



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
January 13, 2021
Virtual Meeting with Microsoft Teams at 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

- a. Roll Call - Aron Peterson, Nancy Hillstrand, Sue Christiansen, Curtis Jackson, Beaver Nelson, Jeffrey Lee, Carol Harding, Kirsten Dixon, Marc Romano, Sera Baxter, Robert Archibald, Kevin Walker, Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell
- b. Agenda – Robert added an update of HEA Stonehocker Creek under old business and the Fire Management Plan Habitat Committee. Agenda was approved as amended.
- c. Minutes - Minutes approved as written

2. Public Comment

3. Visitors Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Cowie Walker and Steve Baird gave an update of some of the projects they are working on. Their website is <https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/kbnerr/> Their work is dedicated to conducting research, monitoring, education, trainings and community engagement that brings understanding of regional ecosystems, and assists people in making informed decisions that promote conservation and stewardship.

4. Committee Reports

- a. State Park - Jack provided the following update:

Governor's FY 2022 Budget:

- Operating budget includes \$250.0 increment to cover premium pay
- Capital budgets includes
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund: Receipt authority, administration, match
 - Recreation Trails Program: \$1.6 M
 - More Electronic Fee Stations (LUKES): \$250.0

Grewingk Potential Landslide:

- State Parks has started discussions with the Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey about the potential landslide that could trigger a tsunami in the Grewingk Valley.
- DGGS recently flew a LIDAR flight over the hillside.
- DGGS also has a weather station that they have offered to install near the potential slide area to better understand how precipitation can trigger movement and/or failure of the hillside.

- b. Operations Report - Jason provided the Board with the following report:

- Shafford Heights ATV trail: meetings with the Shafford Heights stake holders requesting consensus with the property owners pertaining to maintenance, trail

size, and trail use authorizations. Issuing permit authorizing the clearing of the easement. Current ATV trail being requested is a 60" width.

- Permit authorization for landing a fixed wing on the ice field above Upper Hazelle Lake and restricted landing at Upper Hazelle Lake due to goats (No landings November 14 to June 14)
- Discussions with Ground Truth Trekking regarding issued permits and Park's expectation.
- Diamond Creek – unauthorized tree cutting/harvesting of firewood. Overnight camping.
- Seized crab pot from Tutka Bay for failure to properly mark buoy. Cited and returned pot to owner.
- Agencies assist - AST and HPD, domestic violence 911 call, burglary in progress 911 call.
- Open investigation into illegal commercial air taxi landing in KBay.
- Attended multiple draft Management Plan meetings
- EMT training recertification/national standard update training
- Boat patrol/park inspection – after windstorms – check on public use cabins and park infrastructure, no damage noted. While on patrol conducted boater safety inspections.
- Boat issues – 8m Naiad taking on water, welded hull, electrical issues. Lg. Landing craft both engine alarms signaling, believe it to be a stuck thermostat, will pull from water soon and have inspected.
- Complaints – Snow machines in Cottonwood Eastland.

c. Friend's Report – Robert Archibald reported to the Board the following:

- Friends spent close to \$20,000 on various items but they also raised that much in contributions. The Board is looking at a grant from the Homer Foundation for more tools to be used on the park. The group has been working on comments for the Personal Watercraft issue and the Intent to Adopt Kachemak Bay Management Plan with other various organizations. There has been a big push to contest the Personal Watercraft use in Kachemak Bay and there has been a lot of money gathered to help in that fight.

d. Water Trail Annual Report on Adopted Camp Sites – Dave Brann reported to the Board the following:

- There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be held the third week in January 2021 and the group will be working on the 2021 budget.
- The group is working on upgrading their website and are also working to gradually update the 5-year plan. One of the first tasks is to develop 2 or 3 priorities to enable the group to create another list of priorities that can then be passed on to the Advisory Board, then on to State Park management. This

priority list would be a list of items that the organization would like to see happen in the park in 2021.

- e. **Eveline State Recreation Site Report**
Kevin Walker reported that the trails were getting groomed and there were lots of skiers out using them.
- f. **Kachemak Bay 50th celebration**-Robert reported to the Board the following: There is still some interest in having an event in 2021 when we can all get together again. More information to come on that.
- g. **Habitat Committee – Nancy Hillstrand gave the Board the following report:**
 - Nancy sent the Draft Fire Management Plan to the committee to review. The committee is going to meet prior to the February Advisory Board meeting to draft their recommendation for the Board. Comments are due by February 20, so they will report more about this at the next meeting.
 - Conrad and Carmen Field made a complete list of species in Kachemak Bay. That list has been sent to Monica Alvarez to include in the K-Bay Management Plan. The list can be linked to the National Estuarine Research Reserve website, so other people can access the list.
 - On the Bear Wise information: Sue brought in a video that would be nice to show on the Homer Spit when people are waiting for a water taxi to take them over to the park. This video would educate visitors about bear behavior and how to respond to bear interactions appropriately. It also addresses how to take care of their trash and food.

5. Old Business

- a) **Kachemak Bay Management Plan:** Jack reported to the Board the following:
 - The Intent to adopt Kachemak Bay Management Plan public comments are due by Friday, January 22, 2021.
- b) **Update on Park Pamphlet: Bear Safety, Landslide Risk and other Important Park Subjects – Curtis Jackson reported to the Board the following:**

Curtis would like to see this pamphlet available by May 2021 and he is gathering information from folks to help develop it. The busiest hike, and most water taxi passengers, is Glacier Spit. For that trip he gives passengers a small black and white copy of Hig's map of the area. Curtis believes this would be a great opportunity to give visitors a pamphlet that includes information on bear safety, landslide risk at Grewingk and location of where to camp in case of a tsunami. The front of pamphlet would feature a map zoomed into the Glacier Spit area with trails to hike. The other side would have information on bear safety and possible landslide issues in the area. Curtis was asking for input on other information that might work as well. There would also be a place where the water taxi could add their name and contact information. Please send any recommendation to Curtis.

Jack Blackwell asked if all the water taxi companies would be interested in handing these out from their boats.

Yes, all the water taxi companies were very interested in participating in the program.

Jack also added that State Parks applied for a Recreational Trails Program Grant to develop some educational material for the Grewingk landslide and tsunami. This grant would help State Parks develop an educational panel that would be placed at Grewingk Lake. State Parks would also include this information on their website. State Parks should hear by late February if they received the grant, so Jack does not think there would be enough time to develop an educational panel by the 2021 season.

- c) HEA Stonehocker Creek: Pam Russell reported to the Board the following:
- Homer Electric has received a permit to remove the sheet pile wall, bridge and supersacks out of Stone Hocker Creek. The existing power poles will remain within Stonehocker Creek but will receive some h-pile supports and rip rap to help maintain the integrity of the power poles. This work is anticipated to start in February and be completed by March 1st, 2021.

4. New Business

- a) Resolution 2021-1 Personal Watercraft in Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park - Robert Archibald presented the Board with Resolution 2021-1. The Resolution of the Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen Advisory Board, requested "No Action" by Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to rescind 11 AAC 20.115 (b) and 11 AAC 20.215(b) of the Alaska Administrative code prohibiting personal watercraft in the waters of Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park.

Nancy Hillstrand made the motion to adopt the resolution and Carol Harding seconded the motion.

A vote was taken, 12 members were present, 11 voted for the resolution and 1 opposed.

A second motion was presented to the Board to remove the wording after the last where as on page two of the resolution with the following:

Sue Christiansen made the motion to change the wording after the last "Whereas" of the resolution and Sera Baxter seconds the motion.

The wording was change the wording as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

THE KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY ADVISES THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION TO CONTINUE THE PROHIBITION OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT WITHIN THE KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK AND WILDERNESS PARK WATERS, AND TO AMEND LANGUAGE IN THE Intent to Adopt KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK AND KACHEMAK BAY STATE WILDERNESS PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN, PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SECTION PAGE 72, REMOVING ALL WORDING AFTER INCOMPATIBLE UNDER THE NATURAL ZONE AND MAKING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT INCOMPATIBLE IN THE NATURAL ZONE.

A vote was taken, 12 members were present, 11 voted for the resolution and 1 opposed.

Nancy Hillstrand made a motion to accept the motion as amended. Jeff Lee seconded the motion.

A vote was taken, 12 members were present, 11 voted for the resolution and 1 opposed.

The new resolution was sent to the Board via email.

- b) Pre Filed Bill HB52 by Rep Vance - Robert reported to the Board that this Bill is an Act providing that operation of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery in Kachemak Bay is compatible with the functions of Kachemak Bay State Park. Marc Ramono thought it may be a good idea to have Rep Vance come to one of the Advisory Board meetings.
- c) Ex official seats - The Bylaw Committee will discuss if they would like to add Ex-Officio Non-Voting seats to the Board. If so a Bylaw change will be required.

7. Comments of the Public

8. Comments of Board Members:

- Sue Christensen wondered if Ground Truth Trekking would be willing to collaborate and work with the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park in regard to their work on the Tutka Back Door trail and would like ground Truth trekking to provide the Board with an updated presentation of the trail as it is today.
- Beaver Nelson complimented Robert Archibald of his handling of the meeting.
- Nancy Hillstrand agrees that the MOU with the Estuarine Research Reserve MOU is perfect for the Park.
- Aron would like to have help from State Park Technician Eric Clark in helping with the foot trails at Cottonwood Eastland.
- Marc Romano recommended that instead of having Ex-Officio agencies board members we just invite them to the meetings. He also recommended all trails within KBSP be brought up to the standards we are asking Ground Truth Trekking to uphold.
- Kevin Walker recommended that everyone write their legislature about the personal watercraft use in Kachemak Bay State Park and HB Bill 52 regarding the Tutka Bay Hatchery.

9. Adjournment - The next meeting is Wednesday February 10th, 2021 at 5:30 via Microsoft Teams.