

Seward Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2023 5:30-7:30 pm

AVTEC Culinary Academy, 809 Second Ave, east entrance, third floor

I. **Call To Order**

- A. Call to order @ 5:34 by Chair Griswold
- B. Minutes taker: Cliff Reid
- C. Roll Call: Bob Barnwell, Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Cliff Reid, Tess Tulley, Mica Van Buskirk
- D. Board members absent: Tom Miller, Kat Sorensen
- E. State Park staff: District Ranger Jack Ransom, Park Specialist Michael Burmeister (by phone)
- F. Public present: None
- G. Minutes approval for March 15, 2023, Mica motioned, Nick seconded to amend minutes to change wording. Motion and approval passed unanimously.
- H. Agenda changes and approval: Mark motioned, Mica second. Approved unanimously.

II. **Public comments:** None

III. **Board Contact with Public:** Nick is in contact with a community member about applying to the Board.

IV. **Executive Session to discuss Board applicants Mark Luttrell and Nick Jordan:** applicants left room for discussion, then returned. Both received unanimous approval to recommend appointment by director. Chair will send email to Director.

V. **Reports:**

A. Staff Report:

Jack Ransom: Cleared up a misunderstanding with AVTEC about use of facility, we will be able to continue meetings at current location.

Jack and Michael anticipate a busy May with lots of training and general spring cleanup in the Parks.

Callisto Cabin move will go out to bid soon. Money for move is already approved.

Waiting for approval on money for Tonsina Cabin move, will know on July 1st.

Commented on park use picking up, a large group from APU was camped out on Tonsina Beach.

Nikki Potter is the new/current permit approver for Parks.

There will be a Park Host at the upper parking area, a couple from Chugach with previous host experience.

Parking lot latrines have been pumped.

Will call Metco to push the snow berms back in the upper parking lot to facilitate parking this spring.

In June the cabins in Thumb Cove will be re-stained and re-habbed by the Sierra Club.

\$300k is set aside for repairs to the bridge over Tonsina Creek, project will go out to bid soon.

Jack reported that during the reconstruction of Seward Port, PNZ Construction put in a request for a marine mammal observation platform at Lowell Point Beach during the pile driving for new docks.

Michael Burmeister: hired three persons for summer trail crews and would like more applications for that crew, and for a Park Aide position. He is currently purchasing supplies and gearing up for the summer season.

B. Committee Reports

1. Local Issues: Nothing to report.
2. Mining: see goals.
3. Legislative Committee: Bob attended the Alaska Trails Conference. Goal was to put our area Parks in the public and government eye. The idea of a QR code for raising money for area State parks instead of a Friends Of group came up at that meeting. Mica is working on getting a meeting with Borough Mayor Peter Micciche.

C. Goals for 2023

1. Lowell Point parking: Waiting for SCORP release to see if Parks will be getting money and a plan for parking lot improvements.
2. Tonsina Creek mining: Bob stated that the DMLW website shows mining claims in the drainage have been closed. ILMA case file received and shared. Mark felt it was so confusing, it was worth just starting over.
3. Deferred Maintenance: Mica to email the Board information on the state budget deferred maintenance list. Carol offered to assist in a future letter from the CAB supporting priorities for FY25.
4. Support funding for relocation and/or erosion remediation for Tonsina PUC: As stated above, waiting for money approval on July 1, 2023.
5. Support Friends Group: Possible QR code system?
6. Update Parks website: DNR Mario working on it.
7. Maintain laminated tide charts at kiosks: Carol gave Nick the second quarter laminated tide charts to post on the trailhead kiosks.
8. Support mooring buoy plan
9. Request FY25 funding for deferred maintenance of existing public use cabins: Carol and Mica working on a letter in conjunction with goal #3 above.
10. Explore new PUC locations: Mica suggested some possible locations: Thumb Cove north end, Fox Island spit, South Beach of CHSRA, south end of North Beach CHSRA, Tonsina area between the bridges or near the pavilion. Replacement of existing PUCs may be included; if so which ones?
11. Support installations of more tent platforms: On-going.

12. ASLC meeting with Res Bay stake holders: Pending
13. Update of 1998 CHSRS Management Plan, especially with the addition of Fort McGilvray Historic District on December 22, 2022, and send letter of support. Draft letter by Chair 3-15-23, Chair emailed Board-approved letter to Director Gease on 3-17-23, and re-sent. Director will share with new superintendent when hired and discuss with Board in the fall.

VI. New Business:

- A. Discussion of whether Board members who miss more than three meetings should be asked if they are still interested in serving on the Board as per By-laws. Board consensus is yes.
- B. Minute taker discussion: More discussion of set rotation of task or possibly hiring someone. Jack will check if State money available for outside person.
- C. Ribbon cutting ceremony for Fort McGilvray Historic District: On hold
- D. Thank you card for Jack Blackwell: Passed around at meeting.
- E. A draft of the Alaska Long Trail Workbook is available at <https://www.alaska-trails.org/workbook-draft> Note that ALT starts at Mile 0, and does not include Lowell Point, Resurrection Bay Marine Trail, or CHSRA trails. Alaska State Parks, represented by Stuart Leidner and Ben Corwin, is part of the ALT Coalition. ALT contact: xlopez1818@gmail.com.
Board supported Chair sending an email to the ALT group requesting inclusion.

VII. Old Business:

1. Board membership: discussion. Postponed due to time constraints.

VIII. Informational Items:

1. DMLW Shawana emailed by Chair re: Tonsina ILMA 3-2-23, see below.
2. KMTA grant: After a big rush to meet deadline, Interpretation did not have time to participate so Carol declined to apply. DPOR Shawna Popovici: Fort McGilvray Historic District suggested creating an Historical Preservation Master Plan and alternate funding opportunities, see below.
3. May 20, 2022 Budget letter to Director Gease, was attached.

IX. Public comments: none

X. Adjournment:

- A. Board comments: Nick reiterated the need for the snow berm removal in the upper parking lot and the need for attention for Tonsina PUC this fall.
- B. Date of next meeting: September 20, 2023
- C. Move for meeting adjourn by Chair at 7:34 pm, unanimous.

Informational Items:

Tonsina ILMA

March 15, 2023

Hi Carol,

Thanks for your patience. The parks files tend to be a bit interesting because there is so much going on with ILMAs and management direction provided through area plans, but this is what I could figure out on this one.

What you are referring to started with the trail right-of-way in 1988 (serialized as LSH 93) that includes the 40 foot easement across the homesteader's property and was created for the purpose of a road ROW as opposed to an access easement that is typical in a park/rec area – which DPOR applied for in 1988. That application was serialized as ADL 224263 (this is the ILMA you asked about), then the file was split and the trail/access easement moved to ADL 224436, and then everything was lumped back together again under ADL 224263. The attached screenshot (KEAP Mapper), shows the boundary of ILMA 224263 – the portion with the blue dots. There is a small portion above the part circled in yellow, which is where the easement/LSH 93 comes into play.

The part circled in yellow that has the red diagonal lines is related to the management intent included in the Kenai Area Plan – specifically unit 354 (see [Kenai Area Plan – Alaska Division of Mining, Land, and Water](#)) This also has some quirks. I'm not sure why the management intent says there are two ILMAs issued to DPOR in unit 354. The initial ILMA file was split, but as far as I can tell, there's only been one ILMA issued that seems to cover a lot of things. If you look at the maps and compare it with the screenshot (attached), the area plan split the unit by ownership (not sure why they did it that way), and the part of the unit that shows as state park land matches the outline of the issued ILMA in Mapper. Going by the management intent the northern portion of that unit that is shown as state land is the other land that was suggested as being added to the ILMA/add the whole unit to the LDA. I'm not quite sure why they want to include this in the ILMA, when the parcel looks like it is already covered by the SUD (Special Use Area for Resurrection Bay serialized as ADL 227837. See also: [Special Use Lands – Alaska Division of Mining, Land, and Water](#)). I know there are some other ILMAs that also overlap with the SUD that were issued to assist park staff with the management of the adjacent park unit, so maybe they drew that part of the unit with the same need in mind. If you look at the ILMAs in SUA screenshot, you can see there are ILMAs all through that area (areas with the blue dots), and each one has a different purpose.

I hope this helps. The parks files aren't easy and with the ILMAs and LDAs and SUAs, there isn't one thing that explains all of the things. You can check out the information online in LAS and all of the screenshots are things I pulled from Mapper, so that is another tool that can help with your research. The other option is that you can always request the casefile. I don't have the casefiles, so I could only look at what I could find in the public records (LAS, Mapper, and the

Area Plan) and what I could find in our content management system, which wasn't much beyond what I already found in LAS, etc.

LAS: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/projects/las>

Mapper: [Home Page - Alaska Mapper](#)

Public Records Review

Form: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/cdn/pdf/forms/Public-Records-File-Review-Request.pdf>

Best,

Shawana K. Guzenski

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KMTA Grant, Historical Preservation Master Plan and Interpretive Planning Process

March 21, 2023

Hello Carol,

Thank you so much for your email!

I called and spoke with Jack Ransom today too, but I wanted to reach out to you as well. First of all, the KMTA grant cycle is either every 6-12 months and I'd ask that we postpone this one to the next cycle for a number of reasons, but most importantly for me is that my office needs to be involved in this plan, but right now I'm fully booked out.

However, I have another recommendation. My recommendation, for now, is that the new National designation of Caines Head opens up this location to a number of new opportunities that we did not have before. There are federal grants out there that are the best next step, and they are much bigger...far above and beyond what KMTA can add. First and foremost, I believe this site should receive a Historical Preservation Master Planning process and Interpretive Planning process. Your group could be a huge support for that, and it is something that can be federally funded for SHPO/OHA to do! I would support any new work out there that was supported by one of these plans. We have Historical Preservation Plans for Independence Mine, Totem Bight, Abercrombie, etc... Many of our other great/historical spaces. I think Caines Head deserves one too.

Since this was just designated, I'm sure now that can act as a catalyst to see many of these pieces finally fall into place.

I want to thank Jack for referring to our policy where OHA and my office are involved in projects like this, but I cannot commit my staff time this grant

cycle. I'm more than supportive of looking to the next phases. I'm also much more interested in RTP or LWCF grants as they only require only 10-30% match and for a much greater grant amount. They also allow us to contract out much of the work so we are not tying up field staff time, etc. etc... KMTA's grants are great for small projects that communities have fund-raised for upfront. I just did a great sign replacement project in Cooper Landing with KMTA support, but those grants take a lot of our time and match.

I'm very excited about Caines Head. But to do this right, I think a few planning efforts need to happen first so the site is not piece-mealed together over time. I need to wait for a staff to return in that office, but I will personally take this over to OHA to make sure it's still in their discussions. I work right next door so that's a good contact I have. 😊 This is very exciting! Thank you!

I hope this is a better alternative. Three days is just not feasible for us.

~Shawna

Shawna L. Popovici

Interpretation & Education Unit Manager

State of Alaska | Dept. of Natural Resources | Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

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March 22, 2023

Hi Shawna,

I for one, am relieved that we don't have to rush to complete and compete for the KMTA grant.

I am very interested in the Historical Preservation Master Planning process and Interpretive Planning process. Please keep me posted on how the Board can support both.

We would be happy to support any RTP and LWCF grants as well.

Thanks for this information. Please keep me posted!

Best,

Carol Griswold, Chair

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board