



# KENAI RIVER

Special Management Area

*"Working together...for the river"*

## ADVISORY BOARD

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### Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

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

Thursday, February 14, 2019

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Monte Roberts, William Tappan, Lisa Gabriel, Ted Wellman, Andrew Carmichael, Brent Hibbert, Mike Frost, Colton Lipka, Sara Aspens, Glenn Arundell, Andy Loranger, Fransico Sanchez, Marion Glaser and Jack Blackwell,

On the phone: Ron Rogalsky

- B. **Minutes:** Minutes was approved.

- C. **Agenda:** Agenda was approved.

- D. **Public Comment/Presentation.**

- a. John Lang from the US Fish and Wildlife Service gave a presentation on the restoration of Cooper Creek and the bank stabilization project located in Cooper Landing. The creek is currently on proposed additions lands of the Kenai River Special Management Area, if the project is approved, the creek would be moved over to US Forest Service Land. John was asking the advisory board for a letter of support for the project.

Joe made a motion to write a letter to support the project.

Monte seconds the motion.

Passed unanimously

#### REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports:

- a. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:

- Jack welcomed Monica Alvarez, she is the chief planner for the Department of Natural Resources. Monica helped the advisory board with a work session pertaining to the possible update or amendment of the KRSMA management plan.

- The DNR Leadership has been hired. Commissioner for DNR is Corri Feige and Deputy Commissioner is Brent Goodrum. Ricky Gease is the new Director of the Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The Director has been scheduling meetings with State Park staff to have briefing of all the areas.
  - Governor Dunleavy submitted a revised budget for the State. Department of Parks and Recreation is currently scheduled to lose four administrative position. One of the positions is in our Soldotna office whose duties is to count the fees for the areas. There is also a proposed 50 percent reduction in the travel budget.
  - The City of Kenai Silver Salmon Derby permit was issued for the 2019 season.
- b. DEC-Chandra McGee and Sara Aspens provided the board with the following report.
- The 2014/16 integrated report was submitted to EPA at the beginning of November 2018. DEC is currently waiting for the approval.
  - Public notice for the 2018 integrated report should be coming out in spring 2019. The currently proposals include listed the Kenai beaches for bacteria and the Kenai River for zinc.
  - The new DEC staff member that will be attending the KRSMA board meeting is Sara Aspens. Her office will be located on K-Beach Road and the Copper Center Mall.
  - This fall DEC will be calling for data for the 2020 integrated report.
- c. ADFG -Colton Lipka provided the board with the following report:
- The Department of Fish and Game has a new Director David Rutz.
  - Colton provided the board with the news releases pertaining to the Kasilof River Early-Run King Salmon restricted to Hatchery Kings and Kenai River Early -Run King Salmon to Catch and Release. These releases are available on the Fish and Game web site.
- d. USFWS-Andy Loranger provided the board with the following report:
- Due to the recent shutdown of the Federal Government the department is waiting for the conceptual designs for the Jim Landing boat launch area. Next steps will be meeting with the public and developing a final design.
- e. USFS/Chugach National Forest –Marion Glaser and Francisco Sanchez provided the board with the following report:
- The 2019 seasonal hiring is completed for the Russian River and other crews. The crew will be spending one day a week monitoring the subsistence fishing at the canyon.
  - The five-year action plan has been sent to the Kenai River Russian River coordination group. They will discuss the plan at the spring meeting.
  - Marion plans on attending the Alaska Department of Fish and Game wildlife human attack response training happening in Girdwood Alaska.
  - The Russian River Campground Road is the number one capital project for the region and it is also for the nation. Project may be started in 2019/2020 to change that road into a two-lane road.
  - Change of leadership for the Forest Service, Teri Marciron has retired, so the current deputy is the acting leadership and the job is scheduled to be advertise this spring.
- f. City of Kenai – Lisa Gabriel provided the board with the following report:

- The 2018 Silver report was included in the packets for the board members.
  - The City of Kenai is working on the 2020 budgets.
- g. City of Soldotna-Andrew Carmichael gave the following report:
- The City of Soldotna is also working on 2020 budget.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough-Brent Hibbert provided the board with the following report:
- The Borough Assembly has been enjoying short meetings, there is not much going on currently.
  - The Borough is currently working on some selling some land to the public.
  - Borough administration is currently working on security for the borough building and area schools. Employees are currently required to wear a badge with their picture on it when entering a borough building.

## II. Committee Reports

- a. President's Report: Ted Wellman provided the following report:
- Present a letter complaining about the way the board works with the Department when receiving a response to recommendation by the board. With the new administration Ted and Joe met with the new Director Ricky Gease and feel optimistic about how things will be handled in the future. They believe there will be a better working relation in the future.
  - There are currently five vacant seats for the KRSMA Advisory Board. This is Joe Connors, William Tappan, Ted Wellman and Mike Frost. Ricky Gease position is currently open with his new position, but the board decided to wait until the term is up before filling it in 2020. Kenai River Special Management Area board recruitment will be posted next week and will be open until March 31, 2019.
  - Ted reported that all board members that were able attend a work session pertaining to the Kenai River Comprehension Plan with DNRs chief planner Monica Alvarez. The group spent about 4 hours on only a portion of the plan and that this is a bigger project and going to take longer than anticipated. After todays session it was determine that much of the plan is still valid but there are some changes. It has not been determined if a full rewrite or an amendment to the plan has been decided. This decision is determined by the Commissioner DNR.
  - Monica Alvarez explained that a full rewrite or an amendment takes the same amount of time. An amendment can be a littler shorter time frame because it only targets a small portion of the plan. A full rewrite can take up to three years.

Oz asked if it would take an amendment to change the numbering system in the plan. Monica said it would take an amendment.

Ted thanked Monica Alvarez and the board members for their time.

Jack added that Monica has agreed to come back in April for another work session and finish the review. Monica will also draft a summary of today's session.

Ted recommended that the committees should meet in March and discuss issue that were not part of today's discussion.

- b. Guide Advisory-no report
- c. Habitat Committee-no report
- d. River Use Committee-no report
- e. Legislative Committee-no report

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**VII. BOARD COMMENTS:** Colton reminded everyone that the 2020 board of fish proposals are due April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**