

**Kenai River Special Management
Area Advisory Board Minutes
Kenai River Center
Thursday September 11, 2008 5:30 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

A. Members Present: Joe Connors, Ted Wellman, Brenda Trefon, Curt Shuey, Richard Dykema, James Czarnezki, David Carey, Jack Sinclair, Tim Stevens, Bruce King, Gary Knopp, Tom Vania.

B. The Minutes for August 28, 2008 were approved as written.

C. Agenda Changes and Approval included the addition of item C, Discussion of Director's Response to Resolution 2008-08.

II. Public Comment

The following made public comment:

Adam Reimer: Regarding Pillars parking and the DNR regulation process

Dwight Kramer: Regarding Pillars parking plus Bings Landing. Also regarding nomination selection process for the board.

Those who commented concerning the duck blinds on the Kenai Flats included:

Steve Meyer

Jess Richardson

Rod Nelson

Bill Sleasman

Rick Richardson.

Others present for duck blind concern were: Adrian Zimmer and Christine Cunningham.

III. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

Guide Advisory 9/11/08, committee did not meet. Joe Connors reported on two new items to be aware of: the first is TWIC, which involves licensing of guides, all guides will need to get one of these before they can guide next year. The second is the Department of Fish and Game has just released a draft document dealing with the creation of a Sport Fish Guide Services Board. It is a working document, 16 pages long and is on their website. The draft document includes authorizing the proposed Sport Fish Guide Services Board to establish as necessary a maximum number of SF Guides that could operate within a Sport Fish Guide Use Unit (limited entry).

Habitat 9/11/08, committee did not meet.

Recreation/River Use 9/11/08, committee did not meet. Waiting on the award of the Recreation Use Survey contract.

Permit 9/11/08, committee did not meet. The permit committee commented on one conditional use permit application in late May, early June, which was in Castaway Cove. The planning commission did not issue the conditional use permit.

Legislative/Government Activities 9/11/08, committee did not meet.

Board Development 9/11/08, 3 p.m. KRC – Curt Shuey reported two items the committee discussed. The first was a follow up to this year's board development workshop, possibly scheduling it for early December. The second item was reviewing the nomination process, which was used in last month's meeting. The committee reviewed several suggestions for the nomination process. One was to move the date back a month and have the names to the commissioner by October 1st rather than September 1st. Another suggestion was considering a different method for the nomination process. Both items will be action items at the next board meeting.

Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping 9/11/08, committee did not meet.

A. Kenai River Center / State Parks Report

Jack Sinclair, ADNR/Parks, reported on activity on the Kenai River. As of September 4 had about 30 written warning for 2-strokes on the river. There were also about 25 warnings for over 50-hp, below the bridge. Total citations for the river to date are 272 citations. Of which, 94 were fishing (7 written warnings), 68 park violations (51 were written warnings), 43 boating violations (39 written warnings), 57 traffic violations in the parks (4 written warnings), 10 guide violations (five were for false statements). We installed new concrete toilets at Big Eddy, Slikok Creek, and Morgan's Landing. We also were involved with a project with Kenai Watershed Forum at Bing's Landing, which involves the eradication of reed-canary grass. The RFP for the public use study for the Kenai River was released on July 24, 2008. Evaluations will be completed on 9/22/08, a notice of intent to award will be issued on the following day 9/23/08. By October 13, 2008 we will issue the contract officially and the contract starts immediately. On November 1st, 2008 we should be able to finalize a mutually agreeable study plan. The next task will be to complete focus groups and past analysis. The third task will be conducting field operations and surveys from May 15th, 2009 to September 1, 2009. The initial report will be due back October 15th, 2009 and final report due on March 1st, 2010. This winter we will be driving piles for new walkways at Morgan's Landing and Funny River.

Pam Russell, ADNR/Parks, reported on the Commercial Operator Trends and Statistics. Attached.

Tom Vania, ADF&G, said that the document on the Fish and Game website is draft language from the Guide Services board. It is not draft legislative language at this time. It was put out there for comments, which you can post and read. The department will be visiting communities all over the state in October and November to present this information for gathering additional comments for changes, modifications, and review of the language. He will let us know when the Soldotna meeting will be.

Tim Stevens, DEC, reported their contractors did two types of water sampling on the Kenai River this summer. Information is currently preliminary. Water sampling was done on July 19th, 20th, and 22nd for hydrocarbons on river mile 10, 5, and 1.5. Approximately 300 samples were collected. The two highest samples collected had hydrocarbons roughly at 7 parts per billion (2 out of the 300 samples) at the river mile 1.5. At river mile 5, hydrocarbons were slightly over 5 parts per billion, and at river mile 10, slightly under 5 parts per billion. Most of the samples were collected at a time when boats were on the river. On the average, there was around 4 parts per billion or less. One year ago at River mile 1.5, it was 23 ppb BTX. We've reduced by two-thirds the amount of the hydrocarbons that go into the river at this time of year. Boat numbers were less this year -around 600, last year there were around 700 boats counted on the busiest day in July. The other type of study was turbidity testing. A certain number of samples need to be gathered at different seasons to establish a variance for a natural background. This may take 2 years or longer.

B. Discussion of Director's Response

Dave Carey stated that director James King was open to discussion of the Guide Replacement Resolution #2008-08.

Three board members had concerns that the response did little to help the guide replacement issue. Since the response document was only given to most of the board at the beginning of the meeting it was decided to table the discussion until the board had time to read and digest the response. A more full discussion is planned for the October meeting.

IV. New Business

No new business

V. Action Items

No new business

VI. Public Comment

The following made public comment, Dwight Kramer asked for clarification on boundaries for state park and city land on the Kenai Flats.

VII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments

Ted commented that he would like to address the Pillars parking issue, the lower Kenai River boat launch proposal by the City of Kenai, and duck blinds within State Parks at the next meeting. He asked that a representative from the City of Kenai be requested to attend.

Joe Connors asked that everyone look through the notes on the Guide Replacement resolution for next months meeting.

B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting October 9, 2008, 5:30 p.m.