

**Kenai River Special Management
Area Advisory Board Minutes**
Kenai River Center
Thursday, November 13, 2008
5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Members Present: Joe Connors, Brenda Trefon, Carol Padgett, Richard Dykema, Adam Reimer, James Czarnezki, Bruce King, David Carey, Wayne Ogle, Robert Begich, Jack Sinclair, Tim Stevens.

Members Absent: Gary Knopp, Robin West, Ted Wellman, George Heim.

B. The minutes for the October 9, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

C. Agenda Changes and Approval: Dave Carey announced that the Legislative open house that was to be held this evening was cancelled. The agenda was modified from a legislative reception agenda to the regular meeting agenda. Chugach Electric was changed to Homer Electric Association. The agenda was approved with changes.

D. Public Comments: Steve Meyer made public comment concerning reducing the distance that a firearm (shotgun) may be discharged on the lower Kenai River, Kenai River Flats from ½ mile to ¼ mile. The river use committee assigned to this subject did not meet. Jack shared that the Kenai River staff is working on a map of the existing and proposed area and will make it available soon.

II. REPORTS

A. Agency Reports

Jack Sinclair, DPOR Superintendent gave a power point presentation example of the legislative briefing that was presented in Fairbanks. For KRSMA it was recommended that the board's "top ten" list be divided among the various committees.

Dave Carey added that he has contact with all of the legislators and stated that it is very difficult to get all of them together at one time. It was suggested that it may be easier to get a partnership with another organization such as the Kenai Peninsula Borough. This would be a more efficient use of the legislator's time.

Jack passed around the "New Proposed Land Additions for the Kenai River Special Management Area". This information is being provided in anticipation of developing legislation for the coming session. The Cooper Landing Community Club recently voted in favor of sending a letter to Sen. Seaton encouraging that the state lands around Kenai Lake be added to the KRSMA. A similar letter from the Kenai River Special Management Board is recommended.

Tim Stevens, DEC, reported that the Kenai River hydrocarbon draft report is due before December 1st. This report will be fleshing out more of the interim report containing more statistics about the monitoring collected in July. DEC has received the Kenai Watershed Forum's first quarter report that includes the preliminary data. Review of this data will help in determining if there are any turbidity problems on the river. As least 2 years of data will need to be collected before a final determination will be made.

Robert Begich, ADF&G, reported that the meetings for the sport fish guide service board are still being presented around the state. The next step will be to summarize these findings from the public comments and provide them to the guide task force. Then, determine what changes are to be incorporated and review with ADFG leadership.

USFS, was not present

Robin West, Kenai NWR, USF&WS, was not present.

B. Committee Reports

Guide Advisory 11/13/08, Joe Connors reported that six members were present. There were five items on the committee agenda; three were postponed for next month. First item on the agenda was developing some suggestions for the Education Program for users on the river. The second item was a report from the District Ranger Jacques Kosto concerning complaints, citations and written warnings. The third item was regarding the recreational use study and how the committee will participate.

Habitat 11/13/08, met at 12 pm today. There were nine members present. Bruce King was appointed new chairperson and Brenda Trefon will be vice chairperson. The group is putting together a draft legislative briefing report; the final draft will be presented to the full board. The committee will have an additional meeting prior to the regular committee meeting on December 11. A letter signed by Borough Mayor Carey was circulated titled "Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership". The letter describes the development of the Partnership. The group is in their beginning stage, currently meeting twice a month. It was recommended that KRSMA board participate and that one person from the habitat committee and one from the full board be included in the Partnership meetings.

River Use 11/13/08, A Notice of Intent to Award was issued to Confluence Research and Consulting Company to conduct the Kenai River Recreation Use Study. Mr. Doug Whittaker is the Company's Anchorage contact and will be here on December 11th to do focus group interviews as well as meet with the different committees.

Permits 11/13/08, did not meet.

Legislative/Government Activities 11/13/08, did not meet

Board Development 11/13/08 Jack Sinclair extended his appreciation to Curt Shuey for his presence at the meeting and for serving the last two years on the board. There were two items of importance; finding a date that the board can convene for a board development workshop and setting a date for the Kenai River Comprehensive Plan review.

Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping, 11/13/08 did not meet.

C. OLD BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

A. Board Development proposal, Nominee selection guidelines and By Laws changes.

The proposal was forwarded to the board members to approve the by-law changes for Nominations, Appointments, Membership, Meetings and Officers and Committees. James Czarnezki moved and Joe Connors second. Proposal approved with no audible opposition.

In light of the recommendation made by President Carey regarding presentations to the legislature, Joe Connors moved that the KRSMA Advisory Board partner with the Kenai Peninsula Borough relative with making a presentation to members of the legislature. Seconded.

Approved with no audible opposition

NEW BUSINESS

C. Homer Electric Association hydroelectric exploration in the KRSMA- Jack Sinclair brought to the board's attention that Homer Electric Association has applied for four hydroelectric exploration permits in the Kenai River water shed; specifically, Crescent Creek, Ptarmigan Creek, Falls Creek and Grant Creek. The Kenai River Special Management plan on page 82, specifically talks about impoundment structures.

It was recommended that HEA come and give a presentation at the next meeting. Moved and seconded. Approved with no audible opposition

D. Lands Additions KRSMA- Sinclair. These were lands asked for before but were removed in committee. Discussion of lands and the map.

D. CORRESPONDENCE- none

E. PUBLIC COMMENT No Comment.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Board Comments Bruce welcome the two new members of the board.

Joe Connors introduced Bill Miller founder of the now Kenai River Professional Guide Association and long time guide.

Dave Carey submitted his KRSMA Board seat resignation to the City of Soldotna; the new City of Soldotna's new Mayor will appoint a new representative to the KRSMA Advisory Board. Until that time, Mr. Carey will continue to serve for the City.

B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting December 11, 2008 5:30 p.m.