

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, May 11, 2017

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Ricky Gease, Brendyn Shiflea, Keith Baxter, William Tappan, Dwight Kramer, Monte Roberts, Ted Wellman, Lisa Gabriel, Matt Connors, Marion Glaser, Brian Marston, Jack Blackwell and Jeanne Swartz.
- B. **Minutes:** Approved as written.
- C. **Agenda:** Ted Wellman added to the agenda a resolution regarding forming a sub-committee that would work on some of the guide issues on the Kenai River. Adding an amendment to the bylaws in regards to associate members being someone that would stand in in the case there isn't have a forum.
- D. **Public Comment/Presentation:** None

II. REPORTS

1. Agency and Government Reports:

a. State Parks

Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:

- The board received five applications for the four vacant board seats on the KRMSA Board. Interviews were conducted in May and the list of candidates were sent to the commissioners for final approval.
- The Eagle Rock boat launch construction work is slated to start in fall of 2017. This includes a double launch, parking and road improvements, and a walkway along the river.
- The new Bing's Backline day use area is almost completed.
- The new Bing's Landing dock will be installed in June.
- Deputy DNR Commissioner Ed Fogels met with a representative from ADOT to discuss the improvements of the Spur Highway between Kenai and Soldotna. The project will start in the fall of 2017 and take two years to finish the first phase. For this summer, this will not affect parking in the highway right of way
- Jack thanked Dwight Kramer for his service on the board.

b. DEC-Jeanne Swartz-No Report

c. ADF&G-Brian Marston provided the board with the following report:

- Many of the Fish and Game projects have started for the 2017 season. One new project is the tagging project of trout around Kelley River.
- The Sonar site is in for King and Sockeye Salmon.
- Sport Lake is currently being treated for Elodea and the boat ramp is closed except on days that a Fish and Game staff can be on site.

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

- The new management plan was implemented that will t disperse camping along the river in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Area. There are ten designated sites selected site that are for camping only downstream from Skilak Lake.
- There is a Game Warden Camp planned at the Kenai National Wildlife visitor center.
- Seasonal staff are all back and training has started for the season.
- The Marsh Lake trail is currently being worked on for improvements and a small parking area.
- The pit toilet that is located on Skilak Lake where the dump station is located is going to be moved to the Marsh Lake trail head site.



- Russian River staff are getting ready to dig all the fence post holes for the wooden fence along the new trail. Volunteers are welcome.
- e. USFS/Chugach National Forest – Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:
 - The seasonal orientation is set to start on Monday.
 - Marion has been working with the Kenai tribe to get the fish techs hires. They should be hired by June 1st.
 - Renewal of the five-year MOU/ Memorandum of Understanding is being updated between all the agencies for the Stream Watch program.
- f. City of Kenai – Lisa Gabriel provided the board with the following report:
 - On May 4th, the City of Kenai adopted a resolution to support the Stream watch program.
 - The boat ramps at the city dock are currently being dredged.
 - The no wake buoys are being put in place for the personnel dip net fishery in the Kenai River.
 - The city is currently working with the Chamber of Commerce to create a MOU for the Silver Salmon Derby. This would have the city manager report to the city council on any matter pertaining to the Silver Salmon Derby.
 - The bluff erosion project in Old Town Kenai is moving forward.
- g. City of Soldotna – No Report
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough- No Report

2. Committee Reports

- a. President’s Report-Ted Wellman provided the board with the following report:
 - Ted just wanted to pass along that it is the end of the year and in September when the board meets again we have to go through the business of re-appointing committee chairs. Please think about how you would like to participate in before the September meeting.
- b. Guide Advisory –Monte Roberts provided the board with the following report:
 - The board discussed forming a Kenai River Guide Suspension committee Kenai River Guide Suspension committee. A draft resolution has been drafted for approval.
 - The board also reviewed all the violations that occurred in the past 10 years.
- c. Habitat –No Report
- d. River Use –No Report
- e. Legislative/Government Activities-No Report
- f. Cooper Landing Bypass- R Ricky Gease provided the board members with the following report:
 - The House passed HR 7 which is supporting the Juneau Creek Alternative and it has stalled in the transportation committee at this time.
 - CIRI is going to meet with the Secretary of Interior to discuss the land exchange issue. That could take 4 to 6 months.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- The Kenai River Silver Salmon Derby- Monte asked how long it would take to issue the permit. Depending on how much information we need it could take 30 days or longer. Ted asked that the application be provided to all the board members since it will be submitted at a time the board does not meet.
- Keith Baxter commented that Chugach Electric has formally withdrawn their application to put a dam at the Snow River.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

The Guide Advisory committee has submitted a resolution that would create a Kenai River Guide Suspension Committee. The resolution is as follow: the board received complaints regarding the propriety and timing of suspensions of guides for violations of the guide stipulations. The Division of Parks could benefit from receiving the advice of senior guides and former guides regarding such suspensions: and the Park Superintendent and his staff have indicated a willingness to receive advice upon receipt of permission and waiver of privacy interests by individuals cited for such violations and subject to potential suspensions. Therefore, be is that the board recommends to the Division of Parks that it appoint an appropriate number of senior guides and former guides to render advice regarding the severity and timing of suspensions; and that such appointment and procedures for receiving such advice be determined in consultation with the President of the Board.

The board voted to pass the resolution unanimously.

Ted Wellman has recommended that the board should consider having alternative members on the board that could attend meeting when quorums are not going to be met. Two or three associated members that do not have designated spots. Who can attend meeting and fill in a position when needed.

V. CORRESPONDENCE:

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

VII. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENT- Ricky commented that he hopes everyone has a great summer. Keith commented that it was the first day of the Kenai River cleanup. Dwight thank the board members for them time served and any help they gave for the River Use committee. Dwight hopes that Parks update the management plan.

VIII. AJOURNMENT

