



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
May 12th, 2021
Virtual Meeting with Microsoft Teams at 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

- a. Roll Call - Aron Peterson, Nancy Hillstrand, Sue Christiansen, Jeffrey Lee, Carol Harding, Kirsten Dixon, Marc Romano, Robert Archibald (chair), Sera Baxter, Kevin Walker, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell
- b. Agenda – Kevin added under new business discussion about volunteers and the new resolutions.
- c. Agenda was approved as amended.
- d. Minutes –Minutes were approved with Nancy Hillstrand; clarification language regarding the proposal to add to 5 AAC 92.530 Management Areas.

2. Public Comment - No comments

3. Visitors

a. Suzie Terrlink (NOAA Fisheries Service's Alaska Region) Whale SENSE is a voluntary education and recognition program offered to commercial whale watching companies in the U.S. Atlantic and Alaska Regions. The program is sponsored by NOAA Fisheries and Whale and Dolphin Conservation. Developed in collaboration with the whale watching industry, Whale SENSE recognizes whale watching companies committed to responsible practices. More information can be found at <https://whalesense.org>

b. Monica Alvarez - HB 52 Tutka Bay Hatchery – “An Act providing that operation of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery in Kachemak Bay is compatible with the functions of Kachemak Bay State Park; and providing for an effective date.” The briefing paper can be obtain upon request.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Board should have a special work session to work on the resolution. Robert Archibald was going to reach out to Sarah Vance's office to see when she may be available.

4. Reports

a. State Park

Jason Okuly - A copy of the operation report is available upon request. The only thing Jason added was that Park Ranger Carter Forney participated in a week-long boating safety course in Anchorage. The class was based on a boating accident with different scenarios.

b. Friend's **Report** – Cathy Sarns reported to the Board the following:

The group is getting ready for Trails Day which will be June 5th this year. Spread the word You will not be notified of the projects unless your volunteer packet is signed and turned in. The volunteer form can be found on the Friend's website. There are two forms that need to be completed. The Volunteer form for the State and the Friend's Volunteer Waiver.

Crews will be working on the Sadie Knob and Grace Ridge Trails for the 2021 season. If time allows they will also be looking at several other trails. If you would like to help with these trails get your volunteer forms in as soon as possible.

The money that we received from the 100 Women's Club is being used to buy tools and also to buy supplies that the State was unable to purchase due to budget cuts.

c. Water Trail Report– Cathy Sarns reported that the Water Trail is currently updating their website with a \$2500 dollar grant that they received from the Homer Chamber.

d. Eveline State Recreation Site Report- Cameale Johnson reported that the Ski Club is moving from winter maintenance of the trail to summer maintenance. There is still snow on the trails and they are waiting for all of it to be gone so they can do a walk around to evaluate the existing trails. Cameale is hoping that the trails will be one of the selected projects for Trails Day. The Club would like to work with State Park staff to come up with a plan to do some major work on the scenic loop trail and the accessible trail. The thought would be to have this as a training project for new volunteer and trail crews for the upcoming season. Eric will work with Cameale to help get the project in place.

e. Habitat Committee –No Report

5. New Business

a. A Resolution was suggested regarding the value of volunteers to the State Park. This was generated by the discussion regarding the Tutka Back Door Trail. Jeff Lee recommended that the resolution should be withdrawn. The Board decided that a committee should be formed to develop a resolution pertaining to State Park volunteers. Members of the Board that volunteered were Marc Romano, Kevin Walker, Jeff Lee, Sue Christiansen, Kirsten Dixon and Nancy Hillstrand.

7. Comments of the Public - Dan commented that the Board should work on coming up with a compromise for the hatchery within the Kachemak Bay State Park. He believes that many of the comments submitted in support of the hatchery were Homer residents and the Board is supposed to represent these groups. State Parks should look at expanded access into the Park by building a road system. Dan believes there is some false information that is being distributed. Dean Day and himself offered to be available for a sit down meeting with Parks and the Board.

Bruce Friend remarked on the comments about the Tutka Bay Hatchery. He is pleased to hear that the Board is in support of ending that relationship with the Hatchery and the Park. This is a long time coming. Dan would like to see the area be allowed to rebound and come back to what it was before the State developed the Hatchery. Bruce believes there needs to be more open transparency with this issue.

Mako Haggerty - Mako thank the Board for putting their time into this process. Tutka Lagoon has always been a bit of a problem and there is no simple solution. The Lagoon is a source of degradation. Mako does not believe that we should give up the land. Mako gave a shout out to all of the volunteers and all the work they do.

8. Comments of Board Members

- Jeff Lee commented that it would be nice to come up with some solutions working with the Hatchery. But CIAA has not shown any desire to work with such things as the net pens, the disposal or any other aspect of the Hatchery.
- Nancy Hillstrand stated that she is a CIAA permit holder and every permit holder is in debt. It is in everyones interest to come up with a solution, but it will not come through the CIAA Hatchery.
- Carol Harding asked if this was the last meeting until September. Unless there is a special meeting with Sarah Vance.
- Robert thanked ?????
- Aron Peterson commented that a trail was developed at Cottonwood Eastland that does not connect to East End Road. Aron would like to see that portion completed this year.
- Robert Archibald is willing to facilitate a meeting and see if there is any common ground.
- Kirsten Dixon commented that she is a CIAA Board member and a Park Board member. She is hoping to learn all she can about the financial and workings of the Hatchery. She is proposing that maybe having a meeting with Board members and the public to answer questions and have some transparency of the hatchery.
- Pam reported that 5 Board members reviewed the Board application that were submitted. Recommendations were sent to Jack Blackwell that will then be sent to the Director for approval.

9. Adjournment - The next meeting is Wednesday September 8th, 2021 at 5:30 via Microsoft Teams.