

Kachemak Bay State Parks Board Meeting
Advisory Board Minutes
September 16, 2015
5:30 pm

- a. **Members Present:** Steve Schultz, Beaver Nelson, Carol Harding, Stan Lefton, Lindsay Wolter and Glenn Green, and Nancy Hillstrand

Staff Present: Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell.

- b. **Introduction of Visitors:** Janet Klein, Jeff Lee, Toby Wheeler, Camron Hagen, North Pacific Fisheries Association, Caroline Cherry, Gary Fandrie, Glenn Hollowell, Brent Johnson, Matt Alward, Jake Wise, Curt Jackson, Rick Foster, Kevin Walker, Robert Roth and Roger MacCampbell.

- c. **Agenda Changes:** Approved as written.

- d. **Minutes Approval:** Approved as written.

- e. **Public Comments/Presentations:**

- Kevin Walker from the Homer Yacht club is in the processes of securing a grant to place mooring buoys around key points within Kachemak Bay State Park. The grant would place approximately 13 mooring buoys in such locations as Glacier Spit, Saddle Trail, Halibut Cove and Tutka Bay. The buoys will be secured based with three or four different designs based on the material on the bottom of the bay. One of the grant requirements is to spend the money first and then the grant money is reimbursed. The mooring buoy grant application deadline is Nov. 15. Public Notice postings will be up by the Oct 15 posting deadline. Kevin is asking the Kachemak Bay board for a letter of support. Jason Okuly recommended that Kevin contact Carol Kerkvliet of Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The access program may have some money to help in purchasing the buoys.
- Gary Fandrei from Cook Inlet Agriculture (CIAA) gave the following report about the Tutka Bay Net currently in production. The hatchery has currently collected 75 million pink eggs and is hoping for a total of 125 million. CIAA is still currently planning on moving the net pens into the lagoon area pending permit approval from Alaska State Parks. The current plan is to place the pens in the lagoon in March and remove them at the end of June. The fish in the pens would be staffed to feed the fry once or twice a day. The total feed would be 5000 to 7000 pounds of fish meal waste. Cleaning of the net pen panels would occur right in place with a water pump/power washer. Board members and members of the public asked several questions of CIAA.
- Roger MacCampbell gave the following comments. First he thanked the board members and friends of Kachemak Bay for the retirement gift of the Hudson blanket. He applauded Jason and Eric for the hard work they have accomplished this summer. For clarification Roger did not approve the public to use the Otter Cove dock. This dock has been permitted by Alaska State Parks and is a private dock. The permit may state that water taxis may drop clients off to use the trail. The owner of the dock does not want public to use the dock and we need to respect that request.
Roger made future recommendation for the park. 1. Raise fees on public use cabins. 2. Start charging a head tax on cruise ship visitors. 3. Complete the management plan. 4. Close the right of way at Diamond Creek, put in an outhouse and gate off the road. 5. Develop a year round hut to hut system. 6. Park management and park use is social science. Some activities are plainly incompatible. The first

management plan states that a seine boat is part of the visitor center. The net pens do not belong in the park.

e. Correspondence: An email was received by past president of the board Dave Taylor: I have enjoyed serving on the board for the past eight years, the last five as chair. Yet in light of the additional responsibilities of continuing my education makes it impossible for me to give the board the attention it needs. As a result, I am I regretfully resigning my seat on the board. I am confident Lindsay will do good or even a better job chairing the board.

f. Committee Reports:

a. Operations Report:

Chief Ranger Jason Okuly provided board members with the following operations report.

Some of the highlights of the report included:

- Jason also requested two letters of support for the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants that are being requested by technician Eric Clarke. This money is being requested for continues work on Moose Valley Trail and China Poot Route.
- Lost hikers were reported at China Poot Lake, Grewingk Lake and Grace Ridge.
- There were several reports of bear encounters at Saddle and Glacier Lake, Humpy Creek and Emerald Lake.
- Eight new bear boxes have been placed in the park at Glacier Spit TH, Estuary Trail, North Eldred TH, South Grace TH, Tutka Lake TH and South Tutka Bay Campground.
- The Naiad Sponson was funded and has been installed.
- Diamond creek MOU has been processed and sent out for final review.
- Eveline SRA has been scheduled to install a CXT and plans to install a fee station.
- Cottonwood Eastland is scheduled to have some of the fallen trees during the spring saw training.
- Some of the fall plans include: boat training class, pump Halibut Cove Lagoon Ranger Station CXT, Work on South Grace reroutes where large trees have come down.
- State Parks would like to have an early season briefing with all Kachemak Bay commercial operators.

A copy of the full report is available upon request.

Area Superintendent Jack Blackwell provided board members with the following report:

- DNR Commissioner Mark Myer after reviewing the net pen application asks the department for a more thorough review of the situation. In July Commissioner Mark Myers, Director Ben Ellis, Superintendent Jack Blackwell, AG Anne Nelson and Jason Okuly visited the Tutka Bay to get a firsthand look of the area in question. The Department of Law is currently reviewing the permit application.
- Jack Blackwell stated that additional information has been requested from the local State Park office and a decision is forthcoming.
- The budget cuts for 2016 eliminated two rangers: one in Dillingham and another in Valdez, and put several parks into passive management in Valdez and Southeast area.
- The Homer State park staff has been evicted from their current office. They are currently looking for a new location and have been using the bunkhouse for a temporary office until a more permanent location can be secured.

b. Friends Report- no report

c. Janet Klein provided board members with the following report:

- Ed Berg cored four of the culturally modified trees to determine the age of each of the trees. This information should be available soon. The trees can be as much as 200 years old.
- Janet Klein, Thomas McDonough, Pam Russell are scheduled to fly with Pathfinders helicopters to a site across the Kachemak Bay. This site has a manmade rock wall that may have been used in the past as a hunting blind. The second site was being an Ice field that may also contain some cultural information.
- Janet Klein is to give a presentation tot the Friends of Kachemak Bay pertaining to the culturally modified trees and other research.

g. Old Business:

- a. Dark Sky: Tabled
- b. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Permit Application: This was covered under the public comment period.
- c. New management Plan update: Nevenka Kitanovski, the new planner is currently out on maternity leave. The Kachemak Bay management plan is currently on hold.
- d. Vacating Diamond Creek ROW: No report

9. New Business

- a) Composting toilets: Jeff Lee would like to place one of his own designed composting toilet at Sea Star Cabin. Under permit Jeff would maintain and monitor it for the next five years. At any time if state park deems the facility is not living up the standards stated by Mr. Lee, i.e. not composing, messy, overly odorous, he must remove all evidences of the composing toilet. After Five years we will re exam the permit. Jeff stated that he would expect to charge \$13,000 for each composting toilet, which includes 5 years of monitoring/maintenance.
- b) Trails Maintenance in the age of budgetary constraints. Tabled due to lack of time. This is an ongoing discussion.

10. Comments and Discussion by Visitors: Brent Johnson thanks the group for listening to the fisherman and group in regards to the net pens in Tutka Bay. There are 82 seine permits in Cook Inlet; only 12 have been fishing in the past several years. Lots of perspectives hoping to find a solution that is agreeable to all.

11. Comments and Discussion by board members.

Adjournment