

**Mat-Su State Parks  
Citizens Advisory Board  
Minutes  
May 14, 2013  
AMENDED**

I. The Meeting was called to order by Greg at 7:00 PM  
A quorum of the Citizens Advisory Board was present and due notice had been published.

II. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Greg Ronnback	Nicole Troyer
Doug Bourne	Neil Fox
Larry Smith	Barbara Russell
Jim Von Bose	

MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED

Dennis Mobley

STATE PARK STAFF PRESENT

Wayne Biessel, Superintendent  
Teri Zell, Secretary to Board  
Drew McElvain, Park Ranger, Willow Area  
Brandon McCutcheon, Div. Mining, Land & Water

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Nicole made a motion to accept the February 19, 2013 minutes as submitted. Neil seconds the motion. All vote in favor. Minutes accepted as submitted.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Wayne introduces Drew to the Board.
- Parks are full of snow. 2-3" of snow in Denali State Park (may not open by Memorial Day). 6' of snow in Hatcher Pass. Independence Mine State Historical Park (IMSHP) is scheduled to open June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Hatcher Pass and Denali State Park are now closed to snowmachines. User conflicts between motorized and non-motorized have been heavy this winter. Implementation of the newly closed areas will take more education. Most of the problems appear to be in the closed area to access the Snowbird Glacier.
- Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su (FoSP) will be operating the gift shop at the Independence Mine SHP this summer as well as the visitor contact station the Alaska

Veterans Memorial in Denali State Park. Last year the Veterans Memorial was closed due to lack of staffing. Proceeds from sales will go back to the facilities.

- Trail crew in Denali State Park, Willow and Hatcher Pass are scheduled to start up on May 22<sup>nd</sup> with lots of training.
- We hope to finish Troublesome Creek Trail by July of this summer (Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project). It will be the first time this trail has been opened since the flooding in 2006.
- South Denali request proposals for the road and campground building went out for bid. Construction of these projects will start in July after the migratory bird act closure is over. Proposed naming for the new site is “Kesugi-Ken”. We have received 7 million dollars for South Denali in order to complete the RV campground and approximately 5 miles of trails.
- We have also received \$280,000 for cabin replacements in the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (NLSRA).
- Another CIP was received for replacing 2 CXT latrines in the Lake Louise State Recreation Area.
- Contracts are out for painting of many of the IMSHP buildings and stabilization of the Assay Office.
- Mat-Su Borough was looking to fill their coffers this year and was trying to put tax assessment fees on all of our contracted parks. Wayne worked with the Attorney General’s office and got that reversed (for now).

## VII. Committee Reports

1. Budget Committee – did not meet (no report)
2. NLSRA committee – did not meet (no report)

## VIII. Old Business

1. Budget – Greg discussed the poor funding for State Parks with other Citizens Advisory Board chairs. The Mat-Su contingent does not favor Parks to the point of requesting more funding. They will try to make an impact on the Governor’s budget this summer. Jim, Nicole and Barb (Budget committee) will be willing to meet on this during the summer.
  - a. Budget impacts – no relief in sight for upcoming budget FY14. We will be looking at program elimination. We will not have any Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC) summer hires after June 30<sup>th</sup> which will result in limited janitorial services for Denali State Park, Willow area and Hatcher Pass. We will be implementing the following changes:
    - Permanent staff cleaning toilets
    - Shutting down latrines
    - Fewer trash pickups
    - Camp loops locked
    - Public use cabins will not be maintained as frequently
    - Denali View North Campground will have the gate shut and locked
    - IMSHP will only be open 5 days a week (closed Mondays and Tuesdays) instead of the normal 7 days a week

- Archangel latrine will be closed and locked
- Finger Lake Headquarters will be closed on Wednesdays due to the loss of the administrative positions.
- Less emphasis on deferred maintenance.

2. Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Management Plan Draft

Brandon McCutcheon from the Div. of Mining, Land & Water came to the Board meeting to discuss the draft. He handed out several maps;

- The original 1967 plan which was originally proposing intense development to facilitate many types of uses.
- 1983 plan which shifted the development away from road access and focused on trails
- 2013 draft plan map is still in alignment with the 1983 plan showing some changes for road access. This calls for a recreational development area to be put along the parkway and the South Rolly campground. There will be no camping allowed outside developed campsites. This proposed plan will not be self-implemented. Each portion is a stand-alone project in need of grants, volunteers, CIP funding, etc.

The Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework (June 1982) that was developed (and is still in effect today) is the policy on how individual Parks are developed.

Highlights of the plan focus on sustainable trails for the following activities:

- Dogmushing
- Snowmachines
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Skate skiing
- Ski joring
- Cross-Country skiing
- Possible equestrian trails
- Multiple use orientation of existing and proposed trails
- Docks and permanent structures
- It will also allow for a study to be done within the next 5 years to set a design standard for Off Road Vehicle (ORV) trails (Butterfly)
- Moorage and storage standards
- Natural setting of the area with acoustic and visual buffers

Greg proposes the plan committee (Doug, Larry and Barb) go through the draft and get their comments back to the Board before the July the deadline.

X. Notices and Announcements

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

XI. Meeting is adjourned at 9pm.

