

## **Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board Minutes**

### **I. Call To Order**

- A. Members Present:** Joe Connors, Ted Wellman, Brenda Trefon, Curt Shuey, Richard Dykema, George Heim, James Czarneski, David Carey, Robin West, Jeni Evans, Tom Vania, Tim Stevens.  
**Guests:** James King; Director of Alaska State Parks.

### **II. Public Comment**

The following made public comment: Robert Ruffner.

### **III. Agency Reports**

- A. James King**, Director of Alaska State Parks has received the new regulation recommendation for in-season guide replacement. James will keep the board informed of the progress of the proposed regulation. The overall 2009 state budget for State Parks totaled 15 million dollars, the largest increase in 22 years. Everything that was requested for the budget has been approved, except for the \$200,000 for the Kenai River Public Impact Study. The Finance Committee of the legislature in Juneau is debating it at the moment. The session ends on Sunday April 6, 2008. James explained how the Kenai River Impact Study will be formulated. If the funds are acquired, State Parks would select a consultant to be on board the summer of 2008. The first thing this consultant would do is to go around and conduct focus group meetings. The goal of these meetings would be to ask such questions as; what does this study need to have in it? What is the product we need to get out of the study that can help us to move forward? We hope to have the survey ready for the 2009 season. We want to go into this with an open mind and survey every known user group on the river, such as guides, non-guides, visitors and residents.
- The current regulation for establishing a new sunset date for the ban of two strokes from the Kenai River is in the Lieutenant Governor's office waiting to be signed. Enforcement of the 50 horsepower cap will be strict and harsh on the Kenai River if people are caught not complying with the regulation. The Kasilof River boat launch purchase did not get in the budget. State Parks believes that since we provide access to the river, we should provide access out of the river. We need to go through an in-depth analysis of the Kasilof River. Everything we do on the Kenai River affects the Kasilof River.
- B. Tim Stevens** reported that at the end of March DEC sent an integrated report to EPA. The report listed the Kenai River as a Category 4B waterbody. This is still considered impaired but with a plan in place to reduce the hydrocarbon level to meet state water quality standards. The only part on the report that is not finalized is regarding the Fish and Game regulations, which prohibits use of 2-

stroke engines in the personal use fishery. Three Alaska Clean Water Action (ACWA) grants were awarded that would have influence on the Kenai River; they were all issued to the Kenai Watershed Forum. One grant was to look at turbidity in the month of May and June, the second was to evaluate the Kenai Peninsula Borough's 50 foot habitat ordinance, and the third it to finish the storm water mapping for the city of Kenai.

Hydrocarbon monitoring will take place again this year at mile 10.1, but the department would also like to include river mile 1.5 and 4.6, if money is available.

- C. **Tom Vania** handed out a brief report about the annual Alaska Department of Fish & Game department's area staff meeting. The Area sport fish staff gets together to go over operations for what's coming up this summer and what was done in the past. The report includes such topics as limited entry for sport fishing guides, habitat research updates, education efforts and other upcoming projects.
- D. **Robin West** gave an advance notice on the National Wildlife Comprehensive draft plan going to the printers soon and the comment period may be in mid-summer. We may have to plan a special meeting on the subjects.
- E. **Jeni Evans** reported that the agency is working on the Russian River Complex plan with other local agencies and organizations. The USFS is working on an agreement with the state on moving the initial attack fire dispatch to the Soldotna Area Office, Division of Forestry.

### **Committee Reports**

- a. Guide Advisory 1 p.m. KRC Regular KRAB. The committee is currently working on improving the complaint form the Kenai River, how to improve the process for identifying illegal guides.
- b. Habitat 11 a.m. Regular KRAB meeting, they discussed the Sterling Highway location and the upcoming Hydro-carbon testing.
- c. Recreation/River Use 4/10/08, 3p.m. This committee discussed the Kenai River Use study and how some boat accidents go unreported on the river.
- d. Permits – 3/31/08 3:50 p.m. KRC met briefly to discuss the draft letter pertaining to the conditional use permit that was submitted to the Borough to build a house within the 50 foot habitat area of the Kenai River.
- e. Legislative/Government Activities – not available
- f. Board Development 4 p.m. KRC. The committee has met twice since the last KRSMA meeting. Curt discussed the action item regarding the bylaw changes. This is based on discussion from the board development workshop. Also, there was discussion on formulating a new board nomination process. Open seats are to be filled by October 1 and a list should be to the commissioner by

September 1. A meeting may be scheduled on August 28 at 5:30 to meet and interview candidates.

- g. Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping (ABH) 3/31/08 3 p.m. Soldotna City Hall. Set the agenda for the April meeting. Discussed the idea of having the legislative committee become part of the ABH committee. The committee encouraged the DNR staff to make the minutes of the General meetings more succinct and brief.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

KRSMA Advisory Board Minutes from 3-13-08 Joe Connors moved to approve the minutes and Ted seconded.

The motion to accept the agenda and the consent agenda with the amendment was passed.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Resolution 2008-10: Regarding By-Law Changes:

Curt moved to approve part I regarding Public Comment Standard Procedure and required bylaws changes, and was seconded.

Passed with a show of hands, the consensus was eight members.

Curt moved to approve part II regarding Decision Making Standard Procedure and required changes to the bylaws and was seconded.

Curt moved to divide this motion into two sections. Joe seconded the motion. Passed without audible opposition.

The first section of the motion considered was the bylaws change.

Robin moved to amend the proposed bylaws change to read:

*Rules and procedures governing all such meetings of the Board shall be according to the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order; however, consensus based methodology shall be the preferred approach to decision-making.*

Amendment was seconded and passed.

Amended bylaws change passed with a show of hands, the consensus was eight members.

The second section of the motion is to accept the Decision-making standard procedure items 1-3.

Jim moved to amend the original motion to change item #3 to say if consensus is not achieved, the chair shall make the decision as to whether option a,b, or c is utilized. Ted seconded the motion and the amendment passed.

Amended bylaws change passed with a show of hands, the consensus was eight members.

Curt moved to approve part III regarding Committee Policies and required changes to the bylaws and was seconded.

Jim moved to amend the proposed bylaws change to read:

*Each committee may have non-Board members as ~~non-voting~~ participants, but shall have at least three members of the Board.*

Joe seconded it, and the amendment passed.

Amended bylaws change passed with a show of hands, the consensus was eight members.

Curt moved to approve part IV regarding Communications Policy and required changes to the bylaws and was seconded.

Passed with a show of hands, the consensus was eight members

Curt moved to approve and accept all four changes to the bylaws and was seconded.

Passed without audible opposition.

- V. Jim Czarnezki moved to send a letter to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning and Zoning Committee addressing the Riverquest Conditional Use Permit Application, urging the KPB to deny the CUP. Joe seconded the motion.

Passed without audible opposition.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Update on letter sent to the Borough- Dave Carey reported that no response from the letter and it is Dave's intent to send a follow up letter.
- B. Update on responses to our letter regarding the closing of commercial Fish and Game office- Authorize the president opposing the closing of the office. Correspondence either e-mail personal contact or phone call with Representative Olson, his letter stated to the department that it was not going to happen. Representative Chenault said it would not pass out of his committee and Senator Wagoner was working on it. Senator Gary Stevens reports the word it out.
- C. Report on MOU meeting (April 1) between Fed, State and Municipalities regarding KRSMA Comp Plan-Dave Carey, James King & Jack Sinclair held the meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> and it had a strong attendance of agency representatives. A meeting will be held three times a year of this organization. Some of the key agencies are working together. Agencies as a whole felt that they are coordinating with each other without the technical meetings. Some key organizations still need to participate.
- D. Discussion on Legislative Committee; possibly merging with the ABH committee. Dave will move forward with the proposal. He will talk to the chairperson, Gary Knopp, first.

- E. Summer schedule for Board and Committees: August meeting is needed; Permit Committee should continue to meet during the summer; Executive Committee (ABH) to also meet during the summer.
- F. May Social (BBQ) 4:30-5:25 PM before General Board Meeting with Presentation to former Board President.

## **VII. CORRESPONDANCE**

A letter will be sent to Alaska State Parks and the Department of Conservation to find additional funding for hydrocarbon testing at mile 1.4 and mile 4.7 of the Kenai River. This letter should also include support for aerial boat counts.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following made public comment, Dwight Kramer and Adam Reimer.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Board Comments
- B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting May 8, 2008 5:30 p.m.