

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, March 9, 2017
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center
514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Keith Baxter, William Tappan, Dwight Kramer, Ted Wellman, Andrew Carmichael, Matt Kelley, Lisa Gabriel, Matt Connors, Andy Loranger, Jacques Kosto and Marion Glaser.
- B. **Minutes:** Approved as written.
- C. **Agenda:** Ted Wellman added under new business a report about the Land Use Planning Conference.
- D. **Public Comments:** None

II. REPORTS

1. Agency and Government Reports:

a. State Parks

Jacques Kosto provided the board with the following report:

- We have received the approval to hire the Ranger I position that became vacant when Ranger Don Barber retired. The Department has five qualified applicants and interviews are scheduled for March 22 and 23, 2017.
- Alaska State Park staff recently met with the Gilman River Center agencies and the City of Kenai to discuss the permitting process for the Eagle Rock boat launch. Construction is scheduled to begin the fall of 2017.
- Recruitment is still open and we are still accepting applications for the three open positions on the KRSMA board, through March 31.
- Deputy Director Matt Wedeking has been appointed the acting state parks director until a replacement can be appointed.

b. DEC-Jeanne Swartz provided the board with the following report:

- DEC has received the analysis back on Kenai River Turbidity study back from the contractor, Geosyntec. That analysis will be incorporated into the final turbidity impairment determination for the Lower Kenai River to be included as part of the 2014-2016 Integrated Report. 2014-2016 Integrated Report will be submitted to EPA. The report may be available for public comment an yet undetermined date.
- The DEC Alaska's Clean Water Actions (ACWA) was established by the Governor's office and Alaska's resource agencies to prioritize waterbodies for appropriate stewardship actions and to better coordinate resources and agency efforts to protect and restore these waterbodies. The purpose of the ACWA grant solicitation is to address water quality, water quantity, and aquatic habitat issues. The current grant period deadline for applications was 5:00 PM, February 15, 2017.

c. ADF&G –No Report

d. USF&WS- Matt Connor provided the board members with the following report:

- During a Take a Kid fishing event at Sports Lake, the invasive aquatic plant Elodea was found while some fishing holes were being drilled. The Refuge is currently working on plan to eradicate the plant. Refuge staff was going to return to the lake and drill several holes to determine the impact of the Elodea. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for April.

e. USFS/Chugach National Forest – Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:



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



- The National Forest Service is currently getting ready for the summer season. They are currently working on the hire process and have two technicians in place for the Russian River Area.
- f. City of Kenai – Matt Kelley provided the board with the following report:
- The City of Kenai City council will be meeting and there will be three proposal presented for comments on three Board of Fish proposal as follow:
 - PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Amend the area open to dip netting from shore in the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:5 AAC 77.540(c)(1)(D) is amended to read:(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:(1) in the Kenai River, as follows: (D) from shore, in the area from ADF&G regulatory markers located on the Cook Inlet beaches outside the terminus of the river **to a line at the mouth of the Kenai River from No Name Creek on the north shore to an ADF&G regulatory marker on the south Shore.** **This proposal was amended to exclude the private property on the South side.**
 - PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Extend season and liberalize the bag limit in the Kenai River personal use fishery when the sonar estimate is projected to exceed 1.2 million sockeye salmon, as follows: **When the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement can be projected to exceed 1,200,000 fish, the Commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Kenai River personal use dip net season through August 10, and the Kenai River personal use limit may be increased by 10 salmon. During August all king salmon must be immediately released. This proposal failed.**
 - PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 77.540 Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Extend the boundary of the Kenai River personal use dip net boat fishery upstream to Cunningham Park, as follows: Extend the Kenai River personal use boat fishery farther upstream (to Cunningham Park). **This proposal failed**
- g. City of Soldotna- Andrew Carmichael provided the board members with the following report:
- The city is just about finished building 600 feet of new trail at Centennial campground that will be considered the back loop to the already existing trail. The purpose of this new loop is to help keep public off the main entrance road to the park.
 - The city has started the 2017 hiring for the summer season.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough- No Report

2. Committee Reports

- a. President’s Report-no reports
- b. Guide Advisory –No Report
- c. Habitat – Keith Baxter provided the board members with the following report:
 - Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Science Symposium is April 5th and 6th at the Soldotna community center in Sterling.
 - The Kenai River Cleanup is scheduled for May 11th and 12th. The cleanup committee is still in need of transportation sponsors, but any help will be welcomed.
- d. River Use –No Report
- e. Legislative/Government Activities-No Report
- f. Cooper Landing Bypass-No Report

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ted Wellman and Pam Russell attended the workshop *Land Management on the Kenai Peninsula: Opportunities to Work across boundaries*, on March 7, 2017. The goal of the forum is to facilitate knowledge of ongoing planning and partnering, with the hopes that this sharing will lead to smart

leveraging of our individual conservation efforts. There were over 70 participants with presentation range from management plans currently in the review processes to what your group represents and goals.

- V. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- VII. **BOARD MEMBERS COMMENT**
- VIII. **AJOURNMENT**



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