The Joyce Access Road will serve as a detour of the closed OAT segment once harvesting begins.
- All three Clallam County Commissioners participated in the ODT Ian's Ride trail event by wheelchair to gain a perspective of the experiences and challenges of this trail user group within their respective District. This experience resulted in the County Commissioners requesting the County Public Works/Roads Department for an ODT update to cover recent accomplishments,

what's next, and also focused discussion on ODT maintenance. The work session is tentatively scheduled for October 25.

Mr. Biery reported that he encourages Committee members to check out the six Safe Hit Bollards the City of Sequim installed on the ODT along Washington Street from the Simdars Road intersection heading west. These bollards are flexible plastic poles that are placed in a rubber flange bolted into the asphalt.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Miller Peninsula State Park and Sequim Bay State Park Planning Process

Mr. Gray provided background information and referred to packet materials related to the trail and camping alternatives under consideration now as part of the Washington State Parks planning process for both Miller Peninsula State Park and Sequim Bay State Park. Discussion followed. Chair Stevenson motioned to send a letter from the TAC to State Parks in support of: 1) retaining/expanding hiker/biker camping opportunities at Sequim Bay State Park, and 2) for a future ADA suitable trail connection from Miller Peninsula State Park to the ODT. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and passed with all in favor. Chair Stevenson will work with Mr. Gray to draft the letter for his signature on behalf of the TAC.

2. Olympic Discovery Trail User Counts

Mr. Gray reported trail user counts from the new counter installed at the ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail (ODT-SRRT) E. Beach Road/Lyre River Trailhead for the period from July 7 (date of counter installation) thru August 31 (data retrieved at 2:00 pm). Total user counts for this period were 53,758 with a daily average of 960 users and peak day of over 1,600 users. Pedestrian use counts are about four times higher than cyclist counts. Total counts by direction were 15,342 and 14,581 users, respectively, with a daily average exceeding 500 per day. During this period, the ODT-SRRT exceeded user counts at Hollywood Beach (Port Angeles Waterfront Trail Section) and the Dungeness River Railroad Park Bridge. Discussion followed.

Chair Stevenson indicated that he noticed an ebike rental business operating out of the ODT-SRRT E. Beach Road/Lyre River Trailhead parking area on several occasions and inquired about who regulates such activity. Mr. Gray responded that would be Olympic National Park.

3. Trail Advisory Committee Representation

Mr. Gray noted that all current TAC representative terms expire (except Richard Bloomer – recently appointed) at the end of the year. TAC representatives who are interested in continuing will need to submit your interest for reappointment in writing (e.g., by email).

Mr. Gray referred to the meeting packet materials that provided background on current TAC representative positions and provided the following recommendations:

- Add a Trail-Related Business Representative (e.g., bike shops, event coordinators, etc...). Related to this recommendation Mr. Gray noted that he was contacted by a trail business owner to inquire about adding such representation to the TAC.
- Amend the four regional representative positions to clarify as “Citizen at-large” positions versus representing “advocacy groups.” Related to this recommendation it was noted that advocacy groups are already represented on the TAC such as Peninsula Trails Coalition, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, and Olympic Peninsula Bicycle Alliance.

- Add a Tribal Representative(s) if they are interested. Related to this recommendation it was noted that the ODT currently includes sections managed by the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe and its planned western terminus is at the Quileute Tribal community of La Push.

Commissioner Peach noted he has a good relationship with Quileute Tribe, and willing to assist with obtaining Tribal representation.

Mr. Gleason stated that “trail event coordinator” and “bike shop” are separate interests. Chair Stevenson agreed and supported recommending as two separate positions. .

Mr. Gleason inquired regarding who is responsible for obtaining trail event permits and where do they apply. Mr. Gray noted that the County has a special event permit and that event coordinators may need to get multiple permits if the event crosses other jurisdictions.

Chair Stevenson expressed support to clarify and change the four regional “advocacy group” representatives to regional “citizen-at-large” representatives. He also supported the recommendation of adding Tribal representative(s). He added that he is concerned that we do not have regular participation on the TAC by Olympic National Park and U.S. Forest Service representatives.

Mr. Gleason asked if trail event coordinators could report to the TAC before their events. Mr. Gray indicated that the TAC could invite event coordinators to a meeting to talk about their events. Mr. Taylor noted that most trail events are currently coordinated by three event coordinators. Mr. Gray noted there may be others in the future.

Mr. Taylor expressed concern related to grouping trail-related businesses under a single commercial representation.

Chair Stevenson motioned and Mr. Taylor seconded to change the four regional “advocacy group” representatives to regional “citizen-at-large” representatives. The motion passed with all in favor.

Chair Stevenson motioned to add both a trail event coordinator and commercial bike sales representative positions. Mr. Taylor opposed limiting to “bike sale” businesses only and suggested generalizing to Commercial Trail Business. Mr. Stevenson agreed with the change and the motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed with all in favor.

Chair Stevenson motioned and Mr. Taylor seconded to add tribal representation to the TAC. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Gray indicated that he will package these TAC recommendations for consideration by the Board of Clallam County Commissioners (BOCC) along with TAC reappointments. He plans to note these recommendations during the upcoming October planned BOCC work session on the ODT.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

1. ODT-Clallam County East-End Projects

Dawley Road Area Trail Stabilization and Restoration Project

Mr. Gray provided an update of the trail repair project just east of Dawley Road that is underway. He shared photos of both the prior condition and the current trail repair work in progress. Progress to-date includes substantial excavation of the repair area. He also shared photos of the sand/composite filled bags that will make up the support wall to be constructed and also the ridged

Styrofoam blocks that will be part of the fill material to lessen weight on the slope as part of the repair. The latest estimate is mid-or-late September to complete the work.

Pierce to Old Blyn Highway Construction and Paving

Mr. Gray reported that the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT) still hopes to break ground this year to widen and pave the current narrow and unpaved ODT-Pierce to Old Blyn Highway segment. The main issue at this time is the construction cost estimate.

Chair Stevenson noted that the tread in this section is getting real soft and grabby and presenting a hazard for narrow tire bicycles. If not improved soon, signage may be needed to warn of conditions. Mr. Gray indicated he will pass on this concern to JSKT.

Trail Restoration Near Dungeness River Center Expansion

Mr. Gray reported that the JSKT will be doing ODT grading and paving restoration work related to the Dungeness River Center Expansion on September 2 and 3 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 pm. During these times, the trail will be closed from Priest Road to the trail intersection between the River Center amphitheater and Picnic Shelter. Hendrickson Road will serve as the detour route.

2. ODT-Clallam County West-End Project Updates

ODT- Forks Calawah River Boat Launch Park to Sitkum-Sol Duc Road

Mr. Gray reported that the County received state approval to authorize the County's preliminary engineering phase for the planned, approximately 1-mile ODT segment between the Forks Calawah River Boat Launch and the Sitkum-Sol Duc Road. Authorization makes federal funds previously awarded now available to the County for engineering work. He anticipates the County initiating engineering design related work and environmental review work this year and targeting completing this work and securing permits in 2022. Next-steps will include additional survey work and possibly borings.

ODT-Forks to La Push Along the SR 110 Corridor

Mr. Gray restated as at prior meetings that the future design and construction of this approximately 12-mile segment from US 101 in Forks to La Push will be led by the Western Federal Lands Highway Division and phased related to federal funding. He also reported that the County continues to work on the needed acquisition of the trail corridor between US 101 and the Olympic National Park Boundary. The appraisal for the section between US 101 and Ballard Road was recently completed and now under review by a "review appraiser."

It was reported that the County received the grant agreement from the Washington State Recreation Conversation Office (RCO) related to the County's grant award for trail corridor acquisition. The next-step is to take the Agreement to County Commissioners with a work session scheduled on Tuesday and with possible action on September 14. Following signature of both the County and RCO, the grant monies will become available for land acquisition. It is anticipated that negotiations with landowners in the first 7-miles (between US 101 and Ballard Road) will begin this fall.

Mr. Gray also reported that County work is underway to conduct a Hazardous Substances Certification review of lands in the planned trail corridor. This review is a grant requirement.

Chair Stevenson inquired whether reasonable assumption proposal go to Rayonier before year-end. Mr. Gray responded that the goal is to initiate negotiations before the end of year.

3. Other Trail Project Reports

No other trail reports.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. County Thursday Volunteer Crew August/September Projects

It was reported that the County Volunteer Crew held two work party days on the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) and five work party days on the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) in August/early-September as summarized below:

- ODT-Kaycee Way to Elwha River Bridge Section: Brushing, mowing, trail surface blowing, trash pick-up and asphalt crack repair.
- ODT-Siebert Creek to Bagley Creek Section: Brushing, trimming and blowing debris off of trail.
- OAT brushing and tread work west of "white gate" near MP 15.
- OAT repair of culvert washout west of Joyce-Piedmont Road (near the horse trail). This was a 2-day project.
- OAT repair of a second eroded trail culvert crossing west of Joyce-Piedmont Road.

2. County Maintenance Report Summary for August/September

In addition to the earlier report of the County's trail repair east of Dawley Road, highlights of County trail maintenance work for August/early-September were reported as summarized below:

- *Mowing:* All County-managed sections (at least once). PTC assisted with mowing.
- *Bollard Removal:* Four bollards were removed by the County in eastern parts of the County since the July TAC meeting that included: 1) the center bollard located about a 100-yards east of the ODT-Gasman Road intersection that was not needed due to existing bollards located at the road intersection; 2) two center bollards located on both sides of a private driveway crossing east of Lewis Road; and 3) a side bollard near Ruban Road in the vicinity of Robin Hill Park.
- *Bollard Maintenance:* The County continued bollard maintenance (painting, pavement warning line painting and reflective tape) between N. Barr Road to Waterline Road (not including City of Port Angeles Sections), and also County-managed sections in the Fairholm Hill area west of Lake Crescent. Mr. Taylor commented that he has heard a lot of complements on the paint visibility. Mr. Gray noted that the County is awaiting its paint order to complete bollard maintenance out west.
- *Root Removal:* Repaired several root damaged section of the trail east of the Elwha River Bridge Crossing.
- *Lake Farm Crossing:* Cleared line of sight clearing at the ODT crossing of Lake Farm Road.
- *Trail Crack Patching:* Patched multiple large cracks between the Dean Creek and Jimmycomelately Creek ODT section.
- *Elwha River Bridge Area Graffiti:* Removed and painted over extensive graffiti damage both on and around the ODT-Elwha River Bridge crossing.
- *Surface Debris Blowing:* Conducted surface debris blowing work on various trail sections.

3. Other Maintenance Reports

Mr. Biery reported that he heard of a report of a body found on the ODT just east of Whitefeather Way, and inquired whether anyone had any information. No one had any information to share.

Chair Stevenson noted he is interested in researching the best way to deal with root problems. Mr. Gray summarized methods used by County. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Lasorsa entered a comment in the ZOOM Chat Room noting that Rich James and he conducted a survey on August 31 of revetments sites along the Port Angeles ODT waterfront section between Morse Creek and Lees Creek that they provided to the City. .

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Taylor motioned and Chair Stevenson seconded to adjourn the meeting.