

## Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

### \*\*\* Meeting Minutes\*\*\*

Thursday, November 08, 2018  
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center  
514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** William Tappan, Ted Wellman, Ron Rogalsky, Mike Frost, Andrew Carmichael, Brent Hibbert, Ricky Gease, Glen Arundell, Marion Glaser, Monte Roberts, Jeanne Swartz and Jack Blackwell.
- B. **Minutes:** Minutes were approved.
- C. **Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- D. **Public Comment/Presentation:**

#### II. REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports:
  - a. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
    - Jack reported that State Parks is working with the Division of Forestry removing the hazard dead spruce bark beetle trees at Izaak Walton State Recreation Area. These trees are available to the public by permit. Contact the Morgan Landings park office for more information.
    - State Parks is also working with the Division of Forestry to identify other State Park units that were heavy hit by the spruce bark beetle. The Division of Forestry is developing a plan to help with the Spruce Bark beetle infestation for fuel and hazard tree reduction for the southcentral area.
  - b. DEC-Jeanne Swartz provided the board with the following report:
    - The final 2014/2016 Integrated Report has been submitted to EPA and will take 4 to 6 weeks to finalize. Based on the sampling results and analyses, ADEC is leaving the lower Kenai River in Category 3 (insufficient information) for turbidity in the 2014/16 IR until further information becomes available to reassess the current condition of the river. ADEC will work with local stakeholders to create a prioritized watershed plan to address potential water quality issues affecting the Kenai River. The full report and supporting documents can be found on the DEC web site at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/.aspx>.
  - c. ADFG -No Report
  - d. USFWS-No Report
  - 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 Chugach National Forest Service is currently reviewing the Draft EIS for the Grant Lake Hydro project in the Trail Lakes area.
- An archeological site has been located at the Trail River Campground Day Use area. A study of the area to determine the extent of area is planned in the summer of 2019.
- Marion is currently working on a popular use report of the trails with the Seward District of the national forest.
- In January 2019 the Forest service will be hiring a permanent 6-month position to be the coordinator of the upper river stream watch program.
- Starting in December, Marion Glaser will start a new temporary position to manage the Terrestrial Program Resources in the Seward Ranger District.

f. City of Kenai – No Report

g. City of Soldotna-Andrew Carmichael provided the board with the following report:

- The City of Soldotna is working on removal all the infrastructure along the river in the city park. With late fall high water level on the Kenai River this is taking longer than anticipated.
- Tonight, at Cook Inlet Aquaculture building there is a meeting with agencies and the public to discuss the spruce bark beetle infestation on the Peninsula. Swiftwater Park was hit hard with the beetles and the city is currently working on a plan to remove the trees. Andrew has also noticed that the beetles are not only infested the large trees but also the smaller/younger trees.
- The 2018 City of Soldotna revenue is down 16.9% from previous years. It is believed that this in part due to the low Chinook and Sockeye runs on the Kenai River.

h. Kenai Peninsula Borough- Brent Hibbert provided the following report:

- After the recent storms and flooding in Seward the Kenai Peninsula Borough has appropriated half a million dollars in emergency funds to help restore and control flood waters on borough roads. The funds were used to supply equipment and manpower.
- Emergency service did an excellent job working with the residents of Seward and no houses were breached with water. A few houses had water in their basement but the road at Lowell point was not washed out.

### III. Committee Reports

a. President's Report: Ted Wellman provided the following report:

- Jeff Dolifka will be the chair of the Habitat Committee and Ted will work with him at the next meeting to get the committee on track. Ted also encourage all board members to participate in the Habitat committee to help establish a list of projects for the committee to work on this session of the board.

b. Guide Advisory-Monte Roberts provided the board with the following report:

- The committee went over the current Kenai River guide stipulations. Ranger Kosto had a few recommendations to remove a few of the stipulations for they are covered in regulation. There are a few that State Parks needs to get clarification from the legal department.
  - The guide advisory board has been working on a cooperative agreement between guides and State Parks. At this time, the Guide Association had agreed to support the Guide Academy course.
  - Monte also discussed the Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay Wilderness Park draft management plan. It is currently out for review and encouraged the committee to look at chapter 5 and specifically the Tutka Bay hatchery and the rearing and release of pink salmon.
  - The committee also put a recommendation forward for State Parks to develop a notification system to the commercial operators on the Kenai River when removing docks, stairways and closing bathrooms for public use.
  - The guide committee will also be working with Matt Miller (ADF&G), Senator Peter Micciche and State Parks on 5AAC75.075 which includes guide regulation, stipulations and logbook reporting.
- c. Habitat Committee-No report.
- d. River Use Committee-Bill Tappan provided the board with the following report:
- State Parks received two applications for memorial benches to be placed at Pillars SRA and Eagle Rock SRA. After the committee reviewed the current policy that is currently in place for Alaska State Parks, it was determined that the policy covers all the committees concerns and no changes are recommended at this time.
  - The committee approved the applications for the memorial benches to be placed at Eagle Rock and the Pillars boat launches. These applications are being moved to the board for approval. It was also noted that State Park staff approved the placement of the benches.
  - The proposed Funny River Boat Launch site location is just downstream from the Funny River Recreation Site. A post was installed in 2018 to monitor the water levels in this area. It was determined that the area is too shallow, and water levels do not come up to useable levels until late summer. This site is also a high cultural site and a spawning area for Chinook salmon. The area also has several rocks and may be a navigation hazard.
  - The committee with State Park staff is going to work on a list of possible boat launch sites.
  - At the December River Use meeting the committee will start working on reviewing the Kenai River Special Management plan and developing a list of changes to the plan.
  - Monica Alvarez from DNR planning has volunteered to come down and have a work session with the advisory board to go over concerns with the plan. The work session meeting date has currently not been scheduled.
  - The committee also looked at the Salmon Stamp for the Kenai Peninsula and would like to work with the Legislative Committee to determine how to move this proposal forward.
  - Discussion about middle river crowding, the human waste removal and how to control large private parties. The committee recommends more education to the public using by using posters, handouts and possible installation of portable bathrooms along high used areas. The committee recommended maybe more people on the ground to help get the out.
- e. Legislative Committee-Ricky Gease provided the board with the following report:



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- The committee discussed the boards bylaws. There were some minor changes to how State Parks public notices the vacancies under section IV Nomination and Appointments letter c. It current reads Notice of the vacancy and the application procedures shall be published in local papers. It been changed to the vacancy and the application procedure shall be publicly noticed. This will be sent to the Director for approval.
- The committee also proposed no changes to the KRSMA Policy 001, that provides supplemental guidance and consistency to Bylaw Article nominations and appointments.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Proposed Memorial Bench at Eagle Rock and the Pillars boat launches.

Bill Tappan made a motion to approve the two memorial applications to place benches at Eagle Rock and the Pillars.  
Andrew second the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board Bylaws.

Monte Roberts made a motion to change the bylaws language under IV. Nominations and appointments, item C. currently states: Notice of the vacancy and the application procedures shall be published in local newspapers to be changed to: The vacancy and the application procedure shall be publicly notice.

Ricky seconds the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously

#### **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### **VIII. BOARD COMMENTS: Happy Thanksgiving**

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**