



KENAI RIVER

Special Management Area

"Working together...for the river"

ADVISORY BOARD

Kenai Region Office

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Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, January 10th, 2019

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Jeff Dolifka, Monte Roberts, William Tappan, Lisa Gabriel, Paul Ostrander, Ted Wellman, Andrew Carmichael, Brent Hibbert, Colton Lipka and Jack Blackwell,
- B. **Minutes:** Bill Tappan made the correction under Committee reports; letter d should reflect that Ted Wellman chaired the December River Use Committee meeting. Minutes were approved as amended.
- C. **Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- D. **Public Comment/Presentation.** Mike Selzetti from Homer Electric/Kenai Hydro thank the KRSMA board for allowing him to present at the December advisory board meeting and for the support with the development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Kenai Hydro, LLC, NOAA and Fish and Game (Habitat) and the KRSMA board letter rescinding the letter that was submitted on December 5th, 2018 objecting to the referenced project.

II.REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports:
 - a. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
 - Jack reported Park Rangers Jacques Kosto and Tom Anthony tried to get out to as many of the park units in the area by snow machine.
 - Pam is busy is working on permitting issues and getting ready for the 2019 season.
 - Kenai River Special Management Area board recruitment will be posted next week and will be open until March 31, 2019.
 - b. DEC-No Report
 - c. ADFG -Colton Lipka provided the board with the following report:

- Colton is anticipated to move to the Soldotna/Kenai area in about two weeks.
 - The Sportfish Division is currently working on the 2019 pre-season outlook for Chinook Salmon. This report should be available at the beginning of February 2019.
 - The 2019 sockeye salmon report has been released and the department is looking at a slightly above average return for.
- d. USFWS-No Report
- e. USFS/Chugach National Forest –No Report
- f. City of Kenai – Paul Ostrander provided the board with the following report:
- The 2018 Silver Salmon derby participation was down from 2017. There were 143 participants in 2017 and 45 in 2018, which is down approximately 100 participants. Some of this was in part to inclement weather and water conditions in 2018.
 - In 2017 the payout to the foundation for specific projects on the Kenai River was \$1647.00 and for 2018 approximately \$520.00.
 - From the total project prize money payouts were \$531.00 to youth participants and \$892.00 for adults.
 - The approximate total of the fund is \$2200.00 dollars and the foundation does not have any projects earmarked for the funds.
 - The City of Kenai has applied for the 2019 derby for the second and third week of September. The days will be Friday to Sunday of each week.
 - Changes for the 2019 Derby is to have early and better advertisement and to possible offer participants to purchase tickets on-line. Currently participants must drive to Kenai (Three Bears or the Chamber of Commerce) to purchase tickets.
 - Monte Roberts asked if the participation in the derby keeps reducing would the City of Kenai consider discontinuing the event?
Paul commented that that would be a discussion the City would have if participation continues to drop.
 - The 2018 Personal Use Fishery (Dip Net) Report has been released. The is a summary of the whole personnel dip net fishery. The major highlights are that the number of participants was down significantly with total revenue. If the numbers continue to drop; the City of Kenai will have discussion with Fish and Game for alternative funding from the State.
- g. City of Soldotna-No report:
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough-Brent Hibbert provided the board with the following report:
- The Borough Assembly had a ceremony renaming the assemble chambers to the Betty Glick Assemble Chambers.
 - The assembly passed a resolution supporting Robert Ruffner for the re-appointment to the Board of Fisheries.
 - A resolution directing the Kenai Peninsula Borough Clerk to establish an Election Stakeholders Group to explore implementing Optional Election Models to better serve Kenai Peninsula voters and ratifying a State of Alaska Commission for Human Rights Conciliation Agreement.
 - An ordinance appropriating \$10,000 from the General Fund for contribution to the Alaska Municipal League to support a working group that will be charged with establishing a centralized Sales Tax Administrator for online sales. It is estimated that 11 and a half million dollars would be collected when that is put into place.

III. Committee Reports

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

- Ted reported that all the board members received a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was being developed with Kenai Hydro, LLC, NOAA and Fish and Game (Habitat). The MOU included fish and habitat monitoring at the Grant Lake hydro project. The board moved forward with a letter to FERC to rescinding the letter that was submitted on December 5th, 2018 objecting to the project and reasserting its support for the project based on the MOU between Kenai Hydro and fisheries regulatory agencies.
- Ted attended the meeting for statewide Advisory board chairs and any members in Anchorage. Ted was the only person that attended in person, everyone else was on teleconference. Ted determined that the KRSMA board is different than any other State Park board. Kenai has bigger and more issues than any other board. One of Ted's main concerns for the board was how the issues are address when thy get to the Anchorage office. Another concern is that that the board often get accused of not involving the public. Ted believes a big part is because the state no longer provides funding for advertising. In the past, more would participate when we were able to publish the agenda in the paper when people were on notice.

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

- There were 11 members present with 5 more calling in on teleconference. This included Alaska State Troopers, State Parks, the acting Director for Fish and Game and Colton Lipka, Matt Miller and Seth Beausang from legal. The main topics were logbooks and strict liability for guides when verify fishing licenses. The committee was informed that logbooks will sun set in 2020 and logbooks will not be required by freshwater guides anymore. There were three main points pertaining to verify fishing license; 1. a client does need a license, 2. to verify that what they possess is a legal license and 3. obtain all applicable stamps. If the guide reviews this information it absolves the guide of any liability. The committee is working with Senator Peter Micciche to get these three requirements into regulation.
- The next discussion was on limitation of guides on the Kenai River. The questions entailed is it possible to limit guides, is it constitutional and how would the board move forward. Nothing was resolved at this meeting and the discuss will continue at the next meeting.

c. Habitat Committee-Jeff Dolifka provided the board with the following report:

- The committee discussed the 2018 Kenai River Boat Count study. It was concluded that the report was an anomaly and this year with all the closers, the information was not an accurate reflection of boat use on the Kenai River.
- Jeff also asked the committee for some topic for future committee discussions. This included to review some Kenai plats that reflect some extremely small lot size, turbidity, structures along the shoreline, boat wake and a possible site for a boat launch site on Funny River Road.

d. River Use Committee-Bill Tappan provided the board with the following report:

- The review of the 1997 Kenai River Special Area Malmanagement plan was discussed at length and that at the February 14, 2019 meeting Monica Alvarez from DNR planning will be

working with all the board members and committee members from 1 pm to 5pm to review what option are available to make changes to the plan.

- The committee discussed if the Funny River SRS would be a good site for a new boat launch. It was determined by State Park staff that the site would not work for a new boat launch and have identified several sites off Funny River Road. The committee will continue to determine if these are possible sites and cost associated with the development.
- State Park staff put together a 2019 priority list of deferred maintenance list that has 7 items and the second list of new facility proposed for the area which also has 7 items. Bill stated that State Parks will be asking the committee and board for a letter of support for funding for these items. State Parks has not received any funding for deferred maintenance to facilities for four years. Many are starting to fall apart and become unusable and in need
- of repair. Bill Tappan asked if the list could be distributed to all the board members for them to review once it was revised.

e. Legislative Committee-No Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Ted Wellman reported to the board that the people do not want to participate in the board because you never seem to get anything accomplished. Ted will bring a letter to the board that discuss how the board works together with board members, committees and members of the public and come up with a recommendation from the board, the board deserves a formal response one the request is submitted to the Director State Parks. This needs to include are they going to except the recommendation, does the board need to continue working on the recommendation or that the recommendation cannot be accomplished. One item that Ted is referring to is the mandatory PFD, it was to be put into regulations the next reg packet request but was removed. Ted would like to know why. A letter to request this information on the status of the recommendation to be sent to the Director.

Jack Blackwell commented that one of the reasons the PFD regulation was removed was the change in administration. The boater's safety requirement was first to have a program that would have a volunteer requirement course to determine the interest in the program for two or three years. Staff from the boater's safety program came down and gave a few classes and it was determined that it would take funding to make this requirement happen. As for guide limitations, the previous administration believe that the legislature needs to address this. With new administration being appointed, it would be great for the board to have these discussions again.

Monte recommended that maybe the first letter address the items that the board had acted on and review the response before taken further action.

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- VIII. **BOARD COMMENTS:** Brent Hibbert asked the Kenai Watershed Forum if the boat count sturdy report separate public from commercial operator's boat users. Brandon responded that it did not and that additional study would have to be conducted to obtain that information.

Jack Blackwell commented that the February working group session will be a great opportunity to review the plan and to determine if the existing plan is still a good document. Should the plan be amended or a completely new revision?

Monte is against guide limitation.

IX. ADJOURNMENT