

**Kachemak Bay State Parks Board Meeting**  
**Advisory Board Minutes**  
**January 14, 2015**  
**5:30 pm**

1. **Members Present:** Steve Schultz, Dave Taylor, Lindsay Wolter, Beaver Nelson, Nancy Hillstrand, Carol Harding and Glenn Green.

**Staff Present:** State Park Superintendent Jack Blackwell, Chief Ranger Roger MacCampbell, Kachemak Bay Park Ranger Jason Okuly and Natural Resource Specialist Pam Russell.

2. **Changes to Agenda:** Lindsay added: item "C" the Kachemak Bay Adventure trail presentation under new business. Item "A" is the MOU agreement with the Homer Cycling Club for the Diamond Creek Trails. Item "D" is an Adirondack lean-to shelter on Chugachik Island.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:**
  - a. Motioned – Lindsay Wolter.
  - b. Second – Steve Schultz.
  - c. Agenda was approved as amended.

4. **Adoption of Minutes:**
  - a. Motioned – Nancy Hillstrand.
  - b. Second – Steve Schultz.
  - c. Minutes were approved.

5. **Correspondence: None.**

6. **Introduction of Visitors:**
  - a. Toby Wheeler
  - b. Homer Cycling Club members
  - c. Janet Klein

7. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Operations Report:**

Chief Ranger Roger MacCampbell provided board members with the following operations report.  
Some of the highlights of the report included:

1. The new Park Ranger Jason Okuly started February 2, 2015. He has hit the ground running.
2. Janet Klein is now the new Volunteer Heritage Specialist.
3. The water trail committee help assemble three picnic tables for the Chugachik Island. Along with two bear proof containers. The Friends of Kachemak Bay would like to place two tent platforms on the island, material is currently available.
4. The Public Use Cabins reservations as of February 11, 2015 are looking promising for the 2015 season. East Lagoon cabin is booked except for four nights in July and August. The West Lagoon cabin has several openings through the season. Sea Star Cove cabin has 20 nights in May open, but July is fully booked.
5. Roger is currently working on the paperwork to vacate the Diamond Creek right of way.
6. Roger is continuing to patrol Diamond Creek late at night and was able to contact two individuals. They received a friendly and firm lecture about using the recreation areas and where asked to leave the area.
7. Design and Construction is currently working on the new dock at Halibut Cove Lagoon.

A copy of the report is available upon request.

b. Jack Blackwell provided the board members with the following report:

1. The District Ranger position in Kachemak Bay is currently being advertised on the State web page Neo-Gov. The application period closes on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Jack is hoping to have a hiring committee in place and have someone in place to cross train with Roger prior to him retiring. This position is open state wide.
2. Congratulations to Steve Schultz, Mako Haggerty and Nancy Hillstrand for their re-appointment to the Kachemak Bay Advisory Board.
3. The State Park budget is unable to support the replacement of the sponsors on the patrol boat. Jack will continue to work on trying to secure the funding.
4. Director Ben Ellis has been asked to stay on as the State Parks director.
5. Jason Okuly gave a brief summary of his work history and how he ended up in Kachemak Bay.

c. Friends Report- No Report.

## 8. Old Business:

- a. Dark Sky: Nancy Hillstrand reported that International Dark Sky Association has come up with new Dark Sky Dark program guideline and will be working with Toby Wheeler on how they would like to proceed. Toby is currently working with HOWL in developing a Dark Sky party planned in March.
- b. Staff funding: Mako Haggerty and Steve Schultz are currently working on the letters for the legislature.
- c. Kachemak Crack: Roger MacCampbell is currently working with HOWL in moving the bulletin board that is current on the beach to a new location.
- d. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Permit Application: Has been put on hold until further notice.
- e. New management Plan update: The plan is currently being delayed. Shawana Guzenski who was currently assigned to this project has accepted a new position in another DNR department. This has delayed the process for the Kachemak Bay plan at this time.
- f. Board of Game proposal 183: No report at this time.
- g. Trail Plan working group/committee: Lindsay Wolter reported that the committee met for trails on the Homer side of the bay on January 22, 2015. One of the areas of discussion was Cottonwood Eastland subdivision and building trails for biking hiking and possible horseback riding. This area would be something that the committee would like to see in the long term portion of the management plan. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. This meeting is going to focus on amenities, such as cabins, tent platforms and new trails. This is to look at what type of facilities may be needed and where should they go. What uses would you like to see along the trails? Such as fat tire bike uses on some of the existing trails.
- h. Hunting numbers: No report.
- i. Vacating Diamond Creek ROW: Roger MacCampbell is working on completed the forms.

## 9. New Business:

- a. Homer Cycling Club is looking to partner with Alaska State Parks to develop some multi use trails at the Diamond Creek Recreation Area. These trails would be used specifically for mountain and fat tire biking. Currently Homer does not have biking or snow shoes trails. A current trail has been approved and through volunteer efforts the Homer Cycling Club has roughed in seven tenths of a mile of single-track trail. This has been completed by 30 eager individuals and 250 laborious hours. The Cycle club currently has approximately 125 members. The completed project would be approximately five to eight miles of trail. The Diamond Creek Recreation Area presents and excellent opportunity to create a trail system unlike anything on the lower Kenai Peninsula, attracting visitation from multiple user groups, year-round and reinforcing Homer's reputation as a destination for recreation. The club is currently maintaining the trail. The Homer Cycle club has currently submitted a draft MOU to state parks. Jack Blackwell is currently working on the draft MOU

and hope to have something completed soon. Roger MacCampbell, state park staff and the Kachemak Bay advisory board is in support of this project. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

- b. Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Board: Nancy Hillstrand stated this committee will be now is a committee under the Friends organizations.
- c. Kachemak Bay Adventure Trail would be a defined route that weaves along the perimeter of Kachemak Bay, over both water and land. Inspired by the recent addition of the Kachemak Bay Water Trail, this wilderness route would be designed for the dual sport of using a wide tired bicycle in conjunction with an inflatable raft. This would start in Anchor Point and end in Jakolof Bay harbor. The total trail is approximately 112. The Homer Cycling club has been actively involved during the Kachemak Bay management plan revision. This presentation is a soft pitch and would be another tier on the club being included in the state park future use plans. This is currently an idea and is not part of the Homer Cycling Club.
  - Dave recommended that camping sites be designated along the route, this would help in monitoring trash and usages.
  - Roger commented that there are some areas of private land and the land owners would need to give permission for any camping or moorages. Some of the trails may need further consideration, for possible user group conflict or the fat tire bike use may not be compatible with the current use.
- d. Adirondack lean-to on Chugachik Island: Roger presented the board with the Adirondack Lean-to that is a three sided log structure. This structure offers shelter for kayaks or hiking in inclement weather. This can have a wood stove or possible tarp on the open side. This needs to be made with good quality wood such as spruce three sided logs.
  - Carol Harding made the motion - friends of the park will present a proposal to place an Adirondack lean-to on Chugachik Island. This is provided that the Friends can purchase the material and build the lean-to.
  - Nancy Hillstrand seconds the motions.

The motion passed unanimously

Comments and Discussion: Janet Klein commented that Cottonwood Eastland Subdivision and Chugachik have several historical sites. Before any future developed is proposed these sites need to be reviewed for any conflicts of these historical sites.

Carol Harding asked if the Kachemak Bay Advisory Board meetings time change to 5:15 p.m. instead 5:30 p.m. The board agreed.

The board would also like to change the order of the agenda. Dave and Pam will work on this. Items need to be placed on the agenda by the board president prior to the meeting for presentations. Action items should be advertised in the paper for public notice.

Adjournment.