



# 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, March 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, Ron Rogalsky, Jeff Dolifka, William Tappan, Glen Arundell, Monte Roberts, Ted Wellman, Andrew Carmichael Matt Conner, Marion Glaser, Colton Lipka and Sarah Apsens and Jacque Kosto.
- B. **Minutes:** Minutes was approved.
- C. **Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- D. **Public Comment/Presentation.**

#### REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports:
  - a. State Parks-Jacques Kosto provided the board with the following report:
    - State Parks has put out a proposal for firewood sales in the State Parks.
    - All the State Park volunteer host positions for the Kenai Area have been filled this year.
    - Eagle Rock should be open July 1<sup>st</sup>, with the repairs completed caused by the earthquake.
    - State Parks is currently working on placing some protective bumpers on the walkways at Bing's Landing boat launch site.
    - New fee stations (Luke's), credit card machines are being installed at Bing's, Pillars, Crooked Creek and Kasilof State Park sites.
  - b. DEC- Sara Apsens 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. It is currently at the internal review, once completed it will be release for public review.
    - Aqua grants have been awarded to The Kenai Watershed Forum, The City of Kenai and the City of Homer.

c. ADFG -Colton Lipka provided the board with the following report:

- Proposals for the 2020 Board of Fish are due on April 10, 2019. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Colton at the Soldotna Fish and Game office

d. USFWS-Matt Conner provided the board with the following report:

- The Refuge is in full swing of hiring their seasonal workers. This includes trail and cabin crews. Host have been hired for the Hidden Lake site.
- Last fall the Refuge completed boat launch work at Hidden Lake that included added some planks to the end.
- Work was completed on the boardwalks at Moose Range Meadows. Additional work on some of the other boardwalk are schedule to be completed this summer.
- The Refuge is in the inception design phase of Jim's landing. The staff is looking at such things as better vehicle control and additional parking.
- Summer activities at the Refuge Visitor Center are starting up for the 2019 season.

e. USFS/Chugach National Forest –Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:

- The Forest Service is in full swing of hiring the 2019 seasonal crews.
- 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 on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in Anchorage.

f. City of Kenai –No Report:

g. City of Soldotna-Andrew Carmichael gave the following report:

- The City of Soldotna is working on summer hires program which include gardeners and camp host.
- Andrew also commented that the Spruce Bark Beetle trees are prevalent at Swiftwater this year again. The city is working on a plan to address the problem.

h. Kenai Peninsula Borough-No report:

## II. Committee Reports

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

- There are currently five vacant seats for the KRSMA Advisory Board. This are as follows: Joe Connors, William Tappan, Ted Wellman and Mike Frost. Ricky Gease position is currently vacant, the board decided to fill his position at this time. Kenai River Special Management Area board recruitment will be open until March 31, 2019.

b. Guide Advisory-Monte Robert provided the following report:

- Guide suspension has two alternatives to possibly make changes to how violations are handled. One is to go through the legislature and have a

regulation change. The other option is to work with State Park in determining which violation should receive suspension and get it into the practice of not have the violation effect the services provided by the guide service. Violations have reduced.

- Fee structure and how the guides are paying their fair share. This needs to be review by State Park staff.
- Position on mandatory wearing of PFD on the Kenai River. There is a division as to how this should be handled, and no decision was made at this time.

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

- The main discussion at this committee meeting was about Turbidity and water quality and the standards that are in place. The committee recommended that the board ask for an update/presentation on the integrated report and the turbidity. Where do we go from here, is there a turbidity problem/ is there more proposed testing/and can we have a summary of the standards being used on the Kenai River.

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d. River Use Committee-Bill Tappan gave the following report:

- A memorandum prepared by the President Ted Wellman describing the financial issues effecting the KRSMA and the outline of possible solutions for the River Use Committee to discuss and consider. It was decided that State Park staff Pam Russell will prepare a table of all the fees that are collected for all users on the river. The intent is to identify users that may not by charge and how we may generate more revenue. Such ideas to generate more funds establishing a fee for mooring permits and Salmon stamp. The hope was that the revenue generated would be used in the Kenai Area and not placed in the general funds.
- Decision to have an amended or revision to the KRSMA plan. The River Use committee decided to have an internal meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> form 1-3 PM at the Gilman River Center. One question to consider is does the plan need to be revised.

e. Legislative Committee-no report

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **VII. BOARD COMMENTS-Matt Connors Skilak Loop is in great conditions to travel to hike Bear Mountain and Hidden Creek.**

Joe Connors is hoping that this is a year we get some issues done. Move issues forward and get thing at least moving in the right direction.

Monte thanked everyone for there time in participating in all the meetings.

Marion Glaser also talked about outdoor recreation but to be careful because of the warm temperature avalanche danger is high. Also, with the wet snow and rain roads are dangerous.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**