

## Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

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

Thursday, December 13, 2012

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Members Present:** Joe Connors, David Carey, Andrew Szczesny, Teri Carter, Bruce King, Ricky Gease, Brent Johnson, Andy Loranger, George Heim, Tim Stevens, Jack Blackwell and Brenda Trefon
- B. Minutes Approval:** A housekeeping item by Dave Carey, Andy Szczesny presentation was in regards to the Alaska Board of Fish task force to identify.....The minutes were approved as amended.
- C. Agenda:** The agenda was approved as written.

- II. Public Comments/Presentations:** Jim Richardson sent in a letter that addresses the City of Kenai change in land status from private to multi-use. At this time the board decided to not take up this matter until further information or recommendation are submitted.
- Tim Stevens from the Department of Environmental Conservation gave a presentation on Turbidity which included, what turbidity is and the potential impacts turbidity may have on the Kenai River.

### III. REPORTS

#### A. Agency and Government Reports

- a. State Parks-**Jack Blackwell stated that we are currently in the process of updating the brochure for the Kenai River Special Management area. We are partnering with the Kenai River Sportfishing Association to help with the cost. Governor's budget will be released on Friday December 14, 2012 at noon. The legislative committee will be meeting at 9am on Monday December 17, 2012 at the Gilman River Center. Everyone is invited to attend to talk about the budget and any special projects. Jack Blackwell also introduced the newest Kenai River Ranger, Jason Okuly to the Board.

Pam Russell attended the latest meeting of the Homer Electric Association (HEA) on the Grant Lake Hydro Project in Moose Pass area. HEA recently brought in a consultant company to help in coordinating the permits required to conduct research projects for the 2013 season. 2013 is the final season for research, final reports will be available in the spring of 2014. The FERC draft Environmental Impact Statemnet is scheduled to be available for public comment in May or June of 2014. If they line up the 30million dollars to build the facility it would be built in the summer of fall of 2014.

Joe Connors stated that he thought the board had taken a position on the hydro several years ago. Tim Stevens also stated he thought the Kenai River Special Management plan had a statement against hydro project in the KRSMA area. Pam will research this information prior to the next meeting.

Dave Carey abstains from commenting on this because he is currently the director of the Homer Electric Association membership board.

- b. DEC-** Tim Stevens attended a meeting with the City of Kenai on fish waste management from the personal dip net fishery that occurs at the mouth of the Kenai River. City of Kenai, Fish and Game, the Kenai Peninsula Borough land management division and several Department of Environmental Conservation members participated in the meeting. There is progress in developing a fish waste



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Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough



management plan for the personal dip net fishery by the 2013 season. Some of solutions are to dump the fish waste in the land fill for the 2013 season. Long term is to barge the waste out to the ocean or possibly composting the waste. 300 thousand to 500 thousand pounds of waste. There may be another meeting in January.

Ricky Gease asked about the use of a grinding station. That is possible if the fish are ground in whole and the carcasses would have to be cleaned before being ground. The waste could then be released into the flowing waters of the Kenai River.

- c. **ADF&G**-Was not present
- d. **USF&WS**- Andy Loranger commented that the contractor is working on finishing the project at the Lower Skilak Lake Boat launch area. They are currently extending the boat launch area. The Refuge has several oil and gas exploration projects they are currently working on. Two seismic projects and one drilling project.
- e. **USFS/Chugach**- Was not present
- f. **City of Kenai**- Was not present
- g. **City of Soldotna**- Was not present
- h. **Kenai Peninsula Borough**-The anadromous stream task force is continuing to meet and there are several amendments for moving streams in or out of the Fish and Game anadromous stream catalogue. Brent stated that several scientists that have attended the meeting have given strong testimony in favor of the ordinance.

## B. Committee Reports

- a. **President's Report**-Joe Connors thanked everyone who attended the meeting. There was alot of good dialog and the participation from the Department of Parks.
- b. **Guide Advisory**—No report but need to decide on the new membership. The Guide Association has recently elected new board members. They are currently in the process of determining who will be the representative on the committee.
- c. **Habitat** –Bruce stated that the committee talked briefly about Grant Lake and also continued discussion on the potential turbidity impacts on the Kenai River.
- d. **River Use** – Talked about two items: the overview of the various closures on the Kenai River, and the possibility of opening some of these areas by emergency orders that temporary open the areas that are closed to fishing within ten feet of the bank. Also creating a memorandum of understanding with Alaska State Parks which is a vegetation closure of habitat and this would be a solution to people fishing in these areas without impacting the vegetation. It is just in the discussion phase.

The committee also discussed ideas of ways to obtain the number of boats and/ or anglers along the Kenai River. Jack Blackwell will work on some ideas and bring them back to the committee in January.

Pam recommended that the committee check with Fish and Game for past counts that were conducted by Fish Biologist Mary King.

- e. **Legislative/Government Activities**-The committee is scheduled to meet on Monday December 17, 2012 at 9am at the Gilman River Center. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the

Governors proposed budget and other projects that the legislature needs to address in the 2013 session. Dave Carey believes that the KRSMA board should be strong advocates for those groups that are affected by the budget short falls and will directly affect the Kenai River Special Management Area. The committee will be meeting in January.

Dave clarified that he stated that no one should speak on behalf of the Kenai River Special Management Board unless the board has taken action or the president has given permission.

**f. Board Development** –No report

**g. Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping** –Pam Russell asked if the board members have any request for presentation in future meetings. These requests can be sent to Pam by e-mail.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE** –A copy of the letter of support that was sent to the Kenai Peninsula Borough 21.18 on November 15, 2012 was included on the packet.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A.** Board Comments

**B.** Date/Agenda of Next Meeting January 10, 2013.



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