

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board
***** Meeting Agenda*****
Thursday, May 10, 2012
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Members Present:** Joe Connors, Ricky Gease, Brenda Trefon, Carol Padgett, George Heim, David Carey, Andrew Szczesny, Bruce King, Teri Carter, Robert Begich, Jack Sinclair, Tim Stevens.
- B. **The minutes** were approved as written.
- C. **Agenda** The presentation by Debby Burwen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game was given prior to the regular meeting being called to order.

- II. **Public Comments/Presentations** Debby Burwen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fishery Biologist III. Gave a presentation on potential sites for the Kenai King salmon sonar site. She also gave a short presentation on the new Didson counter equipment that will be used. This equipment will be deployed in the center of the river to get more accurate counts. Didson is more forgiving when it comes to the irregular bottom then the current equipment. For the 2012 season they will just deploy the equipment for 1 week at the 2 separate sites to see which site will work the best for the equipment.

Second presentation was by John Forsi. John proposal was to have a build a coffee shop and put it on a boat on the Kenai River. John is asking how do I begin the process of permitting for this project? John would like to take a portion of the proceeds and donate it to the Kenai Watershed program. This would be mobile but also would not travel up and down the river. Is there a regulation that prohibits this project? Jack commented from the Kenai River Special Management Area Plan, these types of businesses are prohibited on the river. There are businesses that offer this service outside the park boundary. It was recommended to John to present his proposal to the River Use committee in the fall or to find possible private land owner along the river where a possible coffee stand could be built.

III. REPORTS

A. Agency and Government Reports

- a. State Parks–State Park Director, Ben Ellis-commented that state parks did very well in the 2012 legislative session. Ben believes this was in part by the outreach from many groups and organization around the state. A year ago a letter was sent to all the legislatures outlining the type of work they would be occurring in the park units in their area. They were also given the opportunity to ask question or give comments on the projects. Then in the fall, a follow up letter will be sent detailing what accomplishment were made in each of the parks in the 2012 season. Ben noticed that many of the members of the legislature put this in there own newsletters highlighted the work that is being accomplished in the parks The next area that Ben would like to include in these letters is the operations aspect of the parks, such as staffing. 1.1 million dollars from Exxon Valdez Conservation supplement was given to purchase the Eagle Rock boat launch area. State Parks will take ownership of the property in the fall. The funding for the second phase of the Kasilof boat retrieval has been received. We are just finishing the environmental assessment on the top 3 properties and hope to make a purchase in the fall of 2012. Ben is looking more towards a launch instead of a cable system because if is safer. Negotiation for the property will begin this summer or fall, Purchase of the property should be no later than fall. Ben is currently looking at the current fee structure. One propose change will be the Pillars boat launch fee increasing from 10 to 15 dollars. A fence along Rapids Avenue along the Bing's Landing Park boundary will be installed in the summer of 2012. An application has been submitted to the division of Mining Land and Waste from the Sportsman's Club to purchase the Moose Pass property, which was previously DOT, to use as a local community center and a volunteer Fire Department for the area.

Jack reported that the Halibut Cove Lagoon dock ,the public cabin restoration projects and a sizable project to restore the shoreline near the boat launch area at the Kasilof River were included in the 2013 CIP budget.



Hawaii Beach in Kachemak Bay is currently being purchased with funding derived from the Dale Bondurant estate to be added to the Kachemak Bay State Park.

Copper Landing boat launch area has been repaired. Jack thanked everyone for their work on the Watershed Symposium in the fall of 2011 with certificates of appreciation. Jacques Kosto commented all Parks are open and ready to go for the 2012 season. New docks will be installed at the Pillars on June 11th.

- a. DEC-Tim Stevens-The peer review report for the turbidity study is not ready yet. Don't have a time line and will send Jack an electronic copy once it is available. Is the City of Kenai doing a waste site management plan for 2013?
- b. ADF&G- Tom Vania/ Robert Begich-Summary outlooks for the salmon. The Kenai kings for both early restrictions of Kings on the river if numbers stay below average. The late run of sockeye 4 million very similar as last year. Early run sockeye to the Russian will be monitored and also working on the waste management in the area. King Salmon tagging of early run and late run fish will continue in order to track At weir at Slikok Creek , Funny River , Killey River and Quartz creek will be in place this year for monitoring King Salmon. Northern pike is back at Sevena Lake. Felt sole boats are prohibited in freshwater fishing only. Hidden lake boat launch is closed for repairs and the Skilak lake lower launch area is closed also for repairs. Stormy Lake rotenone treatment will be underway in September for northern pike eradication.
- c. USF&WS- Janet Schmidt / Andy Loranger-was not present.
- d. USFS/Chugach- Bobbie Jo Kolodziejski-was not present.
- e. City of Kenai- Sean Wedemeyer-was not present.
- f. City of Soldotna- Peter Micciche-was not present.
- g. Kenai Peninsula Borough- Brent Johnson-was not present.

B. Committee Reports

- b. President's Report-Joe commented at the number of committee members that have been present for the meetings. Joe questioned the board on how do we get the municipality involved in our committees and our regular meeting.
- c. Guide Advisory –In attendance were 10 or 12 people and the committee received a report from Fish and Wildlife service and what the plan was for the middle river section of the Kenai River. There has not been any more discussions since the meeting in January. Rick Johnson did report that commercial operators that obtain a Kenai National Wildlife Refuge decal on their boat and use the middle river, are responsible to report And pay a \$2.50 per client fee for all use on land or on the water. Second thing on the agenda, was to work on a new approach for guide suspensions on the Kenai River. Andy said the more information they received, more complex the process became. The committee did not want to put anything together until all the information pertaining to the suspensions including the fishing violations, state park violation and other agency information has been reviewed. One suggestion was to create a fine procedure or community service within the park, instead of days off. Ricky talked about the dual requirements from National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska State Parks and how it would benefit both agencies if they would work together
- d. Habitat –A packet a summary of the turbidity issue on the Kenai. DEC has agreed to talk with the KRSMA Board after the summer. Public comment periods will be announced to everyone as soon as we know. The very top page is the options and is an ongoing process, implications the Habitat committee is going to work on the scientific implications and not the social aspect
- e. River Use-nothing to report
- f. Legislative/Government Activities-List of things for the legislature to considered, add on in September.
- g. Board Development –nothing to report.
- h. Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping-nothing to report.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Board Comments - Have a great summer.
- B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting September 13th, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.



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Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough

