



ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2019

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler, Tacoma

Main Floor - Auditorium

Sustainability Committee (previously called *Organizational Development*)

Terry, George & Jane

Accept offer from Bob Myrick to pay for 20 additional hours per month for Project & Communications Coordinator (PCC); ask him to pay full costs – salary plus taxes; increase PCC hours to 25/week which is slightly more than increase to be paid for. Would like to increase hourly pay but need to stabilize financial status before doing that so will consider later in 2020. Jane will work out details with Bob; discuss with Board at January planning meeting. Mention Development Consultant contract today with consent agenda and have EC further approve; send copy of proposal to board.

Jane will also send out announcement for Parks & Great Outdoors Legislative Day and WA Bikes Legislative Day.

Terry gone Presidents Day February 12-19 and March 16-26; will miss February board meeting.

Board Meeting Call to Order at 12:04 pm by President Terry Reid. A quorum was present.

Attending

Active Board Members: Terry Reid, George Walk, Alan Carter Mortimer, Jackson Skinner, Eric Guenther, Bob Myrick, Mary Dodsworth, Shawn Phelps, Roxanne Miles

Advisory Board Members: Kim Oman

Guests: Stuart, Theresa Turpin, WSDOT; Jordan Rash, Forterra (soon to be Sound Transit)

Staff: Jane Moore, Larry Leveen

Presentation: Forterra – Jordan Rash – last day at Forterra, moving to Sound Transit to work on Transit Oriented Development and commercial real estate. He has a PowerPoint presentation which Jane will send out. He will focus on trail development work and conservation land acquisitions that Forterra is doing. Jacob's Point, Anderson Island; Devil's Head, Key Pen; Cross Park, Chambers Creek Canyon, portions of Foothills Trail, acquisitions around Lake Kapowsin, especially on west side of lake, seeking state funding in 2020; Carbon River Forum with others here and Foothills Coalition; have protected about 10,000 acres in this area, former Longview Fiber property now owned by Weyerhaeuser; 14,000 acres looking to sell/auction off. Interest in establishing community forest or community forest trust to increase recreational access and preserve habitat. Purchase is complicated by lumber company timetables – want to harvest timber before selling land. Community forest is managed by community management plan designating how timber will be used. State DNR has community forest trust program; DNR manages forest for community – community develops management plan and provides 10% purchase price, DNR provides rest of funding and manages forest. Forterra pays full market value for property purchased.

Chambers Creek Canyon: Forterra is part of project team evaluation dam removal; bridge is half in University Place and half in unincorporated Pierce County, it is structurally obsolete. Dam removal project discussed for last 20 years – referred to as Abitibi site – they own part of dam structure but it may also be owned by county. Feasibility study was completed in June by Puyallup Tribal Fisheries Department, South Sound Salmon Recovery, Chambers

Clover Creek Watershed Council & Forterra. Dam can't be removed until bridge is replaced because footings of bridge would be undercut by water. Hope for removal to occur in 2024; have funding for 30-50% design. County has applied for grant to design new bridge with different alignment and higher, softer curve. Many other factors to dam removal: effect on fisheries upstream & downstream; effects of sediment; marina downstream from dam. Need bridge over road to connect trails; would be up to Pierce County Planning; need funding – was not approved this year. Current code will require addition of ped-bike facility when bridge replaced. On-line report contains more details.

Near term for Pierce County issues, contact Darcy Hughes or Ryan Walker in Seattle Forterra office.

WSDOT – Theresa Turpin, Multimodal Development Manager, Olympic Region – Active Transportation Projects in Pierce County

Olympic Region covers 7 counties (Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Mason, Thurston, Pierce) and a number of tribes. WSDOT is working to integrate all transportation modes in all projects. Secretary Roger Millar brings new ideas such as Practical Solutions – small, incremental changes.

1/8 meeting Olympia & 1/9 Lacey on Mounts Road project – will send info & PowerPoint.

WSDOT Vision: Washington travelers have a safe, sustainable and integrated multimodal transportation system.

Active Transportation Division consists of 3 people: Barb Chamberlin, Charlotte Claybrooke, and Brian Wood. Active Transportation Plan survey is on-line until 12/15. Goal is to make walking and bicycling routes complete and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities. They work closely with partners and watch language - not a road diet but a road buffet – lots of options.

State routes are main street for many smaller communities. WSDOT considers local and regional plans with statewide plan; must comply with all RCWs and ADA requirements. State statistics for 2018: 10 times a day a motorist collision involved someone walking or rolling; Every 13.65 hours a motorist struck and seriously injured or killed someone walking or rolling; on average, a driver killed someone walking or bicycling every 2.96 days! Alta is lead consultant developing Active Transportation plan. Defining "Bike Level of Traffic Stress" is part of Active Transportation Plan. If a bike/ped link is added, Active Transportation increases: SR 520 – 2017 before link 0 pedestrians and bicyclists; 2018 after link added 308,000 pedestrians and bicyclists.

Pierce County project list reviewed; they are developing map to help identify gaps.

Planning Gravelly-Thorne connector; would extend to DuPont along I-5. Roxanne notes she is participating in group that will be proposing alternative solution that is less expensive and more comfortable. Would circle JBLM; follow SR 507 and Roy-Yelm Trail. Might have higher local and state-wide value. Could have multiple connection points to base and neighborhoods. May have action in next legislative session.

SR 167 Gateway project has multiple possibilities for trail connections.

Spiketon Bridge – AKROW – like Legos for temporary replacement. Need to remove fish barriers before 2030.

Installing trail counters on trails parallel to state routes. Using Ecocounters – pressure loops in roadway for bikes, laser for pedestrians, feeds info to cloud – planning bike-ped counters for Foothills Trail in Buckley; bike only on Narrows Bridge. Used for counts on SR 520.

Alan asks what cost difference is in going from one level of comfort to higher level. Theresa can ask. Depends on many factors: number of driveways, wetlands.

This evening 7-8 pm – on-line event for Active Transportation Plan.

Consent Agenda

Bob moved approval; Mary seconded; approved.

October minutes, November financial report

Approval of new Active Board Member – Roxanne Miles (application attached)

Staff Reports – follows agenda; includes grant application information

Status of current work plan available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZJOIyEMGaSuVAirTgNvZRi9G-2Oka1Q9/view?usp=sharing>

Terry reports that Executive Committee with Jane has reviewed 2 proposals from development consultants; about to approve one with a local group; grant funded from PWI AT COI. Objective is to approve and start work so can implement fund-raising strategy early in 2020.

Board Member Reappointments

George moves reappointment of Terry Reid, Mary Dodsworth, and Alan Carter Mortimer; Roxanne seconds; approved unanimously.

Election of 2020 Officers

Terry willing to continue as President; no other interest from those present.

VP & Secretary: currently Alan; he is willing to continue but has a similar commitment to a group in Methow Valley that meets on same day every other month so would be likely to miss this meeting every other month. No other volunteers.

Treasurer: George has served for 3 years; would like replacement but could serve again. No volunteers.

Officers are part of Executive Committee which meets once a month about 10 days before board meeting. Mary asks if Executive Committee meetings could be conducted remotely using Skype or another program. We have not tried this but could.

Mary moves to reappoint the three current officers; Shawn seconds; approved unanimously.

Updates

Southwest Washington Coalition (Cross-State Trail, Southern Route)

Recently, email sent with minutes from first meeting; information sharing about potential routes from Palouse-Cascades Trail to coast. Forming 3 work groups: official founding of coalition; GIS mapping group; and advocacy. Larry volunteered to lead advocacy group in seeking approval of route from State Parks Commission and other advocacy activities. Roxanne notes it was a good group of people especially since RCO participated – they provide grants and create inventories. If they recognize route, it will be more likely accepted. State Parks has also been charged with updating state trails plan. There is a quarterly call between WRPA & RCO; Roxanne & Paul participate, can work to be sure State Parks fulfills role.

Yelm Prairie Line trail – meeting tomorrow at Roy City Hall with NPS planners for initial scoping; how can NPS grant work with PSRC grant which is limited to Roy/Pierce County. Will walk area after meeting. Woodland Trails Greenway Association applying for grant from Trans Alta to study multiple routes to connect Yelm Tenino Trail to Willapa Hills Trail. Would be good for FGT to write letter of support for that grant application. Larry will draft letter and send to Jane & Terry for approval.

Pierce County PROS Plan Update

Jan 6 will be first presentation to County Council at Community Development Committee meeting. Pierce County Parks appreciates our support in public process. They have made some adjustments based on input and updated financial projections. Biggest shift is due to 2 major pressures in 10-year capital plan: so much growth in south & central with no other providers but still committed to work in north where most of trails are already located. Need to look for more shared and partner money to fund projects in north. Plan is not static but is regularly updated. Funds collected in unincorporated Pierce County must serve a regional focus. Plan must be approved by end of February to apply for RCO grants. Roxanne will send list of council meetings; attendance and support would be helpful. Committee members close to process and understand it; full council may need more education.

Regional Trail Coalition (4-County)

Funds from new King County levee focused on northern parts of King County; only project in south is bridge in Enumclaw. Also, King County decided to hire Cascade to staff. Not asking for funds currently but will in the future. Pierce County Parks not anxious to join and send funds when there is no focus on connections to Pierce County. Jane attended their Community Trails celebration last Saturday; should FGT become a partner? Board agreed it is good to sign on as partner but should bring up concerns at appropriate time at future meetings.

Fund Raising Update

Jane & Roxanne met with Forest Foundation yesterday; good discussion of Carbon River Resource Conservancy and grant application.

Trail Updates & News

Eric reports on Cushman Trail Phase 5: there were 3 options; considering bridge above Borgen Blvd – uphill from roundabout, wraps around hospital parking, follows road to transfer station then cuts through and crosses SR16

then goes down to Purdy and up to Kitsap County Line. 30% design on first mile, permit ready, looking for funding \$7 million – City of Gig Harbor; rest of trail will be outside city. Consider presentation at upcoming meeting. Pen Met has new director starting Monday. Came from Federal Way – Doug Nelson

Jackson – MetroParks Tacoma (Jackson & Joe Brady) is developing new strategic plan for planning level of service – 10-min walk to parks, LOS for other facilities based on walk or drive time. Conducting feasibility study on use of lands by TCC for soccer fields; doesn't know details. Does know that studies have shown need for additional soccer fields in the area.

Jane met with Annie Wright middle school student who is making a promotional video for design class; video will be available for us to use when it is complete. Councilmember Chris Beale is developing a Vision Zero resolution for the City of Tacoma to adopt. TPCHD & MPT hired a joint staff person whose work will include Parks Rx. Jane has been connected to her by TPCHD; will probably have a meeting to discuss plans in January.

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.