

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
November 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order and conducted via video/phone conferencing.

Members Present: Andy Stevenson, Jennifer Reandeau, Justin Zarzezcny, Gary Gleason, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Gordon Taylor, Erik Rohrer, Bill Biery, Richard Bloomer, and Jim Mraz.

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

Guests: Hannah Merrill, Parks Supervisor, Clallam County Parks, Fairs & Facilities

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gordon Taylor moved and Andy Stevenson seconded approval of the October 6, 2021 meeting minutes, which were approved with all in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

Jim Mraz was welcomed as the recently appointed Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC) representative on the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC).

Presentation by Wendy Clark-Getzin, Transportation Program Manager for Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe, tentatively scheduled for the today's meeting will be rescheduled to a future TAC meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Board of Clallam County Commissioners (BOCC) October 25 ODT Work session

Mr. Gray referenced that the presentation on the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) included in the TAC meeting packet was the one he presented at the October 25 BOCC work session. The presentation addressed recent accomplishments, what's next-filling in the trail corridor gaps, and trail maintenance. It also touched upon maintenance needs beyond current normal efforts identified by the TAC such as the aging 25-30 year old chip seal surfaced areas between Morse Creek and the Carlsborg Area; root bumps and other surface issues (e.g., cracks and localized subsidence); and trail corridor vegetation management.

Mr. Gray noted that the County Commissioners expressed support for closing the trail gaps and trail maintenance, and that they were interested in funding needed for trail maintenance. He indicated that the answer to funding needs will first require a comprehensive inventory, assessment, and prioritization of maintenance needs not currently being addressed and that he would like to start that effort in 2022.

Mr. Gray noted a correction to Presentation Slide #68 related to the reported County maintenance expenditures for 2021 (thru September) should be \$82,420 and not \$182,420. He projected end-of-year 2021 County expenditures for normal maintenance between \$110,000 and \$120,000; and also noted that these expenditures shown "do not include" larger capital improvement projects such as the recent \$250,000 Dawley Slump Area trail repair.

Mr. Taylor inquired whether the reported County maintenance expenditures include trail work performed by Tanner Boggs and Steve Gray. Mr. Gray responded that it did include Tanner's time and also part of his time.

Mr. Zarzezcny asked whether the reported County general maintenance expenditures include value of volunteer efforts. Mr. Gray responded the figures shown did not include volunteer efforts and referred to the presentation slides showing reported hours by Clallam County, PTC, and Backcountry Horseman of Washington (BCHW) volunteers.

Chair Stevenson noted his support to capture all of the costs and all of the energy that is going into maintain the ODT. He also noted we need to answers when the County Commissioners ask what is needed. He supports the TAC being part of the process to develop that synoptic view to identify where we are now and where we need to get to.

Mr. Gray added that beyond the volunteer hours PTC and BCHW are also paying for materials and equipment to support their efforts to maintain the trail.

Mr. Gray noted that near the end of the work session that Commissioner Ozias posed a question regarding whether there has been any recent thoughts on E-bikes and ODT regulations. At the work session, Jeff Bohman, PTC Board President, indicated that PTC supports E-bike use on the ODT, but will be recommending that all ODT trail jurisdictions establish a 15 mph speed limit. The BOCC did not make any specific recommendations during the work session in regards to ODT regulation updates, but welcomed recommendations moving forward. Mr. Gray further noted as reported previously, that the ODT-Spruce Railroad Section in Olympic National Park has a posted 15 mph speed limit.

Chair Stevenson noted that the Washington State Class 1 – 3 E-bike types is not applicable to today's E-bike manufacturer. He supports the explicit defining of speed limits for the ODT.

2. ODT-Restroom Facilities and Sponsors/Owners

Chair Stevenson expressed thanks for development of the ODT restroom facility list. Mr. Gray acknowledged Mr. Taylor's efforts to development the inventory that served as the basis of the table summarizing restroom facilities and sponsors/owners that was in the meeting packet and provided the following highlights:

- Chemical Toilets (Port a Pots): 9 sites sponsored by 6 entities
- Vault Toilets: 4 sites operated by 4 entities
- Fully-Plumbed Restroom Sites: 7 sites operated by 6 entities

3. Final TAC Review of Draft Clallam County Six-Year (2022-2027) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) related to the ODT.

Chair Stevenson noted his support of the Draft TIP. Mr. Gray summarized upcoming schedule related to the TIP as follows:

- Planning Commission Public Hearing (November 3 at 6:00 pm)
- Virtual Open House on November 9 (6:00 pm)
- BOCC Public Hearing on November 23 (10:30 am)

There were no other additional TAC questions and comments on the Draft TIP.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

1. ODT-Clallam County East-End Projects

ODT- Dawley Road Area Trail Stabilization and Restoration Project

Mr. Gray reviewed the presentation slides in the meeting packet that highlighted the key construction stages of the Dawley Road Area Trail Repair and Restoration Project. He noted that

the project cost was \$249,261, with about 50% being County labor costs and the rest material costs.

Mr. Biery inquired about the hydroseed mixture make-up. Mr. Gray responded that it was a grass seed mix and that the County later plans to do additional shrub plantings in the wall bags.

It was also noted that \$150,000 of the \$249,261 project costs is expected to be reimbursed from the Road Department's 2021 Clallam County Lodging Tax Grant.

ODT-Dean Creek Permanent Fix Multi-Agency Discussions

Mr. Gray provided a summary of this project, next-steps, and project options. He reported a project meeting between JSKT, WDFW, and County and JSKT consultants is planned to be held in November.

ODT-Pierce to Old Blyn Highway:

As reported by previously, the JSKT targeting to improve and pave in summer 2022.

In regards to the above project reports, Chair Stevenson commented that the Dean Creek temporary fix is holding up quite well. Mr. Gray noted there was no issues related to the recent storm events.

2. ODT-Clallam County West-End Project Updates

There was nothing major new to report on west-end trail projects. As previously reported, Mr. Gray noted that the engineering design phase is now authorized by the state for first mile between the Calawah River Bridge Park and Sitkum Sol Duc Road; and the land appraisals are complete for ~ 7.5 mile corridor between US 101 and Ballard Road. Landowner contacts by the County are in progress. Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL) is anticipated to initiate topographic survey work in late-2021 or early-2022.

Chair Stevenson asked if we are still seeing 2024 for groundbreaking. Mr. Gray indicated that the project will be phased, with the first construction phase being the segment east of the Bogacheil Bridge crossing. Construction start is dependent on WFL, who last indicated likely 2025 but possibly earlier. The current County focus is on trail corridor acquisition. WFL is expected to commence work on environmental/cultural review and initiate design in 2022.

Chair Stevenson asked about whether the County has made an acquisition offer yet to Rayonier? Mr. Gray responded no formal offer has been made yet.

3. Other Trail Project Reports

The County will be installing a donated memorial bench on the trail just east of the Elwha River Bridge trail crossing in November. Chair Stevenson asked if there was a County policy on bench donations to the trail and how much input the donor has on bench location. Mr. Gray responded the type of memorial bench is the same as used in County Parks subject at a \$1,200 cost (includes a plaque). He noted that donors usually have in mind an area they would like to locate the bench, and that the County will try to accommodate the request after considering locations of current benches.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. County Thursday Volunteer Crew October Project Reports

Four work party days in October that included:

- Assisted with fence installation along the top of new constructed wall related to the ODT-Dawley Road Area Trail Repair and Restoration Project.
- Tread and drainage work between M.P. 16 – 17 (~ 4 miles west of Joyce Access Road crossing). (3 day project)

The work party last week was cancelled due to weather.

2. County Maintenance October Project Reports

Reported highlights of County October maintenance included:

- Surface debris blowing covering the ODT east and west central areas managed by the County (Six work days).
- Trail corridor brushing with Chain Gang Assistance covering the following trail segments: Kitchen-Dick to Carlsborg Roads, Kaycee Way to Elwha River Bridge; and N. Bagley Creek & Siebert Creek (Six work days).
- Training of County Trail Maintenance Lead Worker (Tanner Boggs) on running of the large road sweeper equipment. He used this equipment to sweep the trail segment between the Lower Elwha Road to Elwha Bridge. The sweeper was not as effective versus a blower in areas of thick leaves. Goal is to more regular use the sweeper after the last major leaf fall is cleared to remove smaller debris (e.g., needles) and moss (in advance of any moss treatment).

3. Other Trail Maintenance Reports

Mr. Taylor reported that PTC efforts in October focused on blowing leaves off the trail. As leaf fall diminishes, PTC will shift to putting a broom on front of tractor to perform surface sweeping. PTC volunteers also addressed a number of tree falls and a couple of sign replacement projects are scheduled.

Chair Stevenson noted that related to the new bollards in Sequim along Washington Street that one appeared missing and the other sheared off from its base. He asked Committee member Bill Biery if he had any information. Mr. Biery was not aware of this situation, but will look into it. Mr. Taylor noted that the City of Sequim made prior comment about removing all of the bollards along Washington Street. Chair Stevenson said the rest of the bollards were still present.

Mr. Rohrer mention that still cannot open the USFS 070 gate across the trail near the Camp Creek Trailhead. Mr. Gray noted that he previously requested US Forest Service assistance to address, and will try again to resolve the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT

Gordan Taylor motioned and Dick Gritman seconded to adjourn.