

Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
December 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting with Microsoft Teams at 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

- a. Roll Call – Board members present: Kirsten Dixon, Nancy Hillstrand, Sue Christiansen, Carol Harding, Curtis Jackson, Jeffrey Lee, Beaver Nelson, Glen Seaman, Robert Archibald, Yarrow Hinnant, Sera Baxter, Louis Dupree, Aron Peterson, Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly Monica Alvarez, and Pam Russell
- b. Board members absent: Glen Seaman, Mark Romano, Kevin Walker
- c. Agenda –Carol Harding moved to approve the agenda. Sue Christiansen seconded. Minutes approved as written

2. Public Comment:

- a. Mako Haggerty– In opposition to HB52. The main reason for lumping the property at Tutka Lagoon so the parcels in Cottonwood Eastland can be added. Should be two separate issues. In favor of adding Cottonwood Eastland parcels. Thanks Rep. Vance.
- b. Penelope Haas – Calling on behalf of the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society – opposed to HB 52. Supports the resolution being submitted. Not supporting the extraction of 123.45 acres out of the heart of the park. Supports healthy salmon fisheries. Believes the China Poot dip net fishery should continue.
- c. Alan Parks – In opposition to HB52. Supports the KBSPCAB resolution. Requests a cost-benefits analysis. Land in Tutka Lagoon and Cottonwood Eastlands should be two separate issues.

3. Committee Reports:

- a. State Park Report: Superintendent Jack Blackwell has nothing new.
- b. Operations Report - Jason Okulyy – Written report provided to Board members prior to the meeting. A few Park violations - landing airplanes, a cabin on the property line. Seasonal staff is gone. Jason taking off for a month.
- c. Friend's Report – No report
- d. Water Trail Annual Report– No report
- e. Eveline State Recreation Site Report- Camile Johnson reported that Eveline is having lots of snow.
- f. Cottonwood Eastlands – Aron Peterson – nothing to report
- g. Habitat Committee – No report
- h. Trails Committee – Nothing to report. Trail Committee - Next meeting will be at 4:30 on January 12'th

4. Visitors:

a. Sam Rabung - State of Alaska Director of Division of Commercial Fisheries, ADFG - Looked at the CAB resolution and wishes to point out several inaccuracies. Mr. Rabung stated there is no leasing of any land to CIAA by DNR or ADFG. ADFG owns the hatchery, and it is operated with an ILMA with DNR. CIAA is the currently contracted operator of the hatchery on an ADFG site. There is no larger production planned. Mentioned this is irrelevant to HB52. HB52 is intended solely to remedy a disposal of the land issue. The Tutka Bay hatchery has been operating for decades with no empirical evidence of negative effects. Mr. Rabung added the hatchery program is estimated to contribute over 600 million a year to the state's economy and the fisheries enhancement revolving loan fund which was created in the early 90s with an \$85 million endowment has grown to well over 215 million or so. Alaska constitution Article 8 Section 7 mentions aquaculture. Discussion with Board members. Rabung states that he is fine if the land stays within the park. Rabung states if the hatchery is closed, China Poot Dip Net fishery will go away. Nancy Hillstrand and Sue Christiansen questioned some of the current regulations and comments by Sam Rabung. Sue Christiansen recommended a sockeye stamp to allow the Dip Net fishery to continue. The Services Agreement is between ADFG and the contractor and has no bearing on the professional services agreement. DNR management plan has no bearing on professional services agreement. Everything must be tied to the IMLA. Permitted capacity (125 million) has remained the same since 1992.

b. Dean Day - Director, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association - HB52 will not impact public access to the park trails that go through the hatchery. The bill is purposed to cure the disposal issue. CIAA is board-managed. Lack of public involvement does not mean there isn't transparency. All CIAA meetings are open to the public. Tutka Bay is a hatchery program and takes time to develop. CIAA monitors field camps that ADFG no longer has funding for. Cost-benefit is not a clear and dry process of examination. Curtis Jackson asked why the big push for the land disposal inaccuracy. The new management plan came out and deemed the hatchery incompatible with the Park plan. The compatibility of the hatchery is really the issue.

Jeff Lee questioned clarification of land ownership of the hatchery, who is in control of the land - ADFG/DNR. He questioned why State officials are saying it has nothing to do with the hatchery, but he feels it has everything to do with the hatchery.

Jack Blackwell mentioned that HB52 focuses only on changing the boundaries of the park. He reiterated that is a disposal issue.

Monica Alvarez mentioned that only the legislature could add lands into the State Park.

Sue Christiansen mentioned that there is a solution to the hatchery disposal - wait nine years until the hatchery will close. She illustrates that the management plan states that the hatchery is inconsistent with the scenic park.

Curtis Jackson asked to clarify if the land is protected if it is removed from Park status. Jack Blackwell states the land and water would be withdrawn from Park protection. Jack Blackwell states that State land regulations are more stringent for Park lands than general land management.

Nancy Hillstrand asked Dean Day if it is possible to use Kirschner site (English Bay Lake stock) as a release site for sockeye broodstock other than Tutka Bay. Nancy Hillstrand discussed that Tutka Bay cannot raise sockeye salmon due to a lack of enough fresh water. A long discussion about CIAA/Hatchery issues followed.

Kirsten Dixon commented on the convergence of several issues being discussed that are overlapping - land disposal, hatchery management, fish stock, etc.

Robert Archibald asked Dean Day if the equipment was adequate at Tutka Bay. Nancy Hillstrand asked about the expansion of the footprint of the Tutka Lagoon. She asked if Dean Day envisioned that in the future. Dean Day mentioned there are no plans to put net pens in Tutka Bay. Jeff Lee asked for that in writing.

c. Representative Sarah Vance - speaking about HB52 - Asked Monica Alvarez to answer the questions in the chat. One question asked to clarify that DNR determined that the hatchery is inconsistent with the Park as a scenic park. Monica Alvarez mentioned that the purpose of the Park is as a scenic park by statute. Alvarez says that DNR likes and supports the bill to remove the disposal issue. Vance asked if DNR felt that the hatchery was incompatible due to legal issues or the hatchery being in the Park. Alvarez said it was a combination of both. Vance says the land swap does not have to be in the bill. Vance asked the Board to support her bill as a good-faith gesture. Alvarez says that if people do not like the hatchery being in the Park, they should bring it up with ADFG. Nancy Hillstrand mentioned that we are bound to follow our Park plan to preserve and protect the land and DNR should be concerned about what is happening in the Park. Alvarez says DNR only protects the land base, not fish and game.

Sue Christiansen is disappointed that Representative Vance is not interested in protecting the Park and feels it sets precedence for other State Parks in Alaska. Rep. Sarah Vance says this is an assumption and she does in fact wish to preserve and protect. Parcels A, B, C are not already designated to become Park land. Only the legislature can designate Park lands. Vance says the legislature can

determine the size of parks, period. Louis Dupree asked to clarify a few Park/Hatchery points.

Kirsten Dixon asked if HB52 was in fact related to the hatchery. Rep. Vance said she was working through the legalese and implications. Beaver Nelson mentioned that CIAA has never missed a loan payment.

5. Motion to Adopt - Louis Dupree made a motion to table the resolution. Beaver Nelson seconded.

Sue Christiansen opposed unless there would be an additional meeting.

Sue Christiansen made a motion to have a special meeting to amend the current version of the resolution. Aron Peterson seconded. Date TBD. Roll-call vote approved a special meeting 10-yay, 0-nay. Louis Dupree, Kirsten Dixon, Beaver Nelson, Aron Peterson, Nancy Hillstrand, Jeff Lee will be on the revisions meeting.

Jack Blackwell agreed to provide the ILMA for Tutka Bay hatchery to the Board.

Representative Vance reiterated that she has no intention to withdraw HB52 but is willing to work with the public.

6. Public Comments:

Alan Parks - He feels that HB52 is in fact about the hatchery. Parks feels there isn't good transparency.

Cristen San Roman - Why does HB52 remove land from the Park rather than the current solution of phasing out the present hatchery.

7. Board Comments:

Kirsten Dixon - Hopes for good open dialogue.

Sue Christiansen - Appreciates time put into the issue

Nancy Hillstrand - Wonderful to see a debate and the intention of democracy

Jeff Lee - Glad that the resolution will continue

Beaver Nelson - Refreshing to have ADFG and Rep. Vance here

Aron Peterson - Preserve and protect messaging is the most wonderful messaging

Louis Dupree - Wants to make sure resolution is factual

Kirsten Dixon - transcribed 12/24/2021