



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board  
95 Sterling Hwy, Suite 2  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022

Virtual Meeting with Microsoft Teams at 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Roll Call – Board members present: Kirsten Dixon, Nancy Hillstrand, Kevin Walker, Sue Christiansen, Jeffrey Lee, Glenn Seaman, Robert Archibald, Yarrow Hinnant, Louis Dupree, Aron Peterson, Beaver Nelson, Mark Romano, Carol Harding

Board members absent: Sera Baxter, Curtis Jackson, Sue Christianson

Staff Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly, Pamela Russell,

2. Agenda approval, Glenn Seaman moved to approve the agenda. Carol Harding seconded.

4. Public Comment:

a. Cristen San Roman – Offered to submit comments in written form as well as verbally.

5. Visitors

a. **Bill Bilmeier** - with Corax Company – Completed a project of mapping the 1967 landslide scar on the north ridge above Grewingk Lake. Corax is a small company that maps with drones. They were contracted by Aachen University Science division and had assistance from Ground Truth Trekking. The purpose was to evaluate any risk of catastrophic landslide of Alpine Ridge, geologic mapping and change detection and how can we predict future landslide events. Corax produces ultra-high-resolution data. The company will remap next year and be able to quantify any changes.

b. **Monica Alvarez** – recently briefed the Commissioner on HB52 and the Park plan. She mentioned to the Commissioner that the Board resolution passed, and the Board is not in support of HB52. The Commissioner is prepared to adopt the Park plan after the legislative session. Ms. Alvarez did provide some analysis to various versions of the HB52 bill to Rep. Vance and Rep. Vance is considering. The three versions of the bill in consideration are: 1. Carve out land from park, 2. Consider the hatchery compatible

with park purposes, 3. Carve out hatchery lands but revert land back to the park if the hatchery closes.

- c. Robert Archibald asked if the hatchery closure was indicated for current hatchery operator or if ADFG moved out. Ms. Alvarez didn't know the answer to that question.
- d. Nancy Hillstrand asked if the ILMA was legal. Nancy Hillstrand asked to clarify if there was discussion about whether the bill would pass or not. Ms. Alvarez stated there was an assumption that the bill would pass.
- e. Ms. Alvarez mentioned the ILMA was, in fact, not authorized or legal.

## 6. Committee Reports:

- a. State Park Report: Superintendent Jack Blackwell

Thanked the Friends of Kachemak State Park for coordinating a first day event. The trails committee met before this meeting and Mr. Blackwell felt good progress was made on the Cottonwood East access.

- b. Operations Report: Jason Okuly – No report

- c. Friend's Report – No report.

- d. Water Trail Annual Report: Dave Brann

Meeting in January to set goals for the year. Maintenance will continue at Cottonwood Eastland, Chugachik Island, and Kayak Beach throughout the season. Wants to purchase another bear box to place at south Eldred. Trying to arrange for a tour of committee members. Talking with oyster producers to create an oyster trail. Talking about interpretive signs.

- e. Eveline State Recreation Site Report- Camile Johnson

Held the first ski with about 50 people. A trail counter was installed and showed 150 users of the trail (vs. only 1 person that signed visitors book). A new flower guide update is in the works. Looking for funding for three interpretive signs.

- f. Cottonwood Eastland – Aron Peterson

At Mile 17.4 there is a parking place and great skiing and snowshoeing.

- h. Habitat Committee – Nancy Hillstrand

Working on compilation with assistance from Kasitsna Lab, NOAA, and ADFG.

- i. Trails Committee – No report.

## 6. Old Business

### **HB 52 update**

Robert Archibald spoke with Rep. Vance about the three options she is considering at this time. All three options are under legal review.

## **Discussion:**

Louis Dupree questioned which bill our resolution related to. Mr. Archibald explained that the resolution relates to the current bill that is sitting in the House at present.

Kirsten Dixon asked Monica Alvarez to clarify if the ILMA was in fact illegal. Ms. Alvarez stated that a court of law would need to determine that.

Glenn Seaman commented that we need to get more information on whether the hatchery is in fact harmful for the Park and Tutka Lagoon or not.

Nancy Hillstrand is wondering about the original facility built in 1976, it was for 10 million egg capacity. The question was in 1978 did ADFG asked for forgiveness and generated the ILMA. The question was generated to Monica Alvarez. Ms. Alvarez said she was not there in 1978 and didn't know what transpired.

Robert Archibald mentioned that we are not going to share our resolution with other State Park advisory committees until we know the direction the bill is going in.

Nancy Hillstrand made a motion that the resolution should be sent out. Yarrow Hinnant seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Trails Committee meeting review of today's meeting. Mark Romano mentioned that lots of good information is being disseminated. Jason Okuly will summarize all options discussed and these will be presented next meeting. Jack Blackwell commented on how well the Trails Committee went today.

Bylaws revision discussion – Robert Archibald asked if there was a need for more time. Aron Peterson liked being able to share documents with other CABs. Robert Archibald will send along the draft document to the Director.

## **7. Comments from the public:**

Bruce Friend – Appreciates this CAB and all the work being done. Supports sending the resolution to other CABs. Mr. Friend is not in support of current HB52.

Cristen San Roman – Is wondering if there is any progress on the sea duck issue.

## **8. Comments from the Board:**

Kirsten Dixon hopes we can realize that what we do now will affect others in the future.

Carol Harding wasn't on bylaws committee but good job for those that did.

Nancy Hillstrand wants to remember that we have an overlap of critical habitat area as well as State Park. She feels that the Park and the critical habitat area has been disregarded.

Glenn Seaman commented that Rep. Vance is pushing the loss of China Poot fishery and wants the board to be aware of that.

Aron Peterson said it is unacceptable to remove Parklands. HB52 would set precedence for the entire state. Mr. Peterson does not support bear baiting in the Park.

Kevin Walker requested to label versions of the bylaws for comparison. Two versions of HB52 calls for removal of the hatchery and none are good options. Mr. Walker feels that the hatchery correlates with crab diminish.

Louis Dupree asks Jack Blackwell who makes the rules for the Park. ADFG manages the fish and wildlife resources within the park. The board of game can implement the limits. Regulations can't just be enacted. There must be solid reasons for implementation.

Yarrow Hinnant continues to oppose any land being removed from the Park.

Robert Archibald asks we remember the past, engage in the present to protect the future. Mr. Archibald reminds the board that unexcused absences cannot go over 3 per year.

Pamela Russell clarified that she does send meeting notices out to all interested parties – they just go out in different batches.

9. Meeting Adjourned 7:35pm

Kirsten Dixon - transcribed 1/30/2022