

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board
***** Meeting Minutes*****

Thursday January 9, 2014
5:30 p.m.
Gilman River Center
Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Ricky Gease, Brenda Trefon, Clayton Holland, Andrew Szczesny, Terri Carter, Brent Johnson, Andrew Carmichael, Rick Koch, Jack Blackwell, Tim Stevens and Ted Wellman. Carol Padgett and Monte Roberts were telephonic.

Guest: Ben Ellis State Park Director

- B. Minutes Approval:** Brent made a correction to the minutes to reflect under new business second paragraph. Brent objected that the applicants were never discussed before the board as it is written in the bylaws. The minutes were approved as amended.

- C. Agenda Changes and Approval-**Discussion to change the date of the February meeting was added under adjournment. The agenda was approved as amended.

- II. Public Comments/Presentations-**Todd Smith is interested in having available the decision from Department of Environmental Conservation on the listing of the Lower Kenai River as impaired for turbidity before the upcoming Board of Fish meetings. These meetings are scheduled for the first two weeks in February. Currently there are several proposals that have been submitted that may change the management of the Kenai River and this information would be helpful in the consideration of these proposals.

III. REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports:**

- a. State Parks** –Jack Blackwell provided board members with the following report:

- 1) The Kasilof River takeout has funding to pursue the acquisition of the property and the development of a takeout on the lower Kasilof River. At this time the State is currently working with the Swanson family as to purchasing their property as the site of the new takeout. Jack Blackwell and Reiss Miranda met with the Swanson family Thursday, January 9th 2014 about the property in question.
- 2) Ben Ellis attended the Habitat and Guide committee meetings. There was discussion on the Bing's Landing Back line and boat launch development.

- b. DEC** – Tim Stevens provided board members with following report:

- 1) DEC did submit the 2012 integrated report and this report did not propose to list the lower Kenai River for impaired for turbidity. This was based on the information that the Kenai is listed as a category two and three water. Two being means water quality parameters that met the recreation standards three being that there is not enough information to make any determination on. DEC is currently working on the 2014 draft integrated report was scheduled available for public comment sometime in January 2014. They are currently delayed by one month.
- 2) DEC grant proposal were solicited and two were awarded for project within the Kenai Area. One is to do beach sampling at the mouth of the Kenai River and to include other areas upstream to determine the sources of the bacteria fecal coliform that is being found. The second proposal is to consolidate the last 5 years of the Kenai River baseline sampling and to have a five-year report. This will report would contain trends analysis for the past five years and the previous five years.

Terri Carter asked where this data was acquired. Tim stated that there are 22 sited that are tested each year for 12 water quality parameters. The Kenai Water shed Forum has been conducted these test for several years.



- c. **ADF&G** –Not present
- d. **USF&WS** –Not Present
- e. **USFS/Chugach**- Not Present
- f. **City of Kenai** –Rick Koch provided board members with the following report:
 - 1) The City of Kenai held a work session to discuss the 2013 dip net fishery report. There was plenty of public testimony. The city plans on holding a work session to finalize the proposed changes to the management of the fishery. A date has yet to be determined.
The City of Kenai is currently working on developing a motion to have the Department of Fish and Game to comply with the management of the habitat assessments on the river for the various fisheries and the effect it has had on several of the land within the City of Kenai.
- g. **City of Soldotna** –Andrew Carmichael provided board members with following report:
 - 1) The City of Soldotna adopted the Soldotna the Park and Recreation master plan.
- h. **Kenai Peninsula Borough**-Brent Johnson provided board members with the following report:
 - 1) No Report

B. Committee Reports

- a. **President's Report** –Joe Connors thank both board members and public for participating in the committee meetings that were held today. He also asked that board members that have not participate to do so in the future.
- b. **Guide Advisory** – Joe Connors provided board members with the following report:
 - 1) The committee reviewed the proposed changes for the Bing's State Park boat launch and dock area. There was a few proposed changes by the committee and State Park will be including those in the plan. The Bout launch and dock are slated for improvements for the 2014 season.
 - 2) Another project that included the Bing's landing backline was also reviewed by the Guide Advisory and River Use committee. This project included adding additional parking and trail system to access the area referred to as the Backline of the Bing's Landing State Recreation Area. The State Park engineers were on the phone to help describe the project and were also asking for any public input.
- c. **Habitat** –Brent Johnson provided board members with the following report:
 - 1) This was the first committee meeting chaired by Brent and there were several members and agencies that attended. The committee discussed goals for the 2013-2014 board session.

Some of the recommended goals area:

- a. Tim Stevens recommended that DEC partner with the US Fish and Wildlife service in the 50/50 Coast Share program for Bank Stabilization along the Kenai River for private land owners.
- b. Mont Roberts was interested in having more latrines placed along the River. Ben Ellis stated that the Governor has put 1 million dollars into the budget for infrastructure along the Kenai River. This money would help in places two new bathrooms along the river. Locations are yet to be determined by the River Use committee.
- c. The committee would also like to look at bank trampling along the Kenai River.
- d. Spill Response in the Cooper Landing Area and possible training of public t use the equipment.
- e. The Beluga Whale symposium that will be held on January 16 at 17th at the Gilman River Center. All public is invited.

Brent asks the chain of command for recommendation to other agencies. Jack Blackwell responded that the committee draft the recommendation and then bring it to the full board for a vote and then it will be sent to the recipient intended.

d. **River Use-** Andrew Szczesny provided board members with the following report:

- 1) The committee had a joint meeting with the Guide Advisory committee and Alaska State Park engineers reviewing the proposed plans for the Bing's Landing Backline restoration and development.

e. **Legislative/Government Activities –No Report**

f. **Board Development/ Nomination –** The committee met on Wednesday about the nominations. The committee recommended that a new committee be formed to review the nomination process and make any recommendation/bylaw changes to the board. Joe Connors ask for volunteers for this committee, Brenda Trefon will chair this committee, Ted Wellman and Rick Koch will also be on this committee.

g. **Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping –** Pam asked that board members reply within 24 hours if they will be attending the board meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letter of support for the AmeriCorps funding: Andy gave a motion to support the letter and Brenda second. Call for a vote by Joe. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Review Board Appointment procedure: Brenda Trefon will chair a committee with Ted Wellman and Rick Koch at reviewing nomination for the KRSMA board.
3. City of Soldotna request for support of Alaska Fish Board Proposal 233: Andrew Carmichael address the proposal of closing the lagoon adjacent to the boat launch area at the Centennial State Park. This closure would be July and August of each year. A letter of support for this closure. The motion passed unanimously for the intent of a letter of support. Andrew Carmichael declined to vote do to conflict of interest.
4. Board Elections-President and Vice President.
 - 1) The board was asked for nomination of President. Ted Wellman nominated Joe Connors. Rick Koch nominated Brent Johnson. Brent kindly declined, he would like to be on the habitat for a while first. . Joe was asked if he would like to accept the nomination for president. A role call vote was conducted. 11 members voted yes and one member voted no.
 - 2) The board was asked for vice President nomination Ted Wellman was nominated by Ricky Gease. Ted was asked if he would like to except the nomination for vice and he excepted. Role call was conducted and all 12 members voted yes.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE –Letter from the Kenai Peninsula Fisherman's Association: Ben Ellis reported that the commissioner is taking the letter under review at this time.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT-

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Board Comments

B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting: January 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

1. **The board changed the February meeting to the 20th at 5:30 pm.**

