

**Mat Su State Parks
Citizens Advisory Board
Minutes
February 8, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Anderson at 7:02 PM.

A quorum of the Citizens Advisory Board was present and due notice had been published.

I. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mary Anderson
Steve Charles
Howard Carbone

Robert Homer
Chris Hospidales
Glenn Goodman

Greg Ronnbeck
Roy Wahl

II. MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Horn

III. MEMBERS EXCUSED

Neil Fox

IV. STATE PARK STAFF PRESENT

Wayne Biessel, Superintendent
Teri Zell, Secretary to the Board
Victor Stanculescu, Park Specialist, Willow
Dave Griffin, Special Assistant to the Director
Ben Ellis, Director

V. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Fred Hogland, guide in Denali State Park
Dennis Mobley, avid bicyclist

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Wayne asked that Ben Ellis be added under "Persons to be Heard"
No objections were made.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Robert Homer, seconded by Greg Ronnback to approve draft of January 2011 minutes with minor corrections.

Approved without objection

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Email from John Strassenburgh re: the Public Notice for the Fishhook Hydro Project
Email from Alex Strawn from the Mat-Su Borough re: Tall Towers Ordinance Assembly work session.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Dave Griffin, special assistant to the Director came to introduce himself. Dave worked with DMLW (Mining Land and Water) as the manager for the Knik Public Use Area for 4 years. He has a Bachelor of Science, has worked with many conservation corps and trail projects and is currently working on the South Denali development.

Vic Stanculescu, Park Specialist for Alaska State Parks in Willow has been a backcountry ranger for 14 years and worked with ADF&G in Alaska for 2 years. Since he has been with State Parks he has become our “Trail Dude” overseeing many of the trail grant projects such as Chicken Lake/East Red Shirt Cross Park trail, and the FEMA restorations for the damage to the Byers Lake Loop trail, Cascade trail and Upper Troublesome trail that occurred in the flood of 2006. He will also be working on a Recreation Trails Grant this coming summer for the Little Coal Creek and Ermine Hill trails.

Ben Ellis, Director, was just appointed a month ago to his position. He used to be on the Kenai River Special Management Area Citizens Advisory Board for 6 years (2 years as chair). He has been in Alaska for 22 years and considers himself a multi-user and loves the outdoors. He has been a journalist and Director of the Kenai River Sport Fish Association, as well as the Seward Sea Life Center and the Institute of the North. He owned a small consulting company before joining State Parks. He has an open door policy and would like the Board to start thinking about focusing on initiatives.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Independence Mine SHP Management Plan – scoping meeting is done and the draft is being worked on.
- Fishhook Hydro Project – easements are being put together
- Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Management Plan (NLSRA) – Steve spoke with Brandon McCutcheon and he is still collecting information and putting the draft together

- Recruitment Committee - Did not meet yet but have suggestions for advertisements.
- a) reproduce Chugach State Parks online vacancy ad
- b) Put an ad in the Talkeetna Times
- 30 second announcement on KTNA and refer them to the State Park website.

XI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a.) Good news, Amy O'Connor, our new Little Su Public Use Facility/Hatcher Pass ranger has a baby girl Aspen. Both mom and baby are doing well.
- b.) Ira – still in rehab, but doing well. Looking forward to coming home in March and continue his rehabilitation here.
- c.) Been having a weather problem with limited snow in Hatcher Pass. Lots of complaints because it is not open to the public for snowmachines yet. We brought in extra rangers from Kenai, Chugach and Northern to help get the area ready and signed, but still not enough snow.
- d.) Nancy Lake management issues – Brandon McCutcheon will be assisting us with dock and structure issues for the area. Not only do we have to work with ADF&G's Habitat division, but our whole area must also go through a coastal review which can take up to 30 days. This frustrates not only us but especially the public. We are trying to simplify the process and advocate for voluntary compliance. Right now, we have approximately 300 unpermitted docks within NLSRA.
- e.) Mat-Su Borough has hired a new Community Development Director, our previous Director, James King. This bodes well for us since he will be directly interfacing with us on the South Denali plan and Hatcher Pass issues.
- f.) Department of Transportation is trying to give up the management of the Mile 121 wayside on the Parks Highway. Parks does not want it.
- g.) Wayne assures the Board that the South Denali plan will incorporate not only non-motorized trails but snowmachine trails as well. There is currently a proposal in for a snowmachine trail to enter into the NLSRA and we are getting a trail grant for a snowmachine trail in Hatcher Pass.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- a.) CAB recruitment – was discussed earlier in the minutes.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Fishhook Hydro Project – due to the public notice that came out, Steve makes a motion to re-send the letter sent in December to the Borough again. Howard seconds the motion. All vote in favor.

XIV. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alaska Trails “Trail Rondy” will be held at the Palmer Job Corps Center April 15 – 17, 2011. Mary will send everyone links.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Submitted by:

Teri Zell, Secretarial Queen.