



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

### **KBSP CAB Meeting Minutes, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### **I. Call to Order at 5:30**

#### **II. Roll Call:**

**In attendance: – Robert Archibald, Nancy Hillstrand, Kevin Walker, Louis Dupree, Yarrow Hinnant, Aron Peterson, Curtis Jackson, Kevin Walker, Sue Christiansen, Steve Patton. Absent - Kirsten Dixon, Glenn Seaman, Meg Cicciarella**

#### **III Welcome New & Returning Board Members**

**Robert welcomed new and reappointed members to the meeting. Steve Patton, new CAB member, introduced himself. Steve was born and raised in Seldovia, currently works for Seldovia Village Tribe, runs the Environmental Department. He has worked for Cook Inlet Aquaculture, mostly at the Tutka Lagoon Hatchery, also for the Chugach Regional Resource Commission. He sits on the Seldovia Fish and Game Advisory Board and Seldovia Oil Spill Response Board. He is excited to be part and help.**

#### **Board member introductions:**

**Curtis Jackson, biologist, worked for Halibut Commission, 13 years as water taxi driver on Kachemak Bay, avid user of Park, 10 years as a commercial fisherman. Louie Dupree, Boat Captain - ran tug boats, relief water taxi driver, intimate with Park, lives near Cottonwood /Eastland Unit, very committed to KBSP, active Park volunteer. Sue Christiansen, long time resident of the area, past Instructor for Outdoor School in KBSP, now Physician Assistant, Co Founded Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, past Conservation Society Board member. Nancy Hillstrand - 50 year resident, lives surrounded by Park, knows it needs to be protected, strong advocate for being aware of the State statutes and constitution and how they apply to the park. Aaron Pederson -very active volunteer - brushing trail, making signs, constructing outhouses...lives near Cottonwood/Eastland Unit. Feels it is very important to provide Park access to people on this side of the Bay. Kevin Walker, 46 year resident, Nordic Ski Club, cross country skier, active in yacht club, 30 years DOT in Nome and building remote airports, very active volunteer for the park, Yarrow Hinnant - 7 year resident, lives near Cottonwood/Eastland. Works as a curator at Pratt Museum and landscaper. Long history of trail design work, consulting and work with the National Park Service. Robert Archibald - retired merchant mariner**

engineer, uses the park a lot, so committed to helping it. Believes the people's voice for what goes on in the Park is vital.

Introduction of new Park Superintendent, Hans Rinke: 15 years in Alaska, worked as a Forester for Alaska DNR, joined State Parks with this position.

Carter Fortney, Park Ranger, here to do law enforcement and operations. Very much enjoys his job. Interested in preserving the Park as much as possible.

Eric Clarke: 28 years with State Parks, 25 as KBSP Trails Specialist.

#### IV. Election of Officers:

Robert Archibald nominated for Chairperson. No one opposed. Nancy Hillstrand nominated as Vice Chairperson. No one opposed. Kirsten Dixon (not present) will be asked to continue as transcriber of minutes. Sue Christiansen will assist her.

#### V. Approve Agenda – No agenda additions.

Aron Pederson moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Kevin Walker.

#### VI. Public Comments:

Mako Haggerty: Thanks to Board Members. Welcome to Hans. Thanks to Friends of KBSP. For many people, KBSP areas across the Bay are expensive and prohibitive to get to. The Friends of KBSP have created a successful program “Kids Across the Bay”. Friends provided Vouchers so young people were able to get over and into the Park. Mako misses Pam, she added a personal element to the permitting process and took the minutes for CAB. State Parks are always suffering in terms of the budget. He encourages the Board to write letters to the Legislature requesting \$ for KBSP, describing how vital this Park is to our community and economy. He invited everyone to the Friends of KBSP Annual Meeting, October 27th from 5:30 to 8:00pm at Islands & Oceans. The evening will recognize and celebrate the work of many dedicated volunteers.

#### VII. Parks Report:

a. Hans Rinke, State Parks, Superintendent - Hopes to maintain the momentum this group had with Jack Blackwell and to listen and learn in order to make informed decisions, keep things in motion. Reports 4 staffing Ranger / Resource Specialist position vacancies in our area, not unusual. Operating budget unchanged. Did receive some Capital Improvement dollars that will be spread throughout all the Parks in the State. He is learning how the State Budget works. State Parks gets very little general fund receipts. Most funds come from user fees and money collected from rental tax. Really 2 funding sources for State Parks (any sturdy stool needs 3 legs). Important for us all to tell the Kachemak Bay State Park story together. This will help advocate for State Parks in many ways, including influencing legislative requests and grant opportunities. He is a Public Land advocate. The State of AK is the 3rd largest land agency in the Nation. Hans is an advocate for sound management of this public land. Comment from Robert: Sometimes State Park ‘reverse receipt’ gets lost and Federal money that comes into the State (supposed to be allocated for Parks) is used elsewhere - very political, let us help.

b. Jason Oakley: Operations report read by Robert, included Search and Rescue - boat accident, Airplane Crash, Bears, Center for Coastal Studies Education Program, KHLT leading hike without permit, jet skis, illegal camping, wildfire at Diamond Creek, illegal water taxi, boating safety, aircraft illegal landing, illegal animal harvesting, permits issues, helicopter for Friends work, invasive species, bikes of hiking trails, trash burning,

**new latrine, issues with CIAA, Trails Day, Inspiring 'Girls Expedition', Ground Truth with Tutka Backdoor hike through, Diamond Creek trail, sloughing, Yurt /Outhouse, CP trail brushing, RPG 23, sling loads to CPL this lake, Alpine Ridge and Saddle Trail brushed, HOWL trail work... See Operations Report submitted by Jason via email.**

**VIII. Committees:**

**a. Trails - Important to begin working on and have a plan for Cottonwood/Eastland, trails, and public use cabin - so when money becomes available, we are ready to use it.**

**b. Friends- Mako Haggerty: Firewood sales, races, Shorebird festival, kids across the Bay, still in process of bringing summer to end. Meetings are the 1st Monday of the month. Please come. Need a person to take minutes. Annual meeting is October 27th. Water Trails: Picked up trail registrars at Chugach and Kayak Beach. Next Tuesday will be a work party.**

**c. Cottonwood/Eastland - Sign on Elmers Way will go back up and be repositioned. 2 junk piles from neighbors on State Park land. Aron will clean up but needs permission. 2-3 pick up truckloads. Accuracy of GIS varies so much it is difficult to say exactly where boundaries are. Huge effort of making signs and putting them up. Please don't just take them down without explanation.**

**d. Eveline - What is the status of the toilet \$ that was possibly going to be reallocated for Eveline. Hans will report on this next month.**

**e. Habitat Committee: No report**

**IX. Old Business: No old business**

**X. New Business:**

**a. How will permitting take place? Commercial use permits now will be done through the Anchorage offices, easier for State and users, 3-day period where questions can be asked. Hans will handle special use permits.**

**Can we educate those who issue permits and alert users- prior to issuing permits? KBSP (each Park) has unique requirements.**

**b. Kevin Walker - DOT regarding a culvert/parking area for Diamond Ridge/ Sterling Highway. Could we get more support for this? Kevin sent an email. The bike Club has asked to improve Parking at the top of the hill. They have some funding, but not enough for a large project. We need additional funding for an appropriate parking area. If it is going to take 5 years to do, maybe we can allow Bike Club to begin and secure additional funding as possible.**

**Between City and Demonstration Forest, there are lots of plans (1000 acres) and they are laying out trails for the area. The culvert is being considered for future vision. Thank you Kevin for your effort.**

**XI. Comments of the Public: None**

**XII. Comments of the Board:**

**a. Steve will have follow up questions.**

**b. Aron - The recommended parking for Cottonwood/Eastland – does not work.**

**c. Kevin Walker - Watch out for Bears. He has had problems getting on Microsoft Teams.**

**Next meeting: October 11th, 5:30pm, Trails meeting at 4 pm.**

**XIII Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.**