



**Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen Advisory Board**  
**PO Box 3248, Homer, AK 99603**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 9th, 2019**

**1. Call to Order:**

- a. **Roll Call:** Board Members: Jeffrey Lee, Patrick Miller, Aron Peterson, Glen Green, Robert Ostrom, Marc Romano, Kristin Dixon, Beaver Nelson, Nancy Hilstrand, Jon Sharp, Kevin Walker, Robert Archibald, Patrick Miller, Kevin Walker and Carol Harding.  
**State Park staff** – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Eric Clarke.  
**Public Members** – See sign in sheet.
- b. **Minutes:** Aron Peterson noted that Cottonwood, on the last page of the last minutes, is one word. The minutes were approved as amended.
- c. **Agenda Changes:** The agenda was approved.

**2. Public Comment**

Mako Haggerty- An interested Park user commented that there is a gate at Diamond Creek State Recreation Site (SRS). Visitors to the area like to drive vehicles down to the trailhead. The difference from hiking down to the beach on the trail, instead of driving is a 2-mile difference. This is one mile downhill and one mile uphill. Most visitors just want to get down to the beach. Mako Haggerty is opposed to gating this area off.

**3. Visitors**

- Dave Brann gave a summary of the annual reports on State Park sites that are maintained by volunteers. Eveline State Recreation Site reported that there were 420 volunteer hours with an estimated 1500 to 3000 visitors to the area; at Chugachik Island there were 60 volunteer hours with 45 visitors; Cottonwood Eastland had 130 volunteer hours; this area does not have an accurate way to capture visitor use. Dave stated he would like to cut back on his volunteer hours out at Eveline. Dave would like to spread his time out to other areas that need attention. The outhouse has been placed at Cottonwood Creek. The Kachemak Bay Water Trail organization purchased a bear box for the Halibut Cove Lagoon trail head. Dave added he would like to see the Board and State Parks continue discussions of placing a public use cabin on the north side of Kachemak Bay along the roadside. The Kachemak Bay Nordic Ski Club will still provide winter maintenance to the Eveline SRS. The current MOU states that there would be the development and maintenance of summer trails, but there is no funding available at this time. A State Park representative will reach out to the Ski Club to attend the November meeting to discuss the MOU at Eveline SRS.
- Jess Eller is the manager over at Tutka Bay Hatchery. Also present was Dean Day, the Executive Director of Cook Inlet Aquaculture. A handout was given to the Board and public members in attendance. Jess Eller was

born and raised in Alaska and has worked in Alaska hatcheries for the past ten years. Some of the areas include South Ester Island Hatchery and in Southeast. The number one question Jess has been asked since she has been on the job is how long does she plan on staying. This is a move back to the area for her; she has family and friends here. Also, on staff at Tutka Bay Hatchery is Ronnie Minter, Assistant Manager, and Alyssa Mische, Fish Culturist. This was a great rearing year for salmon; in the spring of 2019 they released 420,000 sockeye smolt in May and another 85 million pink fry. It was also noted that the water levels were low, and the water temperature were higher than recorded in past years. Sockeye returns goals were achieved for brood stock and pink returns started strong/normal but goals were not met for broodstock. This year, public outreach included a visit from the Seldovia Village Tribe summer school group and Girls on Water. The hatchery has also been working on invasive species that have been found on-site with the Homer Soil and Water Conservation group. A copy of the report can be requested.

#### 4. Reports

##### A. Agency Reports

###### a. State Parks

###### I. Jack Blackwell reported to the Board the following:

- Jack thanked State Park staff for all their hard work this summer. The area was short-handed a Park Ranger II this summer. The area staff really stepped up to the plate and did a great job. Thank you to all the volunteers and all the hard work they put in helping to maintain the Homer State Park units.
- Jack Blackwell, Park Ranger Jason Okuly and Technician Eric Clarke provided the State Park Director Ricky Gease with an orientation of the area. They visited the Tutka Bay Hatchery and other state park units.
- State Parks is currently in the process of recruiting a new Park Ranger I for the Homer Area. A Park Ranger was hired back in February 2019. Several good applications have been received and interviews were conducted last week. Once the position has been filled, they will complete the training process before working in the park.
- State Parks will be working on two new projects, at Anchor Point and Deep Creek. The area received some federal assistance from storm damage that was sustained two years ago. This week will start the work of installing rock along the shore on the beach. The funding for the beach at Deep Creek will not provide enough material for the whole, so additional funding will have to be obtained from other sources.

###### II. Jason Okuly-Ops Report 10.9.19.

###### Complaints

- Vehicle tracts at McKeon flats – HEA operating outside their easement. Two complaints came in from pilots flying over.

###### Yurt Permit inspection

- Haystack Yurt – No smoke alarm, outhouse in poor condition, junk dimensional lumber left behind outhouse.
- Humpy creek yurt - dimensional lumber and junk scattered about the area, no fire extinguisher.

###### GTT Permit inspection

- Trail work conducted from Tutka Lakes trail to the head of Tutka. Permittee is not upkeeping park permit standards. Meeting with GTT and Park staff to discuss discrepancies. Plan of action for site visit in the spring. Close section of trail not meeting permit standards.

###### Public Outreach

- Hunter Ed. - 11 students
- National Public Lands Day – BBQ put on by the Friends to thank our volunteers.

- Homer PR I interviews completed  
HEA
- Emergency repairs attempts continue. Sheet pile wall supported with super sacks has not worked. The sheet pile wall has begun to fail. The divergent Stone Hawker Creek has eroded 6' of sediment from much of the powerline easement at a width of 10'. Discussions continue internally with HEA to determine the next course of action. Water has receded drastically.  
Meetings
- Water Shed Collaborative meeting, Ground Truth Trekking, Salmon Circles, K-Bay Management Plan meeting, Friends, Water Trail, 50<sup>th</sup> B'day.  
LE issues
- Set net site on McKeon flats leaving anchors on site
- Seized illegal mooring from China Poot Bay entrance
- Blue and white helicopter landed on Sadie Peak – no follow up.
- Water taxis are over limit, beyond 6 passengers – no follow up.

## B. Committee Reports

**a. Friends' Report-** Mako Haggerty reported to the Board that they met on Monday but did not have a quorum so no official business was conducted. The group did decide to have its annual membership meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. The Golden Pulaski will be awarded at the meeting. Also discussed working on the Friends' website and updating the information. The Friends "asked" of Alaska State Parks to give more time to Eric Clarke. Eric currently works 8 months, and the group would like to see him work more months to help with such things as training volunteers on chainsaws and any other power tools. Friends also provided a volunteer picnic to thank everyone for helping with the Park.

**b. Kachemak Bay 50th Anniversary celebration.** Robert Archibald reported to the Board that Roger MacCampbell is the chair of this committee. The committee is in the process of having made 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary coffee mugs and beer steins. They will retail for 30 to 40 dollars; The Bear Creek Winery is producing a Kachemak Blueberry wine. It will be available at the Grog Shop and Winery. Captain's Coffee Roasting Company will produce 4 blends of coffee with the committee's design labels. The birthday date is May 9<sup>th</sup> and a celebration is currently being planned for this date. The committee would like to make the celebration memorable.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park management plan update:** Jack Blackwell reported that the planning team met about three weeks ago. There were some questions that needed clarification. The Commissioners office is currently reviewing two permit appeals that were submitted by Cook Inlet Aquaculture. The two appeals are placing the net pens in Tutka Bay and the disposal of fish carcasses in Tutka Bay. The management plan will not be released until those appeals have been determined and incorporated into the plan
- b. Bylaws Update –** Robert Archibald reported that a committee to review the Kachemak Bay Citizen Advisory Board bylaws. In May it was determined that the bylaws would change the section of designation of Board members to be the same as KRSMA criteria. State Park will have an update in November. The bylaw committee plans on meeting on November 12, 2019 at 4pm before the Advisory Board meeting.

## 6. New Business:

- a. **Cottonwood Eastland Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA)** -- Robert asked about the land that would provide public access to the Cottonwood Eastland parcel. Jack reported that the planners reported that the parcel was still DNR land and not Borough. Parks will work with the Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DML&W) to create an ILMA to transfer management of the parcel to Alaska State Parks. Jason Okuly reported that there was an ILMA that was drafted at one point but it is no longer valid. He was waiting to receive a copy of the draft to resubmit to DML&W for approval.
- b. **Forming a Trail Committee**-Mark Romano reported that there has been discussion to shorten the length of the meeting by forming committees. Marc asked the Board if there is enough interest for the Board to form a committee to address trails in the Park.

The second question asked if the Board is interested in forming committees to handle issues outside the Board meeting and then bringing action items to the Board?

Jack explain the KRSMA board has committees for River Use, Guide Committee and Habitat. These committees often do the heavy lifting and try to vent the issue and have the discussion at that level. Once an issue is determined and vetted, it is then brought to the main Board. These committees don't meet every month.

Aron Peterson made a motion that the Board form a trail committee. Kevin Walker seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Marc Romano will help organize the group.

- c. **Discussion: Helicopter Operation in the Park the past summer.** Jeff Lee asked about an update on the numbers of trips and commercial operators in the park. This will be added to a later agenda once numbers have been received by operators. Current due date is December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- d. **Letter of Support for Friends RPT Grant Application**-Kevin Walker reported that application is for the Friends groups to purchase equipment such as chainsaws, weed whackers and other trail maintenance equipment for the public to use. Kevin determined, after reading the grant application, that equipment can only be purchased for an approved scope of work. Kevin determined the scope of work would be to maintain existing trails in the State Park, according to the State's trails handbook. Kevin moved this item to the November meeting because a letter of support had not been drafted.
- e. **Discussion on purchase of land parcel next to Saddle Trail in Halibut Cove Lagoon**-Robert reported that the land is for sale and it is very important to the trail system in Kachemak Bay.

Jack reported that the property is 5 acres next to the Saddle Trail and it would be a great addition to the Park. But currently State management is not interested in purchasing property, for there is concern about using money for land acquisitions.

- f. **Letter of Support for Kachemak Bay State Park 2020 Grant** - Eric Clark reported the grant process has changes and you can submit the application for maintenance. One project is the Grewing Lake and China Poot Area. The other project would include the Humpy Creek area. Eric would like to have a letter for each project. The Board agreed to have the Trails committee draft all three letters.

Kevin Walker made a motion to have the Trail committee draft the letters of support for the grant. Marc Romano seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Public Comment-**Mako Haggerty commented that Diamond Creek SRS does not need a gate. He also stated that Leisure Lake should be a priority when the Trails committee looks at all the trails in the Park.

Jesse Nelson stated that Clem Tillion should be the grand marshal of the parade. He was instrumental in the creation of the State Park and helped in developing the regulations for the Park.

**8. Staff Comments-**Jason commented the gate at Diamond Creek SRS is for safety when the road is very slick and muddy. Maintenance is expensive and there is no money to support the maintenance.

**9. Comments Board Members-**Aron stated that the Water Trails group has provided picnic tables at certain sites. These table have been shot up or have had graffiti on them; these tables will not be replaced. The sign at creek was pulled out of the ground and thrown into the brush. The picnic table there was damaged.

Kevin Walker commented that he had talked with Jess Tenhoff about the report at the last K-Bay Advisory meeting that smoke detectors were not working, and a bear box was damaged. Jess stated that they had not been notified, and that the permit states they should be notified of any problems in the yurts. The Yurts company would appreciate any notification of problems with the yurts.