



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
February 10th, 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, Robert Archibald, Patrick Miller, Kevin Walker, Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell
- b. Agenda –Agenda was approved as written
- c. Minutes - Minutes approved as written

2. Public Comment

3. Visitors - Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Jason Herreman, talked about wildlife issues in the Park. He provided an overview of harvest and population status by species, touched on bear baiting/attractant issues, and answered questions from attendees.

4. Committee Reports

- a. State Park - Jack provided the following updates:
 - Applications are being accepted through March 31 for positions on this Advisory Board. Two of the fifteen positions the Board are vacant and five other terms are set to expire on June 30, 2021. The five terms set to expire include: Robert Archibald, Nancy Hillstrand, Curtis Jackson, Patrick Miller, and Kevin Walker.
 - Denali National Park has established best practices for aircraft flights in the park. The best practices were developed by stakeholders including representatives from aviation and other users. This may be a good model to follow for Kachemak Bay State Park to help reduce conflicts with park users and rotary and fixed wing aircraft.
- b. Operations Report - Jason provided the Board with the following report:
 - KBay ranger (Carter Forney) is back at work
 - HEA equipment inspection
 - Boating training
 - Patrol Tutka
 - VIP hiring for 2021 season.
 - Infrastructure inspection – Sea Star, East Cabin, Ranger Station, Overlook Cabin
 - Boat Maintenance – approval to repair Naiad’s electric issues, work being conducted. LG landing craft is back in the water.
 - Meeting with Permittee to discuss backdoor trail
 - Recertification on Data master / DUI training

- Meeting with HEA and other stake holders to discuss repairs on upcoming work on Stone Hawker creek
 - Agency assists – vehicle accident – provide traffic control, welfare check on an intoxicated individual, vehicle accident – entrapment/life flight, started another investigation into possible illegal guiding in the park.
 - Park Rangers received updated Position Descriptions focusing more on Law Enforcement. How this will affect what we do locally. Example – rather than us conducting a week of cabin maintenance we will solicit a volunteer to do it. We will focus more on patrolling and being in the field then working on office tasks.
 - Dimond Creek – Green tree cut - bike club cleaned it up. Bike trail is groomed with new snow conditions. Trail to beach is in good condition with snow cover. One washed out section that is hazardous. Impounded a wood trailer left at a pull off.
 - Eveline – Volunteer Andy has assisted with grooming of the ski trails and plowing of the maintenance lot.
 - Bike Club may be interested in developing trails at Cottonwood/Eastland Creek Park units. Aron Peterson is going to do a site visit... Sunday.
- c. Friend's Report – Dana Gregoire reported to the Board the following:
We accepted a \$1,000 grant from the Homer Foundation for the purchase of tools. We have opted to purchase a gas brush cutter, a gas chainsaw and various safety equipment and maintenance items to go along with those. We are looking towards other grant opportunities as well to continue raising funds for tools, transportation and other associated costs with the trail work we do.

Looking forward towards the summer maintenance season. We are planning some training class ideas with Friends volunteers to possibly happen with Parks employees. There is also a planned Wilderness First Aid class to take place in the spring that a few of our Board members would attend prior to leading work groups this summer.

There has been discussion about a citizen's watchdog group related to jet ski enforcement. A preliminary conversation had occurred between Board members and Britt at NOAA to work on the idea more. The people interested in implementing this sort of a citizens group is soliciting information and comments from citizens about how this might look, what information would need to be gathered to be passed along to law enforcement, and different avenues on how this information could be collected and reported.

Discussion about helping with the replacement of the propane refrigerator at the Ranger Station. We will revisit this once we get more information about cost and specifics of what is needed.

- d. Water Trail Annual Report– Dana Gregoire reported to the Board the following:
We created our 2021 budget at our last meeting. We are seeking some grant funding to completely overhaul our website and make changes to modernize it and make it more user friendly. We are also working on our five year plan and are trying to set at least two items to accomplish per month, to schedule and plan ahead of time. We are waiting for information on the ILMA and the Management Plan.

- d. Eveline State Recreation Site Report- Cameale Johnson reported that Eveline is busy with skiers and snowshoers. Even with all the snow the parking lot has had plenty of vehicles, but visitors are not signing the log, making it difficult to give an accurate report on the number of users. It is a very heavily used park and is much appreciated.
 - e. Habitat Committee – Nancy Hillstrand gave the Board the following report: The Alaska Marine Conservation Council is moving down to Homer. At one time they had a video screen placed at Coal Point that played looped videos of the diverse fisheries and marine ecosystem in Kachemak Bay. The video screen is currently not working but they are willing to give it to Nancy, who will be sending down to Florida to get an estimate to repair the equipment. Once repaired, the video can either be placed at Mako's on the Spit or at Nancy's place at Coal Point to show videos on Bear Aware, fire danger programs and other important topics. The hope is to have it repaired and up and running by this spring.
5. Old Business
6. New Business
- a. Adding KBSP & KBSWP to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network-Sue Christiansen reported to the Board that The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) is a science-based, partnership-driven, conservation initiative for protecting the ecological integrity of critical habitats for shorebirds throughout the Americas. Started in the mid-1980s with the designation of Delaware Bay as the very first WHSRN site, the Network today includes 107 sites in 17 countries, covering 38 million acres of shorebird habitat. WHSRN is coordinated by an Executive Office that provides core staff, strategies, and services to the Network's sites and partners under the direction of the WHSRN Hemispheric Council. For more information the website can be found at <https://www.manomet.org/project/western-hemisphere-shorebird-reserve-network-whsrn/>. Sue would like to have all Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park designated as Park of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. We first need to determine which areas are already included and which ones we would like to add. The Board Chair requested a presentation of the areas and the process for the March meeting.
 - b. Another process that would require working collaboratively with many organizations, the idea of nominating Kachemak Bay to be a UNESCO (United National Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage or Biosphere Reserve Site, was discussed. UNESCO sites are internationally recognized. A designation ensures long term conservation of the area and the well-being of local communities and stakeholders. Sue Christiansen encouraged the Park Board to be open to the possibility of being actively involved in the process as stake holders. Kachemak Bay meets criteria for either designation. It would boost local economies by encouraging international tourism. In addition, UNESCO funds would become available in a time of severe budget deficits. The Habitat Committee would like to further investigate and possibly pursue the long process, working closely with other organizations to have Kachemak Bay nominated.

- c. Sea Duck questions - Robert Archibald reported Michael Guttery, a waterfowl biologist from Anchorage, would like to come to the March meeting to give a presentation on waterfowl. Robert asked what information the Board would like to have presented. The Board would like to see the history of the populations and the process of how they count birds. Robert and Nancy will put together a list of questions that will be sent to Michael for the presentation. Beaver asked about the Golden Eye study that was conducted several years ago.

7. Comments of the Public

8. Comments of Board Members

- Kirsten Dixon commented that she is excited about adding the Park to the UNESCO not only for monetary opportunity but also for the prestige, preservation and protection.
- Beaver Nelson was really interested in the Black Tail Deer discussion.
- Aron reported about 5 and half feet of snow, then freezing rain, so a person can now hike on top of the snow without falling through. "It is neat. You can go anywhere you want." Skiing and snowshoeing at Cottonwood Eastland are great.
- Jack Blackwell appreciated the good ideas the Board has been discussing

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