

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Roll Call: Board Members: Aron Peterson, Nancy Hilstrand (Chairman), Mako Haggerty, Glenn Green, Beaver Nelson, Jeffrey Lee, Carol Harding, Stan Lefton, Lindsay Wolter, Sera Baxter, Jonathan Sharp, Robert Archibald, Robert Ostrom, and Kevin Walker. State Park staff – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly, Brad Garasky and Eric Clarke.
 - b. Public Members: Written list was provided.
2. Minutes: Approved as written
3. Agenda Changes/Approval: Approved as written
4. Public Comment/Presentation: Jack introduced the new board members: Jonathan Sharp has lived in Homer for 6 years and is a teacher in Homer and visits the Park as much as possible. Kevin Walker who has lived in Homer for about 15 years and is a retired State employee and enjoys all recreation in the park. Robert Archibald has been in Homer for 34 years and he enjoys the Park side of the bay sometimes more than the other side.
5. Correspondence: A letter regarding the condition of Dimond Creek trail was received, which will be discussed under new business.
6. A. Committee Reports- Staff gave the following update:
 - a. Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:
 - Jason and Brad participated with National Research Reserve in an outdoor injury first aid course.
 - Jack Blackwell, Mako Haggerty and Jason Okuly were on KBBI radio station, The Coffee Table segment. They discussed the State Park and Friends and all the recreational opportunities the park offers.
 - Jason Okuly was recently on annual leave.
 - The Kenai Watershed Forum's Stream Watch program is currently looking to expand its program to the Anchor River/Kachemak Bay area. They are currently hiring the position to help get the program started.
 - The Cook Inlet Aquaculture net pens are currently in Tutka Bay.
 - Trails Day is June 2, 2018. Christina Whiting is currently working for the Friends and will start working for State Parks on June 1st, 2018. She is currently working on setting up all the trail day events and volunteer sign ups.
 - Brad Garasky has been working on compliance of all the commercial operators in the Park. Brad has also been contacting land owners that have mooring buoys and floating docks in the park to have them apply for permits.
 - State Park staff has also been conducting inspection of facilities in the park. These inspections help create a maintenance list of items that need to be completed, such as lime in the outhouses and any repair needed to the cabin to bring them into compliance.
 - Eric Clarke is currently working on hiring the ACC crews. All but one position is filled. He is also working on hiring the volunteer crew. He currently has two positions hired and that will probably be it for the 2018 season.

- Brad Garasky will be leaving Kachemak Bay for a position in Juneau.
- Eric Clarke has been conducting chainsaw training and hiking the trails to access the priorities for the 2018 season.
- The west cabin burned last year. The cabin has been rebuilt, but there is still some maintenance work that needs to be completed. The cabin is available to reserve online.

Mako Haggerty asked if the ramp was down in Halibut Cove Lagoon. Jason said yes and it is ready for use.

Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:

- The Division will be filling the volunteer coordinator this year in Kachemak Bay. However, the division won't be able to fill the position until the first of June. The coordinator does a lot of work for the division.
- The Governor announced the State's budget for next year. State Park budget did not see any changes and will remain the same as last year's budget. We have not had any more information about the public use cabins that were proposed until the budget is finalized.

b. Friend's Report- Robert Archibald reported to the board the following:

- The Friends meeting was held on Monday May 7, 2018. There were approximately 7 people in attendance. The current account has \$12,000 dollars and \$5000.00 in the money market and \$1000.00 in the savings account.
- Dave Brann from the Water Trail group will be sponsoring a project on Chugachik Island on Trail's Day.
- Janet Klein brought a proposal to the Friend's group to establish a base line study up in the Alpine. Janet was asking the Friends' for funds to help with transportation to the site. The study would cover the flora and fauna at the proposed site. The groups will consider the proposal and decide at the next meeting.
- The groups had a little more discussion about the tool loaner program in the park.
- There will be a trails report on line at KBBI radio that will be updated once a week.
- The group had discussions about the Kachemak Management Plan and Dimond Creek trail.
- A shore booth will at the fair on Saturday at the Homer High School commons. This is a great place to sign up for trails day that is scheduled for June 2nd. This is the opportunity to get community members to go over to the park and work on clearing some trails.
- Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 12th at the Methodist Church. This is an annual event for the Friend's group. Scheduled on Sunday is a Friendship walk on Glacier Spit. A group is dropped off at Glacier Spit at Rusty Lagoon and they hike the 4 miles and takes approximately 4 hours.
- With the help of Bill Hague there are several bundles of firewood on the spit for sale. The revenue from the sales benefits the Friends organization.

7. Old Business

- a. Kachemak Bay Management Plan update. Jack Blackwell reported the planners have completed updating the information. The agencies will receive the management plan to review and submit comments. Once that has been completed it will be distributed for public comment. Public notices and news releases will be used to disseminate the information.
- b. Tool Loaner Program-Mako Haggerty reported that the Friends of Kachemak Bay has approved the funding for the program. This includes the purchase of the tools.

8. New Business

- a. CIAA net pens in Tutka Bay-Jack Blackwell gave a brief recap of the history of the net pens in Tutka Bay. It started in January 2017 when DNR Commissioner Andy Mack issued a permit to CIAA to place net pens in Tutka Bay for two years. The first year of 2017 the pens did not go out. In 2018 the pens were placed in Tutka Bay and there was some confusion as to the location of the pens. State Parks and DNR believed that the pens were in the correct location. However, it was brought to State Parks that the location of the net pens was not what was issued on the permit. State Parks has been working with CIAA to move the net pens to the location that was submitted with the permit that was issued. The State Park and Corps of Engineers permit have the same coordinates and are consistent with the permit application request. A map was displayed to show the permitted location and the actual location that the pens were placed. The pens will be in-place until the end of May or early June. CIAA is currently working on when and where to move the pens. CIAA has been directed to move them and they should be moving them by the end of the week of May 7th, 2018. Several loads of fish have been placed in the pens, but the pens can be moved with the tide and at a slow rate. There was discussion as to how the pens were permitted and how the issue can be corrected.

Sera moved that the advisory board add stipulations to the CIAA permit for the net pens in Tutka Bay. Recommendations are to include a report that would have how many common property seiners are fishing that are not part of the cost recovery program. Why are they not participating in the fishery and is the concern fish are not watermarked they are not salable?

Mako summarized the amendment to have how many users, what kind of users and what their harvest is?

It was determined that the board would like to have this recorded as a concern and would like to take more time come up with a complete list of stipulations once an application is received by CIAA.

Mako Haggerty moved to table to the motion. Passed unanimously.

Jonathon Sharp and Lindsay Wolter had to leave the meeting

- b. Diamond Creek trail-Jason Okuly reported that the road going down to Dimond Creek SRA is going through break up and is in rough shape. State Parks is working with ADOT to grade the road, however, the grading will wait until conditions dry out further.. The trail going down to the beach has been cleared of some alders. Eric Clarke and the ACC group if there is time will continue to cut back the alder from the trail. State Parks is currently trying to get a work group together to complete some trail work the weekend before trails day. On the weekend of trails day, a work group will install the Kiosk/ bulletin board that was built by Jonathon Sharp and his classroom at Chapman High School. State Parks has received another complaint about the poor trail conditions and the lack of maintenance at Dimond Creek.

Mako asked Jack about the monies that may be available for improvements to the area. Jack Blackwell that some of the damage that happened along the trail was caused by a storm event and the area was declared a disaster. State Parks has applied for some disaster relief funds to repair the area. State Parks has also talked to ADOT about a proposal to realign the access into the park with Dimond Ridge road and creating a new entrance, parking area and bathroom facility. There is also a possibility of applying for some EVOS Trustee funding for the area.

The bike club would like to be able to use the trail, but are currently not authorized until further discussion can be decided as to their impact.

Pictures were provided to the board as to the extent of the damage that occurred in a year's time. The trail is too muddy to do any work. It would be great if gravel could be placed in the muddy areas to help stabilize the trail.

- c. Drone Use in State Parks- Jack Blackwell reported that we don't have a policy on this and we would recommend that the advisory board give their input when the Kachemak Bay Draft management plan comes out for public review. State Parks does not control the airspace, but it is not uncommon for us to receive application requesting for filming or research.

Robert Archibald made a motion that drone use in Kachemak State/Wilderness park is only allowed with a permit.

Mako Second the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

- d. Cottonwood/Eastland PUC-Aron reported that the State Park owned parcel is 2500 acres and in an isolated area for the public to use. Aron plans on applying for a \$50,000.00 grant. The money would be available in spring of 2019 and would be used to build a 400-foot road and a 50 x 50-foot parking area.

Aron would like to ask the board to support a recommendation that the director would recommend that a public use cabin be placed within the State Park in the vicinity of mile 16.8 East End Road. This would be part of the Governor's budget that proposed 5 new public use cabins throughout the state. It would be a decision that would be made by the Director and staff would go through a process to determine which sites would receive the most use.

Aron made a motion that the board write a letter in support of placing a public use cabin at the Cottonwood/Eastland area.

Kevin Walker seconds the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Regulations on using horses in the park-Mako reported that at the April meeting there was some discussion about using horses at Cottonwood/Eastland and across the bay in the State Park. Mako would like to have the board start the discussion about where they would like to see horses used in the Park for recommendation for the management plan.

The regulations read that the use of horses, mules, and burros is allowed in all state parks on the Kenai Peninsula with the exception of:

Nilnunqua State Historical Site; campgrounds, swim beaches, and picnic areas, officially designated and marked hiking trails; and areas above the timberline.

The current Kachemak Bay management plan states that Llamas can be used for pack animals.

Jason stated that a regulation was submitted to allow horses on the Glacier Spit trailhead to the glacier. This current regulation was submitted up to the Anchorage office and will be included in the next regulation packet.

It is recommended that the board address the use of horses in the Kachemak Bay Management plan.

- f. Human waste composting bathrooms at Kayak and Quarry beach provided by Alaska Yurt Rentals.

Brad reported that Jessica sent an email asking if they had been approved for the style that they submitted. They would like to build a composting toilet that would be used on the Homer side of the Bay. If there were no problems they would build ones at Kayak and Quarry beach area.

The board would like to have a presentation at the end of summer 2018 from the Yurt company as to how the toilet worked.

Jason summarized that the board is not against the building of composting toilets in the park. The authorization needs to pay close attention to the structure, accountability and the maintenance of these facilities before granting authorization.

9. Comments and Discussion by Visitors-A visitor asked why the board was against the use of drones in the Park. Nancy commented that she believes it relates to how many are being used and where they are being used. The park is a wilderness area and drones may impact visitors' experience of the park. Mark-CIAA attendance at the meetings goes up when they are listed on the agenda. Mark has been fishing for 42 years there is a lot of misunderstanding as to the Tutka Bay fishery. CIAA is working on selling the carcasses instead of dumping in the bay. This will benefit the fishery and putting net pens in the bay is not necessary. Mark would like to see the net pens stay in place for this year. Gary Fandrei really appreciates hearing all the comments from everyone on the board and in the public. Gary takes those comments to the CIAA board and they would like to do the best for everyone. Gary also invited anyone who would like to go over the hatchery and see how the operations work to contact him and he will help make the arrangements. Malcom commented that he appreciates everyone's time and stated that Mako's user fees are for a for profit company and that CIAA is a non-profit organization. Mark stated that CIAA is enhancing the park for the public.

10. Comments and Discussion by Board Members

Aron Peterson recommended that members of the board should write a letter to the Corps of Engineers who will be making the final decision on Pebble Mine. Jack recommended that the board not write the letter unless it directly impacts Kachemak Bay State Park. Aron will send a draft letter to everyone.

The Pulaski was present at the meeting just to remind people to get your name on it is to volunteer in the State Park.

Mako thanked everyone that came to the meeting and that he believes that there is a carrying capacity even on the ocean. It changes to who is eating when the pressures change.

Jason thanked everyone present at the meeting for their professionalism discussing such a controversial topic.