



**Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board  
PO Box 3248, Homer, AK 99603  
Meeting Minutes  
February 13th, 2019**

**1. Call to Order:**

- a. Roll Call:** Board Members: Aron Peterson, Nancy Hillstrand (Chairman), Glenn Green, Stan Lefton, Robert Ostrom, Sara Baxter, Patrick Miller, Kevin Walker, Jonathon Sharp and Beaver Nelson.

On the phone: Mako Haggerty and Robert Archibald

**State Park staff** – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Tim Blackmon.

**Public Members:** Roger MacCampbell, Alan Parks, John Allardice, Dan Mecke, Jessica Tenhoff, Gary Fandrei, Dean Day, Malcom Milne, Janet Klein, Bob Evenson, Brent Johnson and Stan Eller

- b. Minutes:** Minutes were approved.
- c. Agenda Changes/Approval:** Jack Blackwell added Cook Inlet Aquaculture under old business in the agenda. Agenda was approved as amended.
- d. Public Comment:** Janet Klein and David Erickson reported that she will be reapplying for permit to continue documenting birds and plants in the Kachemak Bay State Park.

Alan Parks commented that the meeting needs more public notice in the newspapers and on the radio. It would be helpful if the agenda would also be posted so that members of the public have the opportunity to comment at the meeting. If a major issue is going to be discussed at the meeting having prior notice before the meeting would be very helpful. Allen was very happy to receive the information that the Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park draft management plan was rescinded by the new Commissioner Corri Feigi of DNR and that a second public review process is

scheduled once all of the comments that were submitted are addressed. The more we discuss the net pens the more input we receive on the subject.

Jack Blackwell commented that there is an online public notices system that all State Park public notices are posted, and it is added to the community calendar for KBBI and is placed in Homer News if it is submitted before the deadline. The additions of the CIAA under old business is the result of a decision that was made by State Park management early this week.

Stan Eller also commented that the board needs to follow the bylaws that are currently in place. As of right now there are board members that are currently sitting on the board and their terms have expired.

Nancy Hillstrand stated that the application process for board application area (delete the a) currently being accepted through February 15, 2019 and the board is trying to get on track with the bylaw's requirements.

- e. Presentation: Tim Blackmon is the new Park Ranger for Alaska State Parks. He moved to Homer in 2008 and worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a seasonal Technician for the last 10 seasons and worked seasonally for the Research Reserve. He is involved in several local organizations. Tim will be leaving for training on February 23, 2019. Jason and Tim will be covering the Homer, Ninilchik, & Deep Creek area this season until the vacancy in Ninilchik is filled.

Jessica Tenhoff from Alaska Yurt Rentals would like to place portable composting toilets near the yurt rentals. It is a very important piece of the yurts for having it be a low impact, no foot print type of shelter for pristine areas. It is important that the yurts are light weight and low impact for the park. There are currently 9 approved places for the yurts and only eight are being utilized each season. Jessica presented the board with the composting toilet manual that includes a three-barrel system for large capacity use. It separates solids from liquids. This system would help eliminate the company from moving the outhouses every year. They have funding for three of the outhouses currently but would like to place one at Quarry and Kayak Beach. Jessica is looking for a letter from Alaska State Parks to approve the composting toilet design.

Jessica also commented that the current draft management plan is proposed to eliminate the yurts and build public use cabins. The cabins would leave a lasting scare (delete e) on the land and the yurts do not.

Jack Blackwell commented that State Park staff will review the proposed plans for the composting toilets and respond to Jessica. As for the management plans recommendation to place public use cabins in all State Parks is to generate revenue for the park system. Until the management plan is completed we have been extending the Yurt permit on a year to year basis.

It was determined that Jessica should talk with State Park staff prior to submitting the proposal.

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

a. Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:

**Diamond Creek SRA**

- Blown down trees on the bike trail system have been removed by Bike Club.
- Towed an abandoned vehicle from Diamond Creek SRA.
- DOT has solicited input on widening the entrance to Diamond Creek Rec Site. They are doing improvements on the Sterling highway and wish to store equipment at Diamond Creek Rec Site. Their proposal does not align Diamond Ridge with the entrance to Diamond Creek SRA.

**Eveline**

- Vehicle drove on McNeil Canyon ski trails and became stuck. Vehicle made it to the SW corner of Eveline where it turned around. Minimal damage to Eveline ski trails but extensive damage to McNeil ski trails. Issue investigated by the troopers. No citations issued.
- Ski Club is requesting to widen a section of trail to allow the use of larger grooming equipment. Tim conducted a site visit with ski club members. Removal of vegetation was not authorized at this time. Believe it would be better to remove vegetation during the summer months to flush cut stumps and observe the impacts to wildflowers.

**Maintenance**

- Large landing craft was taken out of the water for repairs – bottom paint, engine issues, grind a prop. Vessel has been put back into the water.
- In contact with an individual who has an ROV, we are going to search for our mooring buoys' blocks.

**Meetings**

- 50<sup>th</sup> birthday planning meeting, Roger MacCampbell has agreed to be the Chair.
- Watershed collaboration founded by Hale (delete e) Shepard, showing interest in the Fox Flats Critical habitat area, interested in pursuing grants to improve the site. Interested in having Parks manage the site.
- HEA has started work on diverting Stonehocker creek. HEA has brought equipment to the site and has started widening trails by removing vegetation. Jack, Pam, and I have all been on site to observe intended work. HEA would also like to remove mature cottonwoods outside of their easement to reduce the possibility they will disrupt the power lines during a windstorm.
- Friends meeting – questioning the possibility of a composter at Sea Star. Informed the Friends that Parks staff are not competent composters. The Halibut Cove Lagoon composter has stopped working due to lack of understanding/maintenance.

**Administrative**

- Orientation - Tim Blackmon, a new Park Ranger I has started, tour of park lands, policy review, etc.
- Attempting to recruit staffing for this upcoming season.

Jack Blackwell provided the board the following report.

- The DNR Leadership has been hired. Commissioner for DNR is Corri Feige and Deputy Commissioner is Brent Goodrum. Ricky Gease is the new Director of the Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The Director scheduling meeting with State Park staff to have briefing of all the areas.
- The Governor did submit his revised budget for the State and the department is currently scheduled to lose four administrative position. One of the positions is in our Soldotna office whose duties is to count the fees for the areas. There was also a 50 percent reduction in travel budget.
- State Park staff shared the revenue report with the board.

b. Friend's Report- Mako Haggerty reported to the board the following:

- On January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, there was the annual membership meeting that was held at the Research reserve. Standing room only meeting and there is a lot of interest in this community for the park.
- Bill Hague received the Golden Pulaski award. This is for all of Bill's volunteer efforts in the State park.
- Elected officers for the group. Mako Haggerty remains president, Jonathan Sharp is Vice President, Robert Archibald is treasurer and a new member Laura Kelly is secretary. Two new members Robert Reed and Roger MacCampbell are on the board.
- The board is currently working on the 2019 budget. The balance is \$19,000 dollars and the board is developing ideas on how to spend that money.
- A new website is being developed and the group is trying to have a greater Facebook presence.
- The board is also working on a new fund raiser for 2019.

### 3. Old Business

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

- Alaska State Parks former Director Ethan Tyler issued a Director Determination regarding Cook Inlet Aquacultures permit application for moving the net pens to Tutka Bay. The determination does not authorize the activity and denies the permit. One major issue for the denial was that the activity is not consistent with the enabling legislation for the park and the scenic values. CIAA is aware of the determination and there is an appeal process if CIAA does not agree with the decision.

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

- Jack gave the following report. State Park staff met with the planning team last week. The planner is actively reviewing all the comments, which are approximately 200. They are preparing a draft summary of the comments that were submitted, once the comments are reviewed the summary will be put out to the public with some recommendations for changes in the plan. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the recommendations. If everything goes as planned the summary will be available at some point this spring.

4. New Business

5. Correspondence

6. Comments and Discussion by Visitors:

Alan Parks, asked in what form the management plan was going to be released?

Jack commented that the planner issues a summary on the comments, which will include recommendations.

Alan would like to see a development of a adopt a trail program and marking the trails with large markers that are visible when the grass gets tall.

Roger MacCampbell was concerned about the sheet pile installation by HEA and that this is against the statute. He believes that HEA should abandoned the line and place it somewhere else.

Jack commented: It is a pretty challenging issue with HEA, Stonehocker Creek is running straight down the easement. It is comprising the powerline and that HEA would have preferred to move the line outside the existing easement but that would require a legislative fix and there was not enough time for this to happen. State Park staff recommended other alternatives, but the expense was to high.

Janet asked if HEA is staying in the flats and does this flow into Silver Salmon Creek?

Jack responded yes HEA is staying within the flats area and yes Stonehocker does flow in Silver Salmon Creek.

Janet has concerns of the impact of the Salmon stream and there are two known archeological site in the area.

7. Comments and Discussion by Board Members: Mako Haggerty recommended that we should collect all the members of the public's emails so that they can get the email every month announcing the meeting with the draft agenda and minutes.

Kevin Walker asked why HEA is spending 1000's of dollars on a line that have such a low number of users. There are other alternatives such a solar.

Sara complained that people are having trouble hearing, people need to talk louder. Sara also commented that there should be navigation balls on the powerlines in Sadie Cove. They would be very helpful during time of bad weather or fog.

Kevin Walker commented on the letter head and that it is an advisory board. The letterhead will be changed.

Aron Peterson gave the board a map showing the area down Eastland Road where the park does not have access. There is a need to have access to this land for development. This can be done going through Elmer's Way/ Rotone Ave and an easement would take approximately 6 months. The borough has obtained the land from the state and it has been set aside for recreational use. Jason is working with the borough to obtain access.

Aron Peterson asked if Kachemak Bay State Parks has applied to become a Dark Sky park by meeting the Dark Sky standards? Nancy commented that the association wanted the standards to be placed in the management plan first before they would consider the application. Nancy and Aron will continue to work on that process.