



KENAI RIVER

Special Management Area

"Working together...for the river"

ADVISORY BOARD

Kenai Region Office
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Soldotna, AK 99669
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Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday March 12, 2020

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Ben Mohr, William Tappan, Glenn Arundell, Ted Wellman, Bandon Bornemann, Andrew Carmichael, Marion Glaser, Matt, Colton Lipka, Jack Blackwell and Sarah Aspens
- B. **Minutes:** Minutes were approved.
- C. **Agenda:** Agenda was approved
- D. **Public Comments**
- E. **Presentation**

REPORTS

A. Agency and Government Reports:

- State Parks-Ricky Gease provided the board with the following report:
 - The Division is currently working on a new regulation packet. This will include the use of drones in the state parks and the use of a buoy to anchor a boat on the Kenai River. Once the regulations have been drafted they will go out for public comment.
 - Boating Safety has some extra money to help get additional personal floatation devices in to the guide community.
 - There is \$3 million in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill fund to update and rehabilitate state park sites. Currently, the EVOS Trustee Council is not using funds for deferred maintenance of public facilities.
 - There is also \$4million in the habitat restoration endowment fund for the Prince William Sound Sea life Center.
 - There was a proposed \$5.00 dip net fee to be charged for permits.
 - In Fairbanks and Anchorage there was an increase of \$9.00 added to sport fishing Licenses.
 - With the drop in oil prices, state services will likely be reduced as state budgets decrease.
- Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
 - All of the seasonal technicians are back.
 - The Kenai Region currently has two vacant positions to fill (administrative assistant and technician).
 - The Grant Lake Hydro has the final permit to move forward with the project from FERC.

- DEC- Sarah provided the board with the following report:
 - Public comment closed for the 2018 integrated report. Two comments were submitted pertaining to the Kenai River. The next step is for staff to prepare responses to the comments, the report will then go through a final review with DEC staff before going to EPA for final approval.
 - DEC is working on the 2020 integrated report and hopes to have it ready for public comment by spring of 2021.
 - Two Aqua grants were awarded. Water sampling will continue on the Kenai River and City of Kenai beaches. The beach monitoring will include collecting water samples at several sites. The samples collected will be tested for fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria.

- ADF&G -Colton Lipka provided the board with the following report:
 - Attached is a summary of the 2020 Management and Board of Fish Meeting.

- USFWS-Andy Loranger- no report

- USFS/Chugach National Forest –Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:
 - Staff is currently being hired for the 2020 Stream watch program.
 - Proposals are being accepted from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 for new outfitter and guide proposals for limited activities on the Glacier, Seward or Cordova Ranger Districts.
 - Avalanche danger is high at this time.
 - Phase two of the Russian River road improvement has been delayed until 2021.

- City of Kenai –No Report

- City of Soldotna-Andrew Carmichael provided the board with the following report:
 - The City is currently working with a consultant on plans to apply for fuel mitigation funds at Swiftwater.
 - Improvement to the Swiftwater boat launch Area include the parking and boat staging area.

- Kenai Peninsula Borough-No Report

II. Committee Reports

- a. President’s Report-Ted Wellman provided the board with the following report:
 - Branden Bornemann is the chair for the Habitat Committee.
- b. Guide Advisory-No report:
- c. Habitat Committee-No report
- d. River Use Committee- No Report
- e. Legislative Committee-No report

III. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Funny River boat ramp-The Habitat Committee and members of the Funny River community decided on a list criteria for all of the proposed sites for the boat ramp. It was determined that site visits would be conducted to go through the criteria and rank the sites. The dates for the site visits should be available by May 2020.
- b. Cooper Landing Bypass-No report.

- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
- V. CORRESPONDENCE**
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- VII. BOARD COMMENTS**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**