



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, October 10th, 2019

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Ron Rogalsky, William Tappan, Glen Arundell, Monte Roberts, Ted Wellman, Branden Bornemann, Lisa Gabriel, Brent Hibbert, Branden Bornemann, Colton Lipka, Sarah Apsens, and Jack Blackwell.
- B. **Minutes:** Minutes were approved.
- C. **Agenda.** Ted Wellman removed Board Elections under new Business. Agenda was approved as amended.
- D. **Public Comments-**Several Funny River Road residents gave comments on the potential Kenai River Boat Launch Sites. The comments varied and were either in favor or against placing a public boat launch along Funny River Road.
- E. **Presentation**

REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports:
 - a. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
 - Jack welcomed all the board members back from the summer break. Ted Wellman, Joe Connors and Bill Tappan were reappointed for three-year terms and Branden Bornemann and Ben Mohr were also appointed to fill vacant terms.
 - Jack also thanked all the community members from Funny River and their continued interest in the public boat launch facility.
 - The earthquake damage that occurred last winter at the Eagle Rock Boat launch has been repaired. In addition, the access road was paved and the launch area reopened for business on July 1st, 2019.
 - Staff changes. The head administrative assistant, Leanna Moore, retired and Tami Munson filled this position. Marcella Bremond as the assistant administrative position at the Morgan's Landing Office. Another change was on the Kenai River and Park Ranger Melissa Smith transferred to the Ninilchik/Deep Creek area. Park Ranger Spencer Burgin will transfer to the Kenai River from Kodiak on October 15, 2019.

- State Parks received some funding from the US Forest Service for fuels reductions on the Kenai Peninsula state parks. We are using these funds to extend some of our seasonal staff to work on this project. Isaac Walton has been identified as a top priority to remove hazardous trees.
- The Swan Lake fire was outside of the state park land but did close a portion of the KRSMA area on the upper river. Kenai River park rangers helped with Fire staff and equipment transportation on the upper river.
- All state park public boat docks have been removed for the season. All restrooms and launches will remain open until weather condition warrant closure.

b. DEC- Sara Apsens provided the board with the following report.

- The current 2018 integrated report is being reviewed by DEC staff. Once the reports are approved by staff there will be a 45-day public review process. Once the public process is started DEC will hold two question and answer sessions; . one in Soldotna and one in Anchorage. Terry Lomax will present for the one in Soldotna.
- There was call for data for the 2020 integrated report. That ended this past summer.
- The 2014/2016 integrated report was approved by EPA and is available on the DEC website for review.
- This past summer DEC had three active ACWA grants; one for the Kenai Watershed Forum for baseline water quality sampling on the Kenai River and tributaries. The grant specified sampling for zinc and copper on tributaries and streams along the Kenai River. The second grant was to the City of Kenai for testing beaches for bacteria which started on May 21st. Results are available on the DEC website. The third was given to Homer Water and Soil Conservation Society for a streambank restoration project on the Anchor River at the Silver Salmon Day Use area.

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

- Colton gave a brief overview of the Cook Inlet Sport Fish Management Areas that include Northern Cook Inlet, Northern Kenai Peninsula and Lower Cook Inlet. The full report can be reviewed on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Division of Sport Fish website: www.adfg.alaska.gov

d. USFWS-No Report

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

- The Swan Lake Fire was a significant event for us, and almost everyone on the district was engaged in the firefighting efforts in different capacities.
- Currently we are off boarding seasonal employees for the season. The seasonal jobs for 2020 were advertised last month.
- All the riverbank habitat fencing is down along the Russian River.

f. City of Kenai –Lisa Gabriel provided the board with the following report:

- The City of Kenai held the 2019 Silver Salmon Derby. 91 tickets were sold, in the two separate weekend or six days. This year’s participation was higher than last year but lower than the previous year. Fishing was tough and only 17 fish were weighed in the first weekend. The city focused on the uniqueness of the derby and the winning fish was a

random weight. Also, the money generated will go towards bank restoration along the river in the city of Kenai. The total proceeds have not been tabulated. Tickets were sold in two location, Sportsman's Warehouse and Three Bears. The overall winner was Mike Maddock and his fish weighed 10.2 pounds. The dates for next year are being determined.

- The dip net report will be out in October.

g. City of Soldotna-No Report

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

- There was an 18% percent turn out for the last election. Tyson Cox, Jesse Bjorkman and Brent Johnson are new members of the Assembly.
- Many members of the public were at the Assembly meeting talking about getting a boat launch/public access on Funny River Road. The assembly voted 9 to 0 in favor of a boat launch.

II. Committee Reports

a. President's Report-No Report.

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

- A Kenai River Guide asked the committee to review the permit stipulation about fishing from a guide vessel and the fishing regulation that prohibits guides from fishing while a client is present or within the guide's control or responsibility. Permit stipulations state that the permittee, their paid support staff or employees are not allowed to fish from a registered guide vessel from May 1st through November 30th while the vessel is being used for guiding activities in the Kenai River Special Management Area. The concern with the fishing regulation that prohibits guides to fish when clients are present is that it could be a good opportunity to train new guides. This discussion will be continued in November.
- The committee also discussed the stipulations about registering a vehicle commercially with DMV. Currently, we are gathering information from DMV about the process. This will be discussed at October meeting.

c. Habitat Committee-No Report.

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

- There were 12 members of the public at this meeting. There was a lot of interaction and dialog during the first hour of this meeting on identifying a public boat launch access on the Funny River Road side of the river. The conversation was respectful, and it was very well balance. The goals of the committee are to develop criteria to evaluate locations for potentially developing a public boat launch on the south side of the river. Jack Blackwell went through the summary for the River Ranch Planning Process. Bill explained that the KRSMA board other agencies and special interest are involved in the process. Another concern that was discussed was about egress and access in a time of emergency in the area. It involves other agencies that the board does not have any control over but does interact with. The public was concerned about bank access for fishing, egress and access for public or in an emergency.
- The Funny River Community has sent a survey to the 1338 resident of the community asking whether or not they would like a public boat launch and seven locations were presented to choose from. These were just sent out last week and they are hoping for an 80% return on the survey card.

- A survey of the public that attend the committee meeting was taken by Bill the chair and it was a 50/50 split for and against the boat launch.
- After an hour of conversation, a list of criteria was created and the public or board members can add to the list of criteria.
- From Park's perspective, we have heard a strong voice that there is a desire to have a boat launch off Funny River Road. Part of Park's mission is to provide access to the resources and last year this committee had some informal discussion on some site. This summer the KPB Assembly passed a resolution in favor developing a public boat launch access on Funny River Road and encouraged Parks, DOT, KPB and other agencies to work on trying to find a suitable location. State Parks does not have any funding for building a boat launch in this area, but the first step is to find a suitable location. KRSMA board is the primary avenue to work through this process by attending committee meeting and board meeting. Bill stated that this process could take several years to complete.

e. Legislative Committee-no report

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. CORRESPONDENCE-Public notice that there will be a public open house please join ADOT regarding the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 (bypass)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VII. BOARD COMMENTS-Brent welcomed everyone back. Monte welcome everyone back and Monte commented that the guide association will put a list together of guides that will volunteer to help in an emergency. Ron welcomed everyone back. Joe told a story about how people disregard the signs about no fishing along the bank. Colton said that Fish and Game is in a Board of Fish process this year and the regular meeting is scheduled for February. I

VIII. ADJOURNMENT