

**Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call: Board Members: Aron Peterson, Nancy Hilstrand (Chairman), Glenn Green, Carol Harding, Kevin Walker, Robert Archibald, Stan Lefton, Robert Ostrom and Beaver Nelson.

State Park staff – Jack Blackwell and Jason Okuly.

Public Members: Brad Zubeck, Cody Neuendorf, Chris Lee, Kirsten Dixon, Jesse Nelson, Kurt Jackson, Forest Cohn, and Gary Fandrei.

- b. Minutes: Minutes were approved.  
c. Agenda Changes/Approval: Agenda was approved as amended.  
d. Public Comment  
e. Presentation:

2. A. Committee Reports- Staff gave the following update:

a. Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:

- Jason went out and inspected all the Kachemak Bay facilities after the 7.0 earthquake in November. There was no damage found during these inspections.
- We are still having tree poaching occurring at the Diamond Creek SRA.
- Jason just completed his EMT recertification.
- Staff has been interviewing all the applicants interested in Internship for 2019. The position was offered to two of the applicants and both turned down the position. Staff will continue to work on filling this position.
- Jason has been conducting some enforcement on a report of some illegal crab/shrimp pots and incorrect marking on some buoys in Tutka Bay.
- State Park received a complaint about sea otter hunting out of Sadie Cove.
- Jason is working with Jason Harreman regarding the goats and what effect putting in a new trail may have on the goats. Jason H. is unable to attend an advisory board meeting anytime soon, so the board is requesting a written report. Jason will work on obtaining this report.
- Jason Okuly will provide the board with a more detailed 2018 summer operation's report.

b. Jack Blackwell provided the board the following report.

- The legislature had appropriated funds for new public use cabins across the state. Unfortunately, the Kenai Area was not selected as one of the areas to receive the funds. Southeast, Chugach, Matsu and Fairbanks are the State Park areas that have received the funding.

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

- The Friends group met the first week of January, but the group has not been very active over the last few months.

- A group of Friend's volunteers went up to the Ranger station in Halibut Cove Lagoon and put ramps up to the latrine.
- The first day hike was held at Evaline SRA with approximately 35 participants. There was hotdogs and hot chocolate available and after expense the Friends profit was \$47.00 dollars.
- The groups retrieved a bear box from Tutka Bay for repairs. It should be ready for use in the 2019 season.
- There will be a budget meeting the third week of January. Currently the balance of the account is \$17,128.00 dollars.
- The annual Friends of Kachemak Bay meeting is on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. This meeting starts at 6:00 pm, bring a dish to share.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. HEA Stonehocker-Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:

- In Kachemak Bay State Park, Homer Electric Association (HEA) had a utility right of way the pre-dates the park. A section of the line near China Poot Bay and Stonehocker Creek was flooded by a new branch of Stonehocker Creek in the summer of 2016. This flooding occurred along the powerline's right of way easement which caused issues with the integrity of the existing powerline and the structures. Several poles had fallen over causing power outages. Park has been working with HEA to come up with a viable solution. HEA has come with a solution that will keep the integrity of the powerline in place and divert Stonehocker into its original channel. This diversion includes installing approximately 70 feet sheet pile, which should help to dewater the new branch of Stonehocker back into its original channel. The Kenai Peninsula Planning Commission has approved this plan and State Parks is also working on finalizing permit to approve the propose plan. Time is critical to get the work completed and to restore power to Peterson Bay and Halibut Cove area.

Nancy Hilstrand asked for clarification on sheet pile. Brad Zubeck responded that these are large pieces of metal that connect to create the wall.

Nancy asked how many people does this supply? Approximately 120 members.

What the area effected? It is 70 feet long and will be anywhere from 30 to 5 feet deep. It is hopeful that this will be a permanent fix for the flooded area.

The powerline cannot be moved because it would take a legislative fix because it is an easement within a State Park that was legislative designated.

Beaver Nelson asked that the high-water event that occurred on the Woz River contributed to the high water on Stonehocker. This than allowed Stonehocker to create a new channel of least resistance which happened to be the powerline right of way. Is there not a way to block off the Woz river to slow down the flow into Stonehocker during times of high water levels? HEA engineers did not believe there was a solution that would address the high water along the Woz river.

A temporary bridge will be installed and state park staff and public will be able to use the bridge. It may be a possible solution for a new trail head but that possible has not been looked at.

This project also includes revegetation of areas with native plants, reinforcing the poles in the right of way with anchors and guidelines, and if any portion of the project fails HEA will be responsible for

restoring the area to its original state. All members of HEA will help pay for this project, which is approximately 30,000 members.

Kristen Dixon asked about submerging the lines in other areas of Kachemak Bay? Above lines do effect the natural view scape of the park. Brad stated that it is very cost prohibited to submerge lines.

b. CIAA Net Pen permit application-Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:

- State Park has been in contact with Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) over the last several months talking about future operations. CIAA has submitted a new application for installing the net pens in the head of Tutka Bay near a fresh water source for the upcoming season. State Parks is working with CIAA and Fish Game through the application process.

Carol Harding ask if there is going to be some criteria added to CIAA for testing such as water quality and oxygen levels and base line data to be implemented before and after the net pens are installed? State Park are in discussion with CIAA and ADF&G to develop a monitoring process. CIAA has been in contact with agencies to have zoo plankton and benthic sampling throughout the project.

Nancy Hilstrand asked what the circulation of water is at the location of the net pens? Forest Cohn of CIAA commented that it is near a freshwater source that will help keep water moving through the area. It is about 100 feet in depth in the area. Nancy stated that the area is about 140 feet deep and that there may be flushing of the area on top of the water column but not on the bottom. Nancy than added what about the settling of food and feces in the area? Forest stated that there will be less than 1% of the food that would settle for the fry will consume 90% of the food that is provided.

Forest also noted that the permit to place the net pens is for April and May when in previous years it was for April until June. CIAA only needs the pens to be out there for only 4 to 6 weeks.

Nancy stated that a diver went down in the area and reported that there was an abundance of aquatic plants in the area. Will these be suffocated out with the debris that the net pens will cause? Forest Cohn stated that CIAA will monitor the area for any changes that may occur.

Jack Blackwell recommended that maybe a meeting with Cook Inlet Aquaculture and members of the board and public to see if there is some way to come up with an agreement to this conflict of having a commercial operation in the State Park.

Kevin Walker recommended that the board should draft a resolution and discuss this with the board members. The board should discuss such as location, time of year and if a hatchery should even be within the Kachemak Bay State Park. As a member of the board and representing the public I have received several comments that the hatchery and the net pens should be moved out of the park.

Jack Blackwell commented that there were mistakes made during the last permit process. For this next process, all agencies need to work very close to make sure we all have consistency with the information.

Nancy asked if the park benefits in any way with the net pens in the Park? Jack responded that we did not receive much of anything, other than a permit application fee. Future discussion includes some sort of fee.

Nancy asked if the public matter in this decision? Jack responded that State Parks tries to look at this from all direction.

Nancy asked if Parks look at the State statutes and regulations when considering the application? Jack commented that staff did look at the State statutes, regulations and the area management plan.

Beaver Nelson commented that the number one objection to the net pens was the location being at the head of Tutka Bay and the view scape. Beaver thought that much of the conflict would go away if the net pens were moved away from the head of the bay to a different location.

Stan Lefton commented that he thought that maybe the location was not the only conflict, but the net pens have always been in Tutka Bay Lagoon. Why the expansion outside of the lagoon, is it a better thing for CIAA or the park.

Nancy stated that the CIAA has reached the carry capacity for the Lagoon area and should the pens be moved outside the lagoon? The lagoon area should first be evaluated before allowing the pens to move outside the lagoon.

Jack stated that he will talk with board members, agencies and park staff to see if we can come up with a common ground on the placement of the pens.

Robert Archibald also recommended that there should be a work session and to have several agencies and members of the public in attendance.

Robert asked when it the timeline on the application? Jack responded that CIAA for 2019 they would like to have an answer by March 1, 2019.

Robert Archibald made a motion:

The board made a motion to appoint Jack Blackwell to contact all the stakeholders and agencies with interest in the Cook Inlet Aquaculture net pens in Tutka Bay. Once identified, they will work together to draft up a resolution that address the conflicts with the application.

Stan Lefton second the motion

Passed unanimously

c. Kachemak Bay Management Plan update-Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:

- Jack gave a quick recap of the process. Commissioner Andy Mack had signed the Kachemak Bay Wilderness and State Park management plan on December 2, 2018. The Governor has appointed a new Commissioner Cori Feige and she has rescinded the adoption of the management plan that was previous signed plan is still in current plan being used. The old State Park staff is currently working on evaluating all the comments. The department will be issuing a response summaries to address the comments. A list of recommended revision will be prepared for public review draft that will be given to the public. Evaluate the comments, list of revisions and that will be shared with the public for comment which is an intent to adopt. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment.

Comments will be excepted and reviewed with the Commissioner.

Carol Harding wanted to go on record to state that comments were due on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and then the plan to be signed on December 2, 2018. This meant that all the work that the board and the working groups put into the comments were not considered. That is disappointing and sort of appalling. The board put in a lot of energy and that the comments were not even going to be considered. It is very disrespectful to the board and the time spent.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Advisory Board recruitment-Kachemak Bay advisory board term expires on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and the members who terms are expiring is Aron Peterson, Carol Harding, Lindsay Wolter and Stan Lefton. We have opened the recruitment process, Jason put out public service announcements on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. State Park is currently excepting applications through the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. Once the application process closes, State Park staff will interview each of the applicants and if the board would like they can have the opportunity to review the applications and submit comments.

Nancy Hilstrand reference the bylaws on board nominations: The bylaws state: The Board membership shall be chosen so as to ensure representation of a broad spectrum of public interests consistent with the existence of the parks, and so as to prevent domination of the Board by a single viewpoint not representative of broad reasoned consensus. Representation is desired from all interested users inclusive but not limited to the following users:

Sport and commercial fishermen; hunters; off-road vehicle recreationalists; mountaineers; mountaineers, hikers, and ski-tourers; wildlife and flora views; photographers; professional guides and tourist industry operators; and private land owners boarding the parks.

A member may be representative of more than one such interest. It is recognized that the membership of the Board cannot on every issue accurately reflect the various views of the interested population but there shall not be any deliberate creation of an imbalance. All Board members carry the responsibility to present the broad public interest and shall not consider themselves merely advocates of their group.

#### DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

At least four months prior to the expiration of the term of office of an incumbent member of the Board, the Board shall solicit from the public, from the user groups, from area community councils and homeowners' associations, and from the Director of the Division, nominations to fill the anticipated vacancy. The Board shall discuss the nominations and shall not later than one month prior to the expiration of the term of office make a recommendation of not less than three individuals for each vacancy to the Director, together with an explanation of how those recommended will tend to fulfill the criteria. However, if the Board determines by a majority vote that sufficient candidates are not available, they may recommend fewer than three individuals year vacancy. The Director shall appoint one from among those recommended to each vacancy, the appointment to be effective upon the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent. The normal term of office shall be three years. Terms of the Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizens Advisory Board shall be staggered to provide for continuity and historical knowledge of board matters. A member may be reappointed. Members shall serve until they are replaced or reappointed.

Nancy Hilstrand would like to follow the bylaws when going through the recruitment process. There was some miss communication with the Director's Office as to when the letters were mailed to the new members.

Carol commented that it was nice when you were appointed to the board you were invited to the meeting by the chair or State Park representative. At that meeting you would introduce yourself and when you would like to be on the board.

Nancy would like to have the board review the applications and make a recommendation to the director as to who should be appointed to the board. This would help to have a balanced board

Jack recommended that the board should set a separate work group meeting for the board to review the applications soon after the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 deadline. It would be nice to have the recommendation set to the Directors office for consideration, so that the appointments could be in place for the March meetings.

Robert asked if the board could have a copy of the recruitment letter to share with interested board members.

Currently five applications have been received.

5. Correspondence: Correspondence:

- a. Alaskan Yurt Rental 2018 Park report: Jason Okuly gave some of the highlights of the report. Such as the yurt company is requesting an additional yurt in the park. They would like to ask the board and members of the public for recommendations. They would also like to place several composting toilets in the park in the high user areas. They would like to have a longer permit than three years and allow more and larger yurts.

The board would like to have Jessica Tenhoff give a presentation to the board regarding the composting toilets and the addition of yurts.

Jack will do more research on the amount the yurt company is charged per year and the policy on how the competitive park use permit for this activity was established.

- b. Janet Klein and David Erickson 2018 field report-Nancy Hilstrand commented that the report was put together very well and included such things as names of plants along Grace Ridge. Carol Harding really appreciate the identification of flora and fauna with some bird identification. It would be great if a bird survey could be completed for the park. It would be great to have more surveys on birds completed in the park. Carol will work with the local birding group to develop a plan to conduct more surveys.

6. Comments and Discussion by Visitors-Dan Miotka has lived in Homer for 17 years. He is married and has three children that are all involved in the school system. He is a permit holder in the Prince William Sound area and is the currently the acting Assistant Fire Chief for the Homer Volunteer Fire Department. He has extensive background in emergency management.

7. Comments and Discussion by Board Members: Aron Peterson ask if there was another chance at requesting funding for a public use cabin in Kachemak Bay State Park. Jack commented that we have not seen the governor's budget at this time, it is to be released by February 15, 2019  
Robert Archibald asked if there was additional information about the property out East End road that was visited by State Park State and board members in the fall of 2018. There has been no additional information at this time.