

## Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

### Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2024 5:30-7:30 pm

AVTEC Culinary Academy, 809 Third Ave, east entrance, third floor

#### I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order: Vice-chair Jordan
- B. Volunteer minutes-taker:
- C. Roll Call: [Carol Griswold](#), [Amy Haddow](#), [Nick Jordan](#), [Mark Luttrell](#), [Tom Miller \(Teams\)](#), [Cliff Reid \(Teams\)](#), [Mica Van Buskirk](#)
- D. Board members absent: Bob Barnwell, Chance Miller
- E. State Park Staff: Superintendent Hans Rinke, District Ranger Jack Ransom, Park Specialist Michael Burmeister
- F. Public Present: N/A
- G. Minutes Approval for September 18 - [Mica made a motion to approve, Luttrell seconded, none opposed](#)
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: [Carol asked to add "Stewards of the Bay" to New Business—should we have a representative there? Agenda as amended unanimously approved](#)

#### II. Public Comments: none

#### III. Board Contact and Correspondence with Public: [Carol learned there's a State Parks Blog and Facebook page where we can post meeting notices and content. Wendy Sailors is the contact.](#)

A. [Mica and Carol suggested an annual flyer about issues, accomplishments, and needs might be useful. Hans said they do an annual report that captures many of the CAB updates. Mica suggested we need ways to articulate our capital project needs, and this might help; Hans said they do this through State Parks, and with Governor's Budget coming out Dec. 10, we should get written recommendations to the State by about the first of the year.](#)

[Hans also agreed it's helpful to have a written document we can share about what we do, and what we need. Mica offered to gather photos of the parking area and other information in January, and we can add short blurbs about the issues we face and solutions needed.](#)

B. [Discussed a resident's letter of concern about the vessel anchored off Lowell Point:](#)

- [1. Hasn't moved in 4 months](#)
- [2. Could drift and cause damage](#)
- [3. Was removed from the harbor because it isn't insured](#)
- [4. People are living on board and likely dumping human waste in water](#)

5. Sets a bad precedent for people who may want to anchor up, and even establish overnight lodging offshore
6. A commercial kelp farm was just told they can't operate without a lease, but this vessel is moored in the same area
7. You need a mooring permit from DNR to anchor more than 14 days or it's considered a derelict vessel.

Jack Ransom discussed what the State can do about this, and he cited the Kenai Area Plan and a Division of Mining Lands and Water document that addresses user conflicts in "special use areas", but this doesn't qualify as a special use area. State Parks should work with Mining Lands and Water (MLR) to address any conflicts. Sounds like DNR is the one with jurisdiction; suggestion made it would be best for a letter to come from Hans asking for action. Locals can provide documents and info.

**Additional issue:** Mica said people have told her the Tonsina cabin is inaccessible during very high tides, and suggested a trail could be cut. Jack noted this would be a great volunteer project, maybe for next summer. Mike noted there are some low areas that fill with water, and there are trail standards they'd need to follow. Mica said there are some downed trees, but if we chose a day, put the word out, and got the potential trail flagged and prepped, it seems like it wouldn't be too difficult. Mike said they can explore that.

#### IV. Reports:

- Staff Report: Hans Rinke, Jack Ransom, Michael Burmeister:
- Mike staying on through the winter and will be working for 12 months, which smooths out end/beginning of season wrap-up and setup

##### A. Hans updates on:

- CHSRA Plan: Monica Alvarez, Division Mining, Land, and Water: walk CAB through the plan and explain options for update or rewrite, and position in queue Hans can reach out to her so she can meet with our CAB at an upcoming meeting.  
Part of her plan schedule is politically directed so it's not certain, but Hans said she's well-spoken and knowledgeable. An update is still probably 5-7 years out.
- Staff coordination of celebration of Fort McGilvray in 2025 No update, but Hans asked what we may want to do. Carol noted that Resurrection Bay Historical Society offers monthly presentations in the winter, and said we could see if they'll do one this winter about the Fort. Could invite local VIPs with connections to the Fort (like the then-Ranger Jack Sinclair who first discovered it). Suggested reaching out to RBHS. Different ideas were suggested for cool events out at the Fort, talks in town, and maybe guided hikes and kayak tours. Would be great to get more exposure and access. Hans suggested contacting Shawna Popovich for educational/interpretive help

- Contact with engineers about Lowell Point parking plan -may be included into new landscaping plan with the design and construction shop. One challenge will be working with BLM, which holds the conservation easement on that property. Difficulty is finding a human within BLM that's in the position long enough to approve something—it's been like a revolving door of staff the last 3.5 years. Otherwise, it's a relatively simple administrative process—about 10 days ago, Hans wrote to the person he thinks is responsible, and will follow up. We just need to confirm what BLM will allow on the property.
- Landscape planner will be hired, and they can confirm compliance with BLM and liaise with any engineers as necessary.
- Mica recommended a Lowell Point resident who may have useful experience and contacts with regard to conservation easements.
- SCORP impact/support on Seward area state park units Hans noted we've applied for equipment grants.  
<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/scorp.htm>  
<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/plans/scorp/2023/23-27akscorfull.pdf>

#### Jack and Mike summer recap

**Mike:** nothing much to add to what we've discussed

Mica asked if we can get copies of his regular trail reports, and Mike said he published the last one on October 1—all of them are published on the division website. He does about two a month, and said he'd send them to the CAB in the future (probably will do one per month in the winter.)

Carol asked if these could be posted on the Facebook page, and Hans said there may be some difficulties given the maps.

#### Kids Don't Float poster and protective plexi-glass

**Jack:** will get KDF posters, and Fish House has plexiglass

#### Porcupine PUC flood mitigation *In progress*

### B. Committee Reports

1. Local issues Nothing to report from Nick—no major fire department responses, just a few medicals. Trail seems active but use dropped off considerably. Talked about the potholes and ditches—Metco did grade both lots last week.
2. Tonsina Mining (Cliff, Bob, Carol): see Goals. Cliff said he doesn't have anything new, except that Bob emailed about a guy headed up Tonsina on 9/25 on a four-wheeler with a bunch of gear. The man said he'd been going up there about 30 years, and staying in a lean-to, and planned to build another. Said he was next to Lucky, who has the only claim up there—doesn't mean he can't go up and pan for

gold in other areas. The guy won't be allowed to build anything there, and Cliff will verify length temporary camps are allowed (two weeks?)

3. Legislative Committee (Bob, Mica) Budget and Friends of State Parks: Mica doesn't have much since legislative session hasn't opened, but is interested in working on an informational flyer.
4. Board Recruitment Committee Mark: no vacancies for 9-member Board, could have 11 to include NPS and USFS Mark has a concept of a plan to tap into NPS and USFS, and will ask if they can put him in touch with likely participants.

## V. New Business:

- A. Elect new chair and vice-chair. Need nominations, discussion, vote.

### III. Board Duties and Responsibilities

B. The officers of the Board shall be at a minimum, Chair and Vice Chair. Other officers may exist as deemed necessary by the Board. Each officer shall hold office until a successor has been duly elected and is eligible for reelection at the discretion of the Board. The officers shall be elected annually by the Board at the first meeting after July 1 each year...

### C. Officer Responsibilities:

#### 1. Chair:

- a) Supervise and coordinate all the affairs of the Board and preside at meetings as a voting Board member.
  - b) Be in contact with Division staff members prior to monthly Board meetings as needed to discuss pertinent issues. Submit agenda items by e-mail to Division staff member(s) prior to monthly or special Board meetings.
  - c) Act as the spokesperson of the Board to carry out its established purposes outlined herein.
  - d) Conduct meetings of the Board in a reasonable, fair, constructive, and controlled manner (Robert's Rules of Order or similar).
  - e) As appropriate, call special meetings of the Board.
  - f) Lead the Board in appointing and/or delegating the organization of special sub-committees and working groups to members of the Board.
  - g) Be familiar with and uphold the Bylaws to lead the Board.
  - h) Lead the Board in determining its annual goals and objectives while serving an elected term of one year unless re-elected or until a successor has been duly elected.
  - i) In the event of a tie vote of the quorum, the vote of the Chair will determine the outcome.
- #### 2. Vice-Chair:
- a) Assume all duties of the Chair in their absence.
  - b) Serve an elected term of one year unless re-elected or until a successor has been duly elected.

"Not It" discussion ensued. 😊 People had various reasons it would be difficult to accept a nomination as chair. Amy said she'd be willing to serve as Vice Chair; Mica nominated and all approved. Nick will continue as acting chair and we'll discuss again at the November 20 meeting.

- B. Discuss recording meeting and posting on state parks website. (Mark) Carol noted that she tried to listen to a recording of another CAB and there was nothing to refer to, like a written agenda or minutes, and you can't skip to the part you're interested

in (would have to be time signatures on the time each agenda item is presented on the recording, as suggested by Hans). Tom said ChatGPT might be helpful in organizing the recording so it's more useful.

Mica made a motion made to record our meetings on Teams and upload the recording. The majority voted yes to record the meetings as well as taking minutes.

- C. **Stewards of the Bay** This appears to be a collaboration between ASLC, Chugach Regional Resources Commission (including Aluttiq Pride Marine Institute), NPS, and University of Alaska. Mica has been to a couple meetings—entities involved take turns hosting and pick a topic (eg invasive tunicates project). Their meeting advertising seems almost nonexistent. Next month, UAF is doing an ocean trivia night, and the NOSB kids will be involved with organizing that. Stewards of the Bay meets the same time of the month we do as a CAB, but it seems we should be part of this. Nick said he'd ask the folks involved from his organization how we can participate/collaborate.

Carol suggested that we check out their website and see how we might be able to participate—might be something we could send one person as a presenter.

## VI. Old Business:

A. Discuss hired minutes-taker. Amy commented this doesn't seem realistic, and after discussion we thought it was most reasonable to rotate the person taking minutes. Tom volunteered for November, Mica for January, Mark for February, Cliff for March, Chance in April.

B. As time allows, discuss Goals. Carol added a new one as #22—get a volunteer group to create a trail to the Tonsina PUC that's above the high tide line.

## VII. Goals 2023-24 Updates and discussion, revised August 25, 2024

1. Continue to pursue and support Lowell Point Parking plan: 2023-2027 SCORP
2. Support funding for deferred maintenance of infrastructure including latrines at LPSRS, upper and lower parking lots, Fort McGilvray, trails, and PUCs. Letter approved and sent January 8, 2024.
3. Support funding to replace Callisto PUC or relocate a PUC in a secure location. 9-2024
4. Support flood mitigation plan for Porcupine PUC 9-2024
5. Support Spruce PUC boardwalk replacement/improvements for ADA use
6. Support update of 1998 CHSRA Management Plan, especially with the addition of Fort McGilvray Historic District on December 22, 2022, and send letter of support. Draft letter by Chair 3-15-23, Chair emailed Board-approved letter to Director Gease on 3-17-23, no reply. 11-23, Rinke: will check with planning for options for update, rewrite, or modify, and see where plan is in queue. 3-20-24.
7. Support a Fort McGilvray Historic Preservation Master Plan and Interpretive Plan, and alternate funding opportunities as recommended by DPOR Shawna Popovici. Letter approved and sent January 5, 2024. 3-26-24 Did not receive OHA grant, will try again in 2025.

8. Support Fort McGilvray ribbon-cutting ceremony/celebration in 2025 with entities, coordinated by DNR Office of History and Archaeology. 3-20-24 Hans will pursue and update.
9. Continue to pursue resolution of Tonsina Creek mining issue: Case file is so convoluted, may be best to start over. Shall we ask for a revision? 03-20-24 Need legislative act to add watershed to state parks; current legislature might not be amenable.
10. Support annual resetting of protective barrier rocks at LPSRS by boat launch. 8-5 2024.
11. Support annual budget for METCO to plow and maintain upper and lower parking lots at LPSRS. Updated 3-20-24
12. Support Friends Group, whether locally or statewide: in 2023-2027 SCORP comments, ongoing.
13. Update Parks website: re high tides, stove fuel, slides, and other changes: Tonsina PUC section updates were moved and approved on 02-22-23, sent 3-2-23; in progress. Callisto Canyon PUC removed in July 2024.
14. Maintain laminated tide charts at both kiosks (Carol, Nick): continuing. [Carol posted October-December.](#)
15. Explore new public-use cabin locations: Board voted unanimously 2-22-23 not to support this; area has enough, locations are difficult, deferred maintenance and relocations of existing PUCs are expensive and difficult. Mica later proposed new locations at Thumb Cove north end, Fox Island Spit, South Beach CHSRA, North Beach south side, Tonsina Point between bridges or near the campground pavilion.
16. Support installation of tent platforms in park: determine locations and include in grants. 2-22-23 Board supported Eagle Scout project to provide tent platforms. 2023: two installed at North Beach. Need more? Where?
17. Attend: ASLC Stewards of the Bay program, meets once a month in winter 9-2024.
18. Support Alaska State Parks staff mooring buoy at North Beach and public mooring buoys in the Park. 3-20-24 Park staff needs one. Eagle Scout John Van Buskirk's buoy research project should be kept on file.
19. Support 2024 grant for purchase of ATV/UTV for CHSRA 9-2024 letter sent to Hans [Proposal will be submitted by end of next week.](#)
20. Explore use of AmeriCorps in parks (Mica), Sierra Club, FAA, retirement groups, and other volunteer work groups. 9-2024
21. Advocate for more visibility in SCORP via Alaska Trails/Mariam Mendoza
22. [Establish a volunteer crew to create a new high ground trail to Tonsina PUC from beach.](#)

**VIII. Informational Items: none**

**IX. Public Comments: none**

**X. Adjournment**

- A. Board Comments [Amy and Mica will not be attending the November meeting.](#)
- B. Date/Location of next meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 5:30 pm, AVTEC Culinary Academy. Note no meeting in December.
- C. [Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.](#)