



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board
PO Box 3248, Homer, AK 99603
Meeting Minutes
May 8th, 2019

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call:** Board Members: Jeffrey Lee, Patrick Miller, Curtis Jackson, Nancy Hillstrand, Aron Peterson, Glen Green, Marc Romano, Beaver Nelson, Jon Sharp, Kevin Walker, Robert Archibald, Kirsten Dixon and Carol Harding.

State Park staff –Jack Blackwell

Public Members Amy Bright, Mako Haggerty, Janet Klein, Jesse Nelson, and Toby Wheeler

- b. Minutes:** Aron Peterson submitted changes to the April 10 minutes. The minutes were approved as amended.
- c. Agenda Changes:** Jeff Lee added the resolution on noise in the park under new business. The agenda was approved as amended.
- d. Public Comment:** Amy Bright had some questions about the proposed parking area at Diamond Creek SRA. Amy lives very close to this area and uses the trail on a regular basis. She noted that the trail has fallen into disrepair this year and falling off the hill. The road work that was completed into the area is fabulous.
- e. Presentation**

2. Committee Reports

a. Operations Report-

- Trainings
 - Annual Law Enforcement Training
 - Wildlife Human Attack Response Training
- EMT training
- Meetings
 - Game Warden Meeting
 - Water Trail Meeting
 - Preseason staff meeting

- Outreach
Two-day tabled event for volunteer recruitment at Island and Oceans
- Diamond Creek
Dispersed dumped slash pile
Two vehicles left at site, Jason contacted one register owner (RO), the individual is working to have it removed. Second vehicle – unable to contact RO, vehicle moved from site after 4 days.
- Trail Crews
Crew members hired. Waiting on hire date from the State.
- Boat Maintenance
Pulled large landing craft for seasonal maintenance.

Jack Blackwell reported to the Board the following:

- The administration is having trouble setting up the RPT grant process for the trail crews and State Park's has not been able to hire the trail crews. The hope was to have them working by the first of May but unfortunately this cannot happen until the issues are resolved.
- The Director Ricky Gease had proposed that all RPT funds will be put towards the use of State Park projects and deferred maintenance to get caught up in projects in the State Parks. The legislature is currently looking at the program going back to the 50/50 split way of completing projects. The Board discussed supporting the 50/50 or having all money go towards just State Park deferred maintenance. Christine Dixon would like to see a list of deferred maintenance projects in the Kachemak Bay State Park area. Jack will provide that to the Board. Nancy asked if the Board would like to write a letter supporting the 50/50? It was recommended that sub-committees be formed within the Board to look at such things as trail maintenance and infrastructure in the Park to discuss these issues prior to the board meetings.
- Eric is working hard to get things ready for the contractor to start work on the Saddle trail. That work is slated to start the first of June.
- Jason is currently on leave for a week and is due back May 15th.

Kevin Walker asked how the South district area was going to be staffed for the 2019 season? Jack Blackwell stated that Tim Blackmon the area Park Ranger I, is currently at the academy and will be back in the area at the end of May but will have nine weeks of field training with a veteran ranger outside of the Kachemak Bay area. The Ninilchik area ranger position interviews are scheduled in the next few weeks and there are several great candidates. This position will start July 1st.

Christina Whiting will be hired as the volunteer coordinator and will not start until May 15th. Robert Archibald commented that Friends may be able to donate some funding to have Christina start on May 1st. This is something the Friends group will have to discuss at their next meeting.

Friend's Report- Mako Haggerty reported to the Board the following:

- The Friends group met on Monday April 6, 2019. This was a well-attended meeting.
- The Board talked about trail maintenance. They believe there are several trails that are not impassible. Trails day brings in volunteers, and adopt a trail by either individuals or other groups. There is a lot of volunteer energy and they don't know how to help.
- A few concerns the Friends group developed was to come up with a road map to direct volunteers that are going out to the Park caring equipment such as chain saws, weed whackers and other equipment to work on trails. What do they need, a permit, an agreement under another organizations that has an MOU with Parks to volunteer and work on the trails? Friends

would help develop a process that would make it more streamlined for volunteers to go out into the Park and help with trails.

- Trails Day was once organized by the Kachemak Bay Advisory Board. Now the Friends group organizes the event under an MOU. This requires that each of the groups have a crew leader that is employed by State Parks. We currently have two, Jason Okuly and Eric Clarke which means only two trails can be worked on in the Park with power equipment. Beach cleanup can be done without a crew leader and Taz will lead a family hike.
- Friendship walk is also happening this weekend.
- Morgan Harness donated her Christmas money to the Friends of Kachemak Bay. They decided to have a Morgan Harness hike and Roger MacCampbell will lead the hike on June 14th, 2019.
- Pancake Breakfast on May 11th, 2019 is an event for Parks to outreach to the community. This is where most people sign up for trail work. Tell all your friends and come join the fun.
- It was also discussed that there may be a way to have Eric Clarke work year-round so he could help train people in the winter on chain saws and equipment to work in the Park.
- Friends would recommend a letter of support from the Board to have Eric be a 10-12-month employee instead of 7 months. This would be great in order to train people to volunteer to work in the Park with equipment.
- Another option may be to have the Friends group sub-contract Eric on his off time, or use a private contractor and have them train volunteers to use such things as chainsaws in the Park. Jack Blackwell said this would be a possibility, but the trainer would have to have liability in place when providing the training.
- Mako asked if State Parks could provide the friends a roadmap of steps to help someone become a volunteer and to be able to perform such task as bucking up trees or even cutting trees down.

b. Kachemak Bay 50 Anniversary celebration: No report

3. Old Business

- **Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park management plan update:** Jack Blackwell reported that the intent to adopt the plan will come out this fall. The planners are continuing to work through the comments and are preparing the response summary. State Parks does recognize that going out to public comment in the summer is difficult. The public will have the ability to comment further, but the department's intent to adopt the plan with the comments that have been received. Jack believes that it will be a 60-day comment period and the Board will have a chance to meet during the comment period. Christine Dixon asked if any of the comments influence the plan. Jack Blackwell responded that he believes so. The planning team consists of Monica Alvarez, Rob Earl, Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly, Mark Fink and Pam Russell.

The DNR Commissioner and Director offices will also review the plan and supply comment.

- **Bylaws Update** - Patrick Miller reported that the committee met and reviewed the Kenai River Special Management Board bylaws. The committee determined that many of the KRSMA bylaws were applicable to the Kachemak Bay Board but are going to take it slowly and talk about many of the bylaws, such as the need for sub-committees, specific duties of board members, specific guidelines, and how board members are elected. Curtis Jackson stated that how board members are appointed was the first bylaw the committee wanted to look at. The committee would like to adopt KRSMA method of appointing new members. This would include open recruitment from January until June, with all seats expiring in June. Then the new member's term would start in September.
- Curtis Jackson made a motion to adopt the new method of appointing new board members to the Board as follows: open recruitment from January until June, with all seats expiring in June. Then the new members term would start in September this mirror the KRSMA article VI bylaws. Patrick Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jack Blackwell stated that this needs to be added to the September agenda.

Draft bylaws will be open for public comment for 30 days. Jack Blackwell commented that State Park staff will take care of this. This will include a public service announcement, posting of some notices around town and on the State Park website. In September, the bylaws can be adopted as amended. The bylaws will be sent to the Director for approval.

4. New Business:

- **Elections**-Nomination for Chair was open:
 - The nominees for Chair are as follows: Nancy Hilstrand, Kevin Walker and Robert Archibald. It was unanimous consent that Robert Archibald will be the chair.
 - The nominees for vice chair are as follows: Kevin was voted as unanimous consent. Nancy volunteered to help Kevin when needed.
 - Curtis Jackson stated that he will be Secretary for the Board. He will help with announcements, minutes and letter writing when needed.

It was determined that the sub-committee will write the letter that the Board proposes. Discussion should the duties of the chair, vice chair and secretary.

Glen Green asked if the election should take place in the fall instead of spring. The consensus agreed Fall is better time to start the new year with a new board.

- Letter of Support for EVOS funding project at Diamond Creek SRA. Jack Blackwell reported that DNR would like to develop a parking area, an orientation kiosk, and vaulted toilet at Diamond Creek. Since this parcel was purchased with EVOS monies it was thought that using the same funding source could be used to develop some infrastructure at the park to accommodate use. There is a caretaker's cabin in the plans for having a host to help maintain the area. A draft letter was provided to the board. This is a 1.8-million-dollar project to build a 25-vehicle parking area, viewing area, orientation kiosk, host cabin and interpretive panels.

Curtis Jackson made a motion to accept the letter with changes to request EVOS funding for development at Diamond Creek SRA. Patrick Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Resolution on noise in Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park: Jack Blackwell reported that State Park had internal discussion about what we can and cannot be stated in a stipulation. The State could issue special stipulation for commercial operators. State Parks does not have control over air space. It was asked how stipulations for air space can be developed? How can we develop stipulations for air space? Jack had a discussion with the department of law, and was told it is possible to have such stipulations if the activity is directly related to a resource issue. It is not critical to get a resolution in place but to have the Board put together some stipulations that would be sent to the law department for approval. A working group would include of Jeff Lee, Kirstin Dixon and other members of the public.

5. Correspondence-none

6. Comments and Discussion by Visitors:

7. **Comments and Discussion by Board Members:** New member Kirsten Dixon would like to see a new board packet for all new board members. Patrick Miller is excited to see the development of committees and new bylaws. Sera is excited to see the work being done on the Board. Curtis Jackson commented that it is important to get the public involve especially considering the budget deficit the State Parks is facing. He reminded everyone that the Parks belong to everyone, He said thanks for keeping the board on track and getting the subcommittee for bylaws started. Jack Blackwell thanked everyone for their good work. Nancy thanked

everyone for their good work and for the development of the sub-committees. Glenn Green asked about development of the land between Cottonwood Eastland and East End Road. development. Beaver Nelson commented that the cruise ships are coming, and everyone needs to be aware of the impact. Aron Peterson invited everyone to visit Cotton Wood Eastland before the September meeting to look at its availability for public access to State Park land. Robert Archibald talked about Trails Day volunteers and the ability to sign up and help.