



KENAI RIVER

Special Management Area

"Working together...for the river"

ADVISORY BOARD

Kenai Region Office
PO Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669
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Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

Draft Minutes

Thursday,

October 14th, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call-Ron Rogalsky, David Maternowski, William Tappan, Monte Robert, Ted Wellman, Branden Bornemann, Andrew Carmichael, Lisa Gabriel, Jason Oles, Colton Lipka, Jack Blackwell
- B. Minutes Approval-Minutes were approved as written
- C. Agenda Changes and Approval- Agenda was approved as written
- D. Public Comment-None
- E. Presentations-None

II. REPORTS

A. Agency and Government Reports

- a. State Parks –Superintendent Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:
 - State Park staff is currently working on fuel reduction in several park units on the Kenai Peninsula. These include Izaak Walton, Bing's Landing and Captain Cook State Park.
 - State Parks has received EVOS funding for acquiring the Eagle Rock Bookey property and will developed that area into additional parking area for the Eagle Rock boat launch area.
 - EVOS funding will also be used to rehabilitate the Big Eddy SRA area and Parking area.
- b. DEC – Sarah Apsens-No report
- c. ADF&G – Colton Lipka reported to the board the following:
 - A brief summary of the 2021 Northern Kenai Peninsula Sport Fish Management Area. The full report can be found at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.endOfYear&Area_Key=5
- d. USF&WS – Jason Oles reported to the board the following:
 - Refuge post use reports aren't due until November 15th, so we won't have final river use numbers until late November.
 - Refuge trail staff finished the Bernie's Trail to Hide Out Trail overlooking the Kenai River.
- e. USFS - Marion Glaser/Francisco Sanchez- No Report
- f. City of Kenai – Lisa Gabriel reported to the board the following:
 - **The Dipnet Report** should be released in early November, so no information on that tonight.

- **The Kenai Silver Salmon Derby** was the most successful derby to date.
- Participation was up 43%, with 193 folks participating. The overall prizes were \$5000 for the adult winner and \$1000 for the youth winner.
- The adult overall winner was Angela Covey and the youth overall winner was Joseph Craig.
- The winning magic weight was 4.83 lbs which shows how this derby is **“The World’s Most Responsible Derby”** by not encouraging folks to constantly catch and release their fish to try and get the biggest fish.
- We have now accumulated enough money from the proceeds of the last five years where we hope to utilize those funds for the first habitat project to benefit the Kenai River during the summer of 2022.

Waterfront revitalization initiative

- On August 4th the City of Kenai held a work Session Titled “Kenai Waterfront Revitalization and Economic Development Incentives”. The work session was held to engage residents in developing plans for the waterfront, given the potential to transform the area and attract large-scale investment in Kenai.
 - According to the City of Kenai Imagine Kenai 2030 Comprehensive Plan-it states that the City should develop land use strategies to implement a forward-looking approach to community growth and development and specifically identifies the waterfront adjacent to the Bridge Access Road and beginning at Millennium Square to the City dock as an area for revitalization.
 - The City is in a position to provide strategic investments in infrastructure on our waterfront through public- private partnerships to facilitate the redevelopment.
 - Administration supports a feasibility study that would consider all aspects of the waterfront area and provide recommendations for the revitalization initiative.
- g. City of Soldotna - Andrew Carmichael provided the following report to the board:
- As of October 31, 2021, all City of Soldotna Campground will be closed for the season.
 - Currently visitor count number as showing that the City of Soldotna was 14% higher than the previous year.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough - Brent Hibbert- No Report

B. Committee Reports

- a. President’s Report
- b. Guide Advisory – Monte Robert gave the board the following report:
 - Guide Violations
 - Stipulations
 - 2021 Concerns on the Kenai River.
- c. Habitat Committee-Brandon Bornemann gave the following report:
 - Introduction to the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership.

- Introduction to Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan review matrix.
 - Grant Lake Hydro. Jack Blackwell gave an update as to how DNR working group is working with HEA through the process of acquiring land authority to build the Hydro plant on DNR land.
 - Develop a plan of action for the year, establish priorities.
- d. River Use Ted Wellman gave the board the following report:
- Mandatory PFDs (would like to get testimonies from survivors and victims' families to support our position in Juneau)
 - Boater education (handling and safety; online).
 - River "taxies" running fishermen, four at a time, to specific spots on the river.
- c. Legislative/Government Activities-No report

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Board Elections-postponed to November.
- b. Letter of Support for Kasilof River SRS Parking Improvements. Jack Blackwell reported to the board that the division is requesting funding from Land and Water Conservation fund to pave the Kasilof parking area.
 Ron Rogalsky made a motion to write a letter of support to the Land and Water Conservation fund to pave the Kasilof SRA parking area.
 Monte Roberts seconds the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. CORRESPONDENCE

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting: December 9, 2021