



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

**Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory Board Minutes
November 8th, 2023**

In Person + Virtual Meeting | 5:30 Start Time

Call to Order

Roll Call - Robert Archibald, Sue Christiansen, Kevin Walker, Glenn Seaman, Kirsten Dixon, Aron Peterson, Hans Rinke, Jason Okuly

Not in Attendance - Nancy Hillstrand, Steven Payton

Excused from Meeting - Curtis Jackson, Louis Dupree, Meg Ciccarella, Yarrow Hinnant

Public In Attendance- Gary Fandrei, Chris Little, Cameale Johnson, Dave Brann,

Approve Minutes from October 11, 2023

Public Comment

Visitors

Chris Little, The Conservation Fund

Chris talked about the two properties that are in the process of being donated to Kachemak Bay State Park/DNR. The Conservation Fund is moving forward with the staff at DNR to complete those donations.

Land Donation 1 - Saddle Trail Property

- The property is approx. 5 acres.
- Purchased in 2022
- Generate private funds and then magnate a federal grant
- The state is unwilling to pay for projects like this (and the same goes for fed)
- TCF is still actively fundraising for this project
- This property will be donated to DNR (instead of the State Park) because there must be a legislative boundary adjustment to add that property.

- It will have the same policies and management as the State Park to be donated back to the State Park in the future.
- Chris couldn't comment much on the legislative process
- They will make sure the deed language is strong

Land Donation 2 - Mike's Bay, Nuka Island

- The property is approx. 22 acres.
- This is a habitat project from the perspective of a conservation fund.
- There is an anadromous river next to the property -The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game was able to secure funds from NOAA and The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Program to fund and essentially pay 75% of the cost, and TCF covered the rest from private funds.
- Mike's Bay property will be added to the State Park because the Mike's Bay property falls under the Nuka Island management plan and calls for private lands that are acquired to be automatically added to the park.

Saddle Trail Property Fundraising Goal: \$300,000 | Funds Raised to Date: \$125,000
Includes the acquisition cost, due diligence costs, the appraisal of phase 1, hold of the property for 2 years, and the conveyance to the State Park.

Timeline: Donation should be completed by the end of 2023.

The organization has been in Alaska since 1994, doing land transactions. They branched off in the nature conservancy in 1985 to focus on conservation transactions, fundraising, and financing deals. The Conservation Fund works regularly with the Federal Government, the National Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Parks Service, local land trusts, and other entities that own and manage conservation lands. The State Park is considered a conservation partner.

The Conservation Fund has an approximately \$150 million revolving fund that can be tapped into for projects. Chris and John Ross are the state project managers in Alaska.

There was some conversation about complications of deeding land to the Park vs. State and some cautionary tales about previous property that is still in State DNR hands vs. DPOR

State Park Reports

Superintendent Report – Hans Rinke

Scout Lake Land Trade Update

- He's been in contact with DNR (realty services - land trades or swaps), borough land management, and the mayor's office.
- The proposal has some complexities.
- The next step is to get the partners together.
- Hans wants to see how serious the borough is regarding Scout Lake.
- In his discussion with the borough, he now believes recreational support for using that property exists.
- Some funds could stay on borough lands for access (and would limit the standard of access but still allow access to the State Park).
- Hans will continue to run down the land trade avenue, attempt to forecast this possibility, and report back to the group.

If it stays DNR land, then DNR would be more open when putting in a parking area on the ILMA part of it. Hans will work on discovering the challenges of this project and bring them to the group.

Aron Hunting, DOT planner, Diamond Creek State Rec underpass, messaged that there was an agency meeting last week, and Hans needs to catch up with Aaron and will report back to the board after their conversation.

Operations Report – Jason Okuly

Training out of state, and Carter has been on vacation for a few weeks. Random complaint about coal burning at Diamond Creek Beach.

Committee Reports

Friends of KBSP

October 27th annual meeting. Mako did a slide presentation on the early days of operation. A few new board members were placed.

Cottonwood Eastland Update – Cameale Johnson

- Cameale showed a few slides of the property and discussed the history of the property vs. the DNR property and the boundary between the borough lands.
- Transferred from DNR (IMLA) to KPB 2015: Municipal Entitlement Land Act
- State > Borough (owned and managed)
- All the property (except the IMLA DNR property) was transferred to the Borough
- This outlined property was transferred to the Borough in 2015. It goes from the state to the Borough.
- Patent Pending - When they issue their final approval for a parcel of land, they are conveyed even if the title isn't formally transferred.
- The Borough and DNR land boundaries can be confusing
- There have been internal conversations about swapping both sections of land for a section of SP land near Scout Lake Road.
- Mile Post 17.4 is currently being used as a parking lot area
- The State Parks said building a parking lot would cost approximately \$2 Million.
- Interior Trails (IT) is a professional trail-building company. They have worked closely with the State Parks. Parks do not have the resources to look after how all the trails are being built.
- Yarrow and Cameale have done a lot of trail layouts with Interior Trails since last summer.
- They did a trail layout around the Fall Line Trail, but everyone has agreed not to take anyone to the Fall Line Trail.
- The Parks gave FRIENDS a GPS Trackers for the EE Rd MP 17.4 (down through DNR).
- Upper Loop Trail isn't included on the slides because it is a short/wet location.
- The proposed trail is a true woodland trail where the scenery is lush
- Multiple meetings to discuss where an optimal place for a parking lot off Eastland Road has happened, and a parking lot would cost approx. \$2 million. Interior Trails will provide a template for maintenance.

The Water Trails Report – Dave Brann

-Reports were handed to Jason and Carter A good number of people signed the registers/visited.

Trail registers between the two ends of the Grace Ridge Trail ended up being 500-800 people (who signed into the trail registers).

Working on new Trail registers because some old ones were wet, mildewed, not legible, etc.

Water Trails and friends bundled 35+ bundles of wood that will go to Halibut Cove lagoons when boat transportation is available before the ramp gets lifted.

November 19th: at 5 PM, the Friends of Water Trails will have a hotdog roast at Grace Ridge for family/friends/kids with a dessert fundraiser.

Fresh bear tracks on some of the trails so the bears are not all asleep.

Eveline Report – None

Habitat Report – None

Comments of the Public

Dave Brann -The Kids Across the Bay project was successful for 50 kids/participants in the summer, but there were 72 participants overall. The grant is closing out with the Homer Foundation.

Looking to do it again next year with a few changes.

Comments of the Board

Glenn Seaman –

Question to Jason or Hans – Glenn addressed personal watercraft users in the last meeting. A sign by the boat launch could reduce the number of tickets written. Jason is leaving for three months – Glenn wondered if anyone could handle the sign issue.

Jason will take care of it.

Meeting Adjourned

Notes transcribed by Kirsten Dixon.

Next Meeting is December 13, 2023 at 5:30. Trails Meeting at 4:00pm