

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, December 14, 2017
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center
514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, William Tappan, Monte Roberts (via tele-conference), Ted Wellman, Michael Frost, Andrew Carmichael, Paul Ostrander, Brent Hibbert, Andy Loranger, Marion Glaser (via tele-conference) Brian Marston, Jack Blackwell and Jeanne Swartz.
- B. **Minutes:** Approved as written.
- C. **Agenda:** Approved as written
- D. **Public Comment/Presentation:**

II. REPORTS

1. Agency and Government Reports:
 - a. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
 - Jack welcomed Alaska Park Ranger Josh Taylor to the KRSMA meeting. Josh started with State Parks in March 2017 and is currently assigned to patrol the lower Kenai River.
 - The ADOT Spur Highway re-alignment will start in spring 2018. The right of way across from Eagle Rock drive will be partially blocked. It will only be a third of the size than the existing space.
 - Jack also reported that State Parks will still be requesting bids for proposal for additional parking offsite by a commercial operation somewhere new Eagle Rock. State Parks is currently working with the Department of Law for clarification on the proposal.
 - b. DEC-Jeanne Swartz provided the board with the following report:
 - The current 2014-2016 integrated report is on the Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) has been signed by the Commissioner of Department of Conservation, Larry Hartig on December 14, 2017.
 - Every two years, DEC is required to report on the condition of Alaska's waters, in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. The Integrated Report categorizes waterbodies in Alaska to meet the reporting requirements for the Section 305(b) report and Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The Integrated Report helps the State prioritize waters for data gathering, watershed protection, and restoration of impaired waters. DEC collects water quality information through a public solicitation and through a year-round waterbody nomination process. Information is assessed by a multi-agency process called Alaska Clean Water Actions. Based on this assessment, a waterbody is categorized in the Integrated Report in one of five categories.
 - The report can be found at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report.aspx> Written comments are due by 5:00 PM on January 29, 2018. A public informational meeting is on January 4, 2018 at 4:00 PM at the DEC office in Anchorage at 555 Cordova Street.



- DEC is currently working on the 2018 integrated report is scheduled to be completed by April 2018. The process is different from the past report, as for the process is a little more automated.
- c. ADF&G-Brian Marston provided the board with the following report:
- The 2018 projection for Sockeye salmon for the Cook Inlet is 4.6 million which is just slightly better than 2017. From that total 2.5 is estimated for the Kenai River, which is once again slightly better than last year but below average. The Kasilof is 866 thousand, which also below average.
 - The department had the first Tote Road Pike eradication scoping meeting in December and there are two more slated for after the holidays. The meeting was well attended and there were several good comments that came from the meetings. The work is not scheduled until late summer 2018.
 - Alaska Department of Fish and Game lost it funding for the 2018 Coho Salmon research on the Kenai River. There may be funding available in the future.
- d. USF&WS-Andy Loranger provided the board members with the following report:
- The Refuge staff is currently working on the final plans for the maintenance/repair work on the public fishing platforms on Keystone Drive. Construction is slated for 2018 outside the peak of the high use time.
 - There is a holiday open house scheduled at the Refuge Visitor Center on Saturday December 16, 2017. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- e. USFS/Chugach National Forest –Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:
- Chugach National Forest is currently updating their interpretation plan. This include some of the information that goes out to the public. Marion has been working on an area map that combines information from several various agencies to help users to understand the rules and regulations in the area. The board was provided with a draft of the map. This is a working document and if anyone has any questions/suggestions please forward them to Marion. The final product will be a fold out brochure to be handed out to the public.
- f. City of Kenai – Paul Ostrander provided the board with the following report:
- A summary of the Kenai Silver Salmon Derby was provided by Kenai City Manager Paul Ostrander. A copy of the report is available upon request.
 - The report explains that the proceeds from the derby would go to the Kenai Community Foundation which is a 504(c)(3) non-profit based organization. The Foundation intends to utilize the funds for the management and protection of the river bank and other riparian zones in the City of Kenai.
- g. City of Soldotna – Andrew Carmichael provided the board with the following report:
- The city has just completed a bid for proposals for a project at Swiftwater Park. The project included 2 sets of river access stairs and set of stairs to a fish walkway. The project was awarded to Polar North. This project is slated to begin sometime this winter.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough- Brent Hibbert provided the board with the following report:

- The Borough Assembly had their first meeting with newly elected Mayor Charles Pierce.
- There was also a meeting with Kenai Peninsula School District Mr. Dusek and the school board regarding the upcoming budget.
- The Assembly is looking at a bed tax to be put into place within the borough. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2018.
- There was a quarterly report from the Kenai Peninsula Hospital, Soldotna and Homer. They are doing good.

2. Committee Reports

- President's Report-No Report
- Guide Advisory –Bill Tappan provided the board with the following report:
 - There was a joint meeting between the Guide committee and River Use committee from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The committee worked on the draft language for the mooring buoy regulation. The change included the amount of time someone can leave the buoy unattended, the proposed time was changed from 20 minutes to 45 minutes. The changes also included the reason for leaving the buoy unattended. State Park staff will work on cleaning up the language for the January meeting.
- Habitat –No Report
- River Use –William Tappan provided the board with the following report:
 - The committee discuss the presentation that was given by Don Reed at the committee meeting regarding the 60/40 versus the straight 50 horsepower motor. It was agreed that the committee will look at the horsepower regulation and that State Park staff will take the first stab at cleaning up and revise the regulation. This will be brought back to the River Use committee once State Parks staff has time to review the regulation.
- Legislative/Government Activities-No Report.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- Advisory Board Membership and Recruitment-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
 - Brendyn Shiflea term on the board expires June 30, 2018, at this time Brendyn has moved to Anchorage and will not be attending any future KRSMA meetings. Jack asked the board if they would like to leave the seat vacant until the new recruitment process has been completed or to appoint Brandon Bornemann to fill the position until June 30, 2018 as to when Brandon would reapply for a seat on the board. The board decided to leave the seat vacant until the completion of the recruitment process.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter to the Director regarding the status of the mandatory PFD regulation**-Ted Wellman provided the board with the following report:



- A draft letter was drafted by the President of the KRSMA Board Ted Wellman to Director Ethan Tyler of Alaska State Parks requesting an update as to the status of the mandatory PFD requirements regulation for all users on the Kenai River.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENT- HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

VIII. AJOURNMENT