



# KENAI RIVER

## Special Management Area

*"Working together...for the river"*

## ADVISORY BOARD

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### Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

\*\*\* Meeting Minutes\*\*\*

Thursday,

April 8th, 2021

5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call- Joe Connors, Ben Mohr, Ron Rogalsky, William Tappan, Glenn Arundell, Monte Roberts, Ted Wellman, Branden Bornemann, Andrew Carmichael, Lisa Gabriel, Matt Connors, Andy Loranger, Marion Glaser, Colton Lipka and Sarah Apsens
- B. Minutes Approval- Minutes were approved as written
- C. Agenda Changes-None
- D. Public Comment: None
- E. Presentations: none

#### II. REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports
  - a. ADNR - State Parks- Nor Report
  - b. ADEC – Sarah Apsens provided the following update:
    - The public comment period for the 2020 Integrated Report closed 3/22. DEC will be responding to public comments and revising the report over the next few months.
    - Public comment periods are open for the Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology and the Pathogens Listing Methodology, visit: <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/> for more information.
    - DEC will be conducting water quality monitoring on the Kenai River mainstem this summer. The effort will focus on filling data gaps for copper and zinc. DEC is working on finalizing the quality assurance project plan and sampling plan for this effort. Feel free to contact S. Apsens if you have specific questions about this project.
    - DEC is hiring a technician to help with water quality monitoring this summer. The application period closes 4/12/21. The announcement can be found here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/alaska/jobs/3035140/environmental-program-technician-pcn-18n21001?keywords=soldotna&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>
    - DEC will be conducting bacteria monitoring at Kenai beaches again this year. We'll be collecting samples every other week, instead of once weekly. Bi-weekly monitoring results will be posted to the Alaska Beach Program webpage: <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/beach-program/>. The 2020 Kenai Beach Monitoring report is also posted on the AK Beach Program site.
  - c. ADF&G – Colton Lipka provided the following update:

- The staff at the office is working on putting the final touches on the projects for the summer of 2021.
  - Summer hiring is in full swing.
- d. USF&WS – Matt Connors provided the following update.
- Jim’s landing: The final design phase for this project is still being work on.
  - Moose Range Boardwalk:  
The downstream Moose Range Boardwalk on East Redoubt is under construction. All the existing boardwalk has been removed and most pilings installed. Some elevation changes need to be made to accommodate ADA requirements and some of the changes needed require approval and we are waiting on decisions on that. Updates will be provided as progress is made.
  - Seasonal Hires-The refuge is currently in the process of hiring seasonal staff. This year they will have an extra-large trail crew to work on many of the trails within the burn area.
- e. USFS – Marion Glaser provided the following update:
- The Seward Ranger District is focused on planning for spring hiring and orientation of crews.
  - The Forest Service is working on spruce bark beetle tree mitigation in the Russian River Campground areas. They are working hard to remove all the trees along of the campground loops.
  - The road leading into the campground area is slated to be worked on in the 2022 season.
- f. City of Kenai -Lisa Gabriel provided the Board with the following report:
- The City has received the 2021 permit for the Silver Salmon Derby. The dates are September 9<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The city is currently recruiting for the summer hires.
  - The bluff erosion project intent to award has been offered to HDR design for the final design of the project. They hope to have a resolution for the Kenai City council to award the contract soon. The bid contract will be for a ready contract for the build of the project.
- g. City of Soldotna – Andrew Carmichael provided the board with the following report:
- Crew completed some vegetation work along the boardwalks at Soldotna Creek Park.
  - The City is in the middle of their summer hiring. They have received approximately 90 application for several positions.
  - Spruce Bark Beetle work is continuing in several of the City Parks.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough – No Report

## B. Committee Reports

- a. President’s Report-Ted Wellman provided the board with the following:
- Ted reported we are going to try and have an in-person meeting at the River Center. We won’t be able to have member s of the public. Those that do not attend in person can log in to Teams and participate.
- b. Guide Advisory-No Report
- c. Habitat-Branden Bornemann provided the board with the following:
- Branden gave a review of the Kenai Peninsula Borough 21.08 working group recommendations. These recommendations are working through the process. They

passed the planning committee unanimously on March 15. There is a public meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> in front of the Borough Assembly. Branden asked the committee if they would like to draft a letter of support or give public comment and it was recommended that this be brought to the board for a recommendation. Branden would develop a summary of the recommendations with a letter of support for Ted to review and send to the Assembly.

- Branden also recommended that the committee review the Kenai River Comprehensive management plan and the Whitaker study and highlight any habitat recommendation and actionable items for the committee to review and work on. The committee would review each item and determine if the item has been needs to be address. If not, how would the committee move forward to address the item?
- d. River Use-Bill Tappan provided the board with the following report. There were 6 to 8 people in attendance. The committee work on developing a list of priorities for the 2021-2022 board session. The list included:
- Salmon Stamp
  - Management of human waste
  - Closed bank list along the Kenai River
  - Life Jackets-Mandatory or not?
  - How to address when kayaks or canoers lose items and concerns if someone is missing.
- e. Legislative/Government Activities-Ben Mohr provided the board with the following:
- Call to Order
  - Roll - Ben, Ted, Pam (DNR), Monte, Branden, Colton (DFG), Jenny (DFG)
  - Minutes – no previous minutes

### **Agenda**

- Old Business – no old business
- New Business –
- 1 – Update on Legislation in Juneau
- HB 79 - Saltwater Logbook – Update Board, no action
- HB 80 – Sportfish License Surcharge – Propose generating language specifying \$ (based on angler days) shall go to access, opportunity, and capital improvements to/in KRSMA.
- SB 44 – Personal Use Priority – Update Board, no action
- 2 – Red Salmon Stamp Proposal
- Problem Statement: The KRSMA is a world class resource and should be funded appropriately; a red salmon stamp may provide the funding for enforcement, habitat improvement, conservation, and capital projects which achieve this.
- Letter on HB 80 may set the table for future action if changes there aren't successful.
- 3 – Gravel Pit NW of Soldotna Airport
- Advise KRSMA Board
- 4 – Additional Items
- Adjourn – 2:53PM

### **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Salmon Stamp- Ted Wellman reported that the board would like to identify a source of funds that would help with the shortage that State Park has with capital project, conservation, enforcement, habitat insurance, access and maintenance of the parks. There are several options to help in obtaining this funding. One is HB 80 a bill establishing a sport fishing hatchery facilities account and establishing a sport fishing facility surcharge. Another is the salmon stamp which is going to take some time to complete. It was the decision of the committee to write a letter to the House Finance Committee requests a further amendment to HB-80 with language specifying that monies collected under a sportfishing license surcharge, in excess of the \$4 surcharge originally requested by the Governor, be directed specifically to angler access, opportunity, and capital improvements within the KRSMA. The KRSMA Advisory Board recognizes that it may not be fair to direct all these funds to the KRSMA park unit, and so recommends that money be distributed to regions/river systems based upon use as represented by total number of angler-days in a calendar year.

Ted would the board to authorize Ben and Ted to work on develop a letter requesting this amendment to HB 80.

Joe Connors made the motion to authorize Ben and Ted to work on the letter to be sent to the House Finance Committee in requesting an amendment to HB 80.

Bill Tappan seconds the motion.

The motion passed with one abstaining.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Kenai River Special Management Area board members selection review. The board has 3 position to fill and there are 5 application with 2 returning and 3 new application. Ted commented that they need to have a meeting to interview these people. Joe Connors, Bill Tappan, Monte Roberts and Ted with be the committee to interview these applications. The date of the interviews is schedule for Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. At the River Center.

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- VII. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS-**Joe Connors was very excited about finding monies to get projects done. But does have concerns about getting items to put on the wish list.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Next Meeting: May 13th, 2021