

**Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee (TAC)
February 2, 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, Dick Gritman, Kat Sample, Charile Commeree, Gordon Taylor, Bill Biery, and Jim Mraz.

County Representatives: Steve Gray, County Public Works/Road Dept. (Ex-officio TAC member)
Bill Peach, Clallam County Commissioner

Guests: Wendy-Clark Getzin, Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe
Jeff Bohman, President, Peninsula Trails Coalition

MODIFICATIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Chair Stevenson added under discussion/business items the pending zoning Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application for the Olympic Disposal Transfer Station in the Carlsborg Urban Growth Area.

Mr. Gray recommended tabling his discussion Item E4, regarding the topic “*ODT Management/Maintenance By Trail Section—Who Responsible?*” to the March meeting. Chair Stevenson left the item on the agenda for a short introduction of the intended topic to be presented in March.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gordon Taylor moved and Jim Mraz seconded the approval of the November 3 and December 1, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed with all present in support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Gray provided the following reports:

- All TAC members whose terms were due to expire in 2021 have been reappointed by the County Commissioners for two year terms expiring on December 31, 2023. He also reminded the TAC that he is appointed by the County Commissioners as the County Road Department Representative (serving in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity).
- County Commissioners are currently advertising for volunteers on their various boards and committees. They do this several times a year. For the TAC, the following representative positions are open: Olympic National Park, U.S. Forest Service, Large Private Forest Company, Off-Road Motorized User Group, Tribal Government(s), Commercial Trail Business, and Trail Event Coordinator. Applications must be received by close of business on February 11.
- The County Engineer closed East Beach Road on January 7 between US 101 and the access road to the Log Cabin Resort due to rock, mud, and other debris onto the road in the area of the 2020 forest fire in Olympic National Park (ONP). Due to continued slope stability concerns, the County Engineer recommended that this ~ 3.16 mile segment of East Beach Road remain closed. On January 25, the County Commissioners took action to keep the closure in effect until it is determined that the road is safe for public use or until May 26, 2022, whichever comes first. The closure is supported by ONP officials. In 2021 there was a similar seasonal closure that was lifted in mid-May. Trail users can access the ODT-Spruce Railroad Trailhead at the west-end of East Beach Road via the Joyce-Piedmont Road.

- Ross Tyler, County Engineer/Director for the Public Works/Road Department retired in January. Joe Donisi has been appointed Acting County Engineer effective February 1, 2022.

DISCUSSION AND BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Nominations/Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Following nominations, Chair Stevenson was reappointed to continue to serve as Chair and Gordon Taylor was appointed Vice-Chair.

2. 2021 Trail User Counts.

Mr. Gray reviewed the 2021 trail user count information included with the meeting packet material for the five ODT counters—Railroad Bridge Park (Dungeness River), Port Angeles Hollywood Beach, Elwha River Bridge, Spruce Railroad East Beach Road Trailhead, and Camp Creek Trailhead—located east to west across Clallam County. Information compared total crossing, user crossing by direction, daily total average, and peak total day. Discussion followed.

3. Unauthorized access, theft, and other issues occurring in western ODT sections. Discussion Item

Mr. Gray reviewed issues of unauthorized vehicle access, timber/fence theft, gate and bollard tampering occurring in the western ODT sections. He presented before and after photos of illegal moving of large rocks and a posts to create an unauthorized vehicle access around the USFS yellow gate across the ODT east of the Camp Creek Trailhead. He also showed a map and example photos of fence theft areas west of FS 2918 Road and the Sol Duc Bridge crossing. The Sheriff Department plans to install surveillance cameras. It was also noted to call 911 to report emergencies. For non-emergencies, such as suspected unauthorized vehicles call the Sheriff Dispatch at 360-417-2459. Considerable discussion followed with other ideas that included branding fence materials; promoting public awareness thru news and social media; and more involvement/coordination with USFS and DNR law enforcement.

4. ODT Management/Maintenance By Trail Section—Who Responsible?

Mr. Gray provided background on a project he is working on to identify who is responsible for managing and maintaining the various segments of the ODT across the County. Further discussion was tabled to the March meeting.

5. Olympic Disposal Transfer Station – Conditional Use Permit Application

Chair Stevenson and Mr. Gray provided information about the pending zoning conditional use permit (CUP) application for the Olympic Disposal Transfer Station and Community Recycling Center on approximately 5.5 acres at the corner of Carlsborg Road and Business Park Loop (north Maps of the project area and the proposed site development plan showing relationship of the project to the ODT were presented. Of special interest to the TAC, is that the ODT borders the north boundary of the site. A public hearing on the CUP application before the Clallam County Hearing Examiner will be held on Thursday, February 3. Considerable discussion followed related to project impacts to the trail from TAC representatives and others participating in the meeting.

Ms. Reandeau motioned to authorize the Chair to submit a letter noting concerns related to trail impacts on behalf of the TAC that was seconded by Mr. Mraz and passed unopposed. Given the tight turn-around with the public hearing tomorrow, Chair Stevenson indicated he will email a draft letter for member review and input this evening. Ms. Getzin noted that the Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe (JSKT) also submitted a letter regarding this project.

TRAIL PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS

1. ODT-Clallam County East-End Projects

Ms. Getzin indicated that JSKT is in conversation with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) related to a number of US 101 culvert replacement/fish passage improvement projects in eastern parts of the County and in close proximity to the ODT. This includes the future US 101 Dean Creek culvert replacement and how current and future conditions would impact the permanent fix of the ODT-Dean Creek Bridge being led by JSKT for Clallam County.

Ms. Getzin indicated that JSKT needs still around \$400,000 to move forward with the widening and paving work on the ~ 0.6 miles Pierce to Blyn segment. Discussion followed regarding addressing current soft spots in this segment.

Mr. Gray noted that similar to JSKT the County has been contacted by WSDOT for temporary construction easements for their US 101 Discovery Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project. The state work for this project will come close to the ODT, but will not affect trail use. The County requested the state to clarify in the easement location of fencing/clearing limits to ensure adequate separation from the trail.

2. ODT-Clallam County West-End Project Updates

The County reported that they have submitted 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 addition, FHWA-Western Federal Lands has initiated topographic survey work needed to support the design phase for this section.

3. Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT) Projects

Mr. Gray reported that work on the OAT-Whiskey Creek Equestrian Trail Crossing repair and partial reroute is underway by the County Road Department and Volunteer Trail Crew. Besides the equestrian crossing repair, he also noted that the County is looking at options for the eventual needed replacement of the single-log bridge. The challenges for a log bridge replacement include: no suitable downed timber of appropriate diameter, length and condition in vicinity of the current crossing; the County cannot use standing timber in the area due to riparian habitat and Marbled Murrelet habitat regulations; and site remoteness to bring in off-site logs.

Due to these challenges, a fiberglass bridge has been identified as a potential alternative to explore. The main advantages include: accommodate all trail users, long-lasting, light and relative ease to transport components, and requires no special tools or expertise to assemble. The main disadvantage is the \$65,000 to \$80,000+ cost. At this price point, the County will likely need to obtain grant funding.

Mr. Gray also reported the need to replace the short OAT Bridge around Milepost 2.0. He showed a photo of the current bridge with one of the stringers substantially cracked. Equestrians are recommended to ford the creek and not use the bridge. The next-step is for the County to obtain state permits for the bridge replacement.

4. Other Project Reports

Mr. Gray reported on the following maintenance issues:

- The County is in contact with WSDOT to address the substantially plugged culvert at the ODT US 101 Crossing west of Lake Crescent. WSDOT does not have resources to address at this time due to other priorities. The County may need to consider performing the work.

- The County will be addressing clean-up of a plugged culvert that has resulted in significant rock and debris on the trail surface about 0.6 miles west of the ODT US 101 crossing. This was the result of damage from recent winter storm events. A photo of the site was presented. The clean-up work will be done by the County Road Maintenance Crews and will proceed once permits to work in stream channel are obtained.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORTS

1. County Thursday Volunteer Crew Project Reports

Three (3) work parties were held during the December and January period on the OAT. One was related to tread repair work west of the Joyce-Piedmont Road crossing. The other two were on the equestrian trail repair and reroute at Whiskey Creek.

2. County Maintenance Reports

Highlights of County maintenance efforts during December and January included: surface cleaning; sign installation at several locations; finishing log retaining wall to widen tread near east-side of OAT-Whiskey Creek Log Bridge crossing with volunteer assistance; and painting over Graffiti again on two occasions on the bridge supports in the Elwha Bridge Parking Area.

3. Other Trail Maintenance Reports

Mr. Taylor reported that PTC efforts have been focused on removing deadfalls and trail surface cleaning.

Chair Stevenson remarked on tread degradation on the OAT, especially related to damage from recent heavy rainfall events this winter. He cited that there are areas where geotextile fabric was placed under trail surface that are now exposed. Discussion followed.

Mr. Taylor inquired about the status of timber harvest operation and eventual clean-up of the impacted Adventure Trail section west of the Joyce Access Road. Mr. Zarzeczny, Dept. of Natural Resources, responded that the state forestry permit does not expire to October 2023. He anticipates that clean-up may start this spring/summer, but that conditions are too wet now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dave Lasorsa reported his observations on City contractor work related to the waterfront trail repairs. Discussion followed.

Lorrie Mittman requested consideration to complete the OAT bridge replacement work at Milepost 2.0 by April 16 or wait to after the 16th to not impact the OAT Run Event. Same request related to any bridge work at Whiskey Creek to avoid impact to the September 10 GOAT Run Event.

Additional discussion was had related to identifying maintenance needs, priorities and estimated costs.

ADJOURNMENT:

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