

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
December 1, 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, 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
Wendy-Clark Getzin, Transportation Program Manager, Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe
Jeff Bohman, President, Peninsula Trails Coalition
Eric Kuzma, Jefferson County Public Works

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the November 3 draft meeting minutes was tabled to the next-meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

Mr. Gray reported:

- The County Commissioners approved yesterday a Resolution to reappoint all Trail Advisory Committee member terms that were expiring at the end of 2021. This included all active members, except for Richard Bloomer whose term ends December 31, 2022. The rest of TAC member terms now expire on December 31, 2023. Mr. Gray thanked members for their continued interest to serve on the TAC.
- As recommended by the TAC, the County Commissioners also approved yesterday a Resolution to: 1) expand the TAC to include a Trail Event Coordinator Representative, a Commercial Trail Business Representative and Tribal Government representatives; and/to 2) rename the current four regional – Sequim, Port Angeles, Western and Straits—member positions from “Area Trail Advocacy Group” to “Citizen-at-Large”

Mr. Gray recommended cancellation of the TAC January 5 regular-meeting, which was supported by all members present.

Chair Stevenson reported that the culvert under the trail on the north-side of the US 101 crossing west of Lake Crescent was plugged, and that in the culvert debris was part of the US 101 bike crossing advanced warning signs. He indicated that he emailed information about the plugged culvert to WSDOT. Mr. Gray indicated he would follow-up with WSDOT about addressing.

Mr. Biery reported that the City of Sequim has replaced the break-away flexible bollards on the ODT-Washington Street section on several occasions. He also reported that the City will be doing an assessment to replace non-movable, steel pipe bollards on ODT sections along Hendrickson Road.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. 2022 Clallam County Lodging Tax Grant

The County Public Works/Road Dept. applied for a Year 2022 \$250,000 Clallam County Lodging Tax Grant to support trail corridor acquisition for the ODT-Forks to La Push section and also to help fund trail repairs and maintenance if not all funds needed for 2022 acquisition efforts. The Clallam County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) recommended approval of the Road Department, grant request to the County Commissioners. Mr. Gray noted that this grant can also be used to meet the County's match requirement for the approximately \$905,000 state grant for trail acquisition in the Forks to La Push segment.

Mr. Gray reported that yesterday the County Commissioners approved the Road Department lodging tax grant request. He emphasized the significance of local lodging tax funding to the ODT. This funding source made the ODT-Gossett Rd to Waterline Rd possible, with of total of 575,000 awarded t that project. This year the County's \$150,000 lodging tax award helped pay for the repair and restoration of the lost trail section near Dawley Road. The next-step will be for the Road Department to enter into a contract to be approved by the Commissioners to access the \$250,000 award in 2022 that is anticipated to be approved in January.

Chair Stevenson commented that is an outstanding contribution to the trail and he is just always awed on support of the ODT by the community, state and others. He is glad to see that the ODT is being awarded lodging tax funding and that our own community is telling us we are on the right track.

Discussion followed of how this funding relates to the trail corridor acquisition and future construction of the planned ODT-Forks to La Push segment.

2. Overview of Current County Olympic Discovery Trail Regulations

The TAC reviewed the current County regulations applicable to the ODT and found under General Park Regulations, Chapter 23.03, of the Clallam County Code that were provided in the packet materials with highlighted text of the most relevant provisions. Considerable discussion followed regarding trail regulations, particularly related to speed limits, ebikes, enforcement of rules, and other issues. This discussion included Jeff Bohman, PTC Board President, noting that the PTC supports working with all ODT jurisdictions to adopt consistent regulations, including a 15 mph speed limit. Eric Kuzma, Jefferson County Engineer, noted that Jefferson County is exploring adopting an ODT speed limit.

3. Cross Kirkland Corridor Trail Use Regulations

Mr. Gray provided a summary of the Cross Kirkland Corridor Trail Use Regulations that were part of the meeting packet materials as an example of regulations addressing ebikes, speed limits and trail user code of conduct. Considerable discussion followed, especially related to establishing trail speed limits. Mr. Gray noted that his next steps will be to discuss regulations with other ODT jurisdictions and obtain legal input to develop a better road map for updated County trail regulations.

Chair Stevenson made a motion seconded by Mr. Gleason to limit e-bikes on the ODT to Class I and II (except for powered bikes for ADA mobility). Mr Gray representing the Clallam County Road Department in an ex-officio capacity indicated he would not be voting. He restated previous Road Department comments that trail user speed is the main issue not ebike type. Following considerable discussion, the motion passed 7-2 with TAC members Andy Stevenson, Gary Gleason, Erik Rohrer, Jim Mraz, Jennifer Reandeau, and Bill Biery voting for the motion and Dick Gritman and Gordon Taylor voting against. Justin Zarzeczny representing DNR abstained. In relation to the outcome of the motion, Mr. Gray noted that the TAC is currently a 16 member committee with 12 active

representative and that with the new representative positions to be filled or added in 2022 could grow up to 20 members.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

1. ODT-Clallam County East-End Projects

Memorial Bench Installation before Elwha River Bridge Crossing

Mr. Gray noted that the County installed a memorial bench just east of the Elwha River Bridge trail crossing that has a nice view of the bridge. There are now three benches spaced along the ~ 1.6-mile of trail that drops down into the Elwha River Ravine from Kacyee Way to the bridge.

Dean Creek Bridge Permanent Fix

Mr. Gray noted that an intergovernmental meeting was held on November 17 between staff of Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the County Public Works Department related to the permanent fix. The JSKT consultant is recommending construction of new abutments versus bridge replacement. The JSKT anticipates submitting permits in 2022. Wendy Clark-Getzin, JSKT Transportation Program Manager, provided additional information related to the recent meeting and next project steps.

2. ODT-Clallam County West-End Project Updates

The County anticipates making formal offers to the three property owners of the targeted 7.5 mile long trail corridor along SR 110/La Push Road between US 101 and Ballard Road in early-2022. In 2022, the start of engineering design, environmental assessment, and cultural resources review will be led by the County Public Works/Roads for the first mile between Forks Calawah River Park and the Sitkum-Sol Duc Road. For the ~ 12-mile section between US 101 and La Push, this work will be led by the Western Federal Lands Highway Division.

The yellow gate across the ODT east of the Camp Creek Trailhead is now locked. The County installed a new lock bar with both a USFS and County lock.

3. Other Trail Project Reports

Approximately 600 linear feet or more of fence side rails were cut and stolen along the trail corridor west of the ODT-Sol Duc River Bridge crossing. The estimated value of fencing materials is approximately \$1,000. The theft was reported to the Sheriff Department.

Recent storm events resulted in Whiskey Creek washing out the lower section of the horse trail that was part of the improvements completed about a year ago. County staff will be conducting a site visit tomorrow to develop a plan for the repairs.

The bollard at top of the Elwha River segment from Kacey Way had the ground connecting bolts sawed off. The County will be reinstalling when get bollard replacement parts. Chair Stevenson noted that one of the bollards at top of Fairholm Hill is missing a pin.

Mr. Bloomer asked if the bollards near McDonald Creek can be removed because they don't appear to be needed. He asked if the County can replace all bollards to remain with the flexible bollard types recently installed by the City of Sequim. Mr. Gray responded he will evaluate the need of the McDonald Creek bollards in the future. He noted that the City bollards don't meet the recommended bollard diameter size for visibility. Mr. Taylor noted that flexible bollards are not really a bollard in that they are intended to guide people and not prevent access.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. County Thursday Volunteer Crew November Project Reports

Only one Thursday work party was held in November due to holidays and other factors. The work party worked on the Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) tread repair west of Joyce-Piedmont Road and also blew leaves and other debris off the trail between Whiskey Creek and Joyce-Piedmont Road.

2. County Maintenance November Project Reports

County conducted surfacing blowing of all County segments between Blyn and Elwha Bridge at least once. Other work included patching cracks in the vicinity of Dean Creek Bridge and addressing west-end gate and bollard issues.

3. Other Trail Maintenance Reports

Mr. Taylor noted PTC ongoing efforts related to fallen tree removal and blowing trail surface. He also indicated that a memorial bench plaque at Jimmycomelately Creek needs replacement, that the gabion baskets adjacent to the restored trail section east of Dawley Road need repair, and that he will also be replacing batteries for the trail counters in next week or so.

Chair Stevenson commended Olympic National Park (ONP) for their work on clearing the Spruce Railroad Trail section after recent storm events.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Hannah Merrill, County Parks, indicated she will provide info to Steve on memorial bench plaque replacements. She also noted that County Parks experiencing theft of wood rails. Believes trail users are part of solution to monitor each other. Not enough enforcement resources. Hannah also noted that she recently accepted the newly created City of Sequim, Parks and Facilities Manager position.

Chair Stevenson agreed that trail users can help inform other users of importance of following trail rules.

Wendy Clark-Getzin noted the JSKT made through first round of grant application process to apply for EV charging stations near the ODT trailhead.

Jeff Bohman thanked Hannah for service to the County Parks and congrats on new job.

ADJOURNMENT

Gordon Taylor motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Chair Stevenson.