

**Kenai River Special Management
Area Advisory Board Minutes
Kenai River Center
Thursday, October 9, 2008 5:30 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

A. Members Present: Joe Connors, Ted Wellman, Brenda Trefon, Curt Shuey, George Heim, James Czarnezki, Bruce King, David Carey, Wayne Ogle, Robert Begich, Jack Sinclair, Tim Stevens.

Members Absent: Richard Dykema, Gary Knopp, Robin West, John Eavis

B. The minutes for the September 11, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

C. Agenda Changes and Approval: Agenda was approved as written.

II. Public Comment

Special reports/presentations:

A. Ellen Malling, Campfire USA, spoke to KRSMA about upgrades and project goals for Camp Kushtaka on the Kenai Lake. She asked the KRSMA board for a letter of support to Governor Sarah Palin, for the general concept of the camp.

The following made public comments concerning reducing the distance that a firearm (shotguns) may be discharged on the lower Kenai River, Kenai River Flats from ½ mile to ¼ mile:

Steve Meyer

Scott Miller

Greg Landis

Garth Bilderback

III. REPORTS

A. Agency Reports

James King, DPOR Director, thanked everyone on the board for recommendations for board appointments. Those recommendations will be sent to the commissioner and hopefully the letters will go out in time for next month's meeting. King discussed the lower Kenai River and a take out for drift boats. He commented that the budget for FY 2010 has been submitted and has made it to the governor's office.

Jacques Kosto reported on the 2008 Kenai River Field Operations.

Jack Sinclair thanked Kenai River Staff.

Tim Stevens, DEC, stated the draft report should be out mid-November for the 2008 Hydrocarbon study. The grant ended in September for the turbidity study, and we don't expect to get a report until mid-October. The EPA did approve the state's 2008 integrated report on hydrocarbons and included in that report is the state's decision to move the Kenai River from a Category 5 impaired water body to a Category 4B. A category 5 water body is one that is listed as impaired and needs a TMDLA (Total Maximum Daily Load Allocation). A Category 4B means the river is still listed as an impaired water body but has a recovery plan and is believed that the water will meet the state's standards within a reasonable amount of time.

Robert Begich, ADF&G, announced that a public meeting is scheduled at the Kenai River Center on October 27, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. to discuss the Sport Fish Guide Services Board Draft Language. It is open for public comment.

B. Committee Reports

Guide Advisory 10/9/08, Joe Connors reported that all 10 members were present. There were 6 items on the committee agenda, one of which was postponed until next month. First item on the agenda was Resolution 2008-08, guide replacement policy proposal and the Division's response. The second item discussed was trends on Kenai River relative to the commercial operators and it was noted this year showed a decrease in the number of permitted guides, 16 less than the previous year. The next item discussed was the letter from the Kenai Area Fishermen's Coalition (KAFC) in reference to the division addressing changes to passenger vehicle parking at The Pillars and Bing's Landing. The committee was in favor of how the present parking arrangement has been operating so far, in that no trailered boat has had to wait in excess of 30 minutes to launch from The Pillars during the busy times. Another item discussed was the state's proposed draft language for a sport fishing guide services board; the committee indicated that they do want to be a participant in this and it will be a major item on their agenda next month. Discussed briefly the request for proposals regarding the recreational study for the Kenai River and the committee felt that it was a good document and concerns were addressed in the document.

Habitat 10/9/08, did not meet; will have regular schedule meeting on the afternoon before the next KRSMA meeting. They hope to select a new committee chair at that meeting.

Recreation/River Use 10/9/08, met at 3:00 p.m. today and didn't have all members there. Discussed an update from Jack on the river use study status

timeframe and requested that the contractor attend next month's meeting. Talked a little about the potential boat launch on lower river and there was a general consensus that it needed additional study. The committee briefly discussed The Pillars parking issue. Hunting zones were not discussed. We talked about enforcement priorities, which basically meant that we would ask for additional information from DNR. We thought it might be appropriate for the KRSMA board to tell DNR what we think are important enforcement priorities. We didn't get to talk about safety training. Agreed that we need more time to deal with these issues. We will be scheduling a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the next KRSMA meeting.

Permits 10/9/08, did not meet.

Legislative/Government Activities 10/9/08, did not meet.

Board Development 10/9/08, met today at 4:00 p.m. and gave unanimous approval on the three action items. These will be on the November agenda. The action items include arranging for a follow-up board development workshop, a change to the bylaws to push the nomination process back one month later in the season, and a standardized nomination process. In addition, there was discussion of a smooth continuation of the committee process. Curt will be stepping down as chair; Vice Chair Jack Sinclair will continue the meeting process at the regular time 4:00 p.m. on the KRSMA meeting day.

Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping 10/9/08, did not meet.

IV. OLD BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

A. Guide Replacement Resolution Response Letter from Division

Joe Connors expressed his disappointment with DNR's response regarding the Guide Replacement Resolution Response Letter.

Director King responded to Joe that he had met with the Attorney General's office, as well as with the DNR Commissioner on this issue. There is no allowance under state law to allow less stringent requirements from one group over another, which is what the guide replacement resolution requests.

B. Report on The Pillars and Bing's Landing Parking concerns

Jack Sinclair addressed the Pillars and Bing's Landing parking concerns.

C. Legislative Briefing Proposal, November 13 – Sinclair

Jack Sinclair has extended an invitation to Representative Olsen to attend the legislative briefing. Jack requested permission of the board to send out the

invitations to the rest of the delegation in this area. The legislative briefing will begin at 6 p.m. on November 13, 2008. The presentation will require all board members' participation

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request assigning regulation review the distance requirements for discharge of firearms for the purpose of legal hunting on the KR Flats to committee

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Jack Sinclair encouraged board members to attend the state-wide call in, which includes all the advisory boards in the state. The next one will be in January.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Adam Reimer commented on parking concerns.

Monte Roberts commented on parking trends, duck hunting, and guide replacement resolution.

Mike Fenton commented on parking concerns and guide replacement resolution.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Board Comments

Brenda Trefon commented on guide replacement resolution.

Wayne Ogle commented that if the Coast Guard is calling state parks to help in the summer, we should take them up on it.

B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting November 13, 2008 5:30 p.m.