

## Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

\*\*\* Meeting Minutes\*\*\*

Thursday, February 14, 2013  
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Brenda Trefon, Carol Padgett, George Heim, David Carey, Andrew Carmichael, Janet Schmidt, Andy Loranger, Robert Begich, Jack Blackwell. Tim Stevens, Bobbi Jo Kolodziejski (on phone).
- B. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes were approved as written.
- C. **Agenda Changes and Approval:** The agenda was approved as written.

- II. **Public Comments/Presentations** - Chris Degernes talked about the Kenai Peninsula Borough Municipal Selection Project. There is concern that the Borough has selected all state selected lands that are adjacent to the Trail and Kenai Lake in the Cooper Landing and Moose Pass areas. The selection of these lands would directly affect the Kenai River Special Management Area. It is recommended that these lands be legislative designated to the Kenai River Special Management Area Plan.

**Kenai Peninsula Borough Municipal Entitlement Land Selection Project-** Marcus Muller stated that the land acquisition project encourages public involvement through scheduled meetings and the interactive web site. <http://www2borough.kenai.ak.us/GISDept?help.html>  
Identifying the remaining 28,000 acres of state lands to be selected will play an important role in defining the vision of our communities.

**DEC-The final peer review study on Turbidity Study** - Tim Stevens gave a presentation on the Turbidity Monitoring on the Lower Kenai River. This report was reviewed by five individuals considered knowledgeable about turbidity. No major flaws were found in the study design or data interpretation. A copy of the presentation is available at the Gilman River Center State Park office.

**USFWS-Brown Bear Presentation** - John Morton gave a presentation of the extensive study that was conducted with brown bear hair studies. 145 hair stations were placed on the Peninsula with the criteria of adequate space for helicopter access, >200m from trails, cabins and roads, riparian/wetland corridors. The final brown bear population was estimated at 428 bears.

### III. REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports
  - a. **State Parks** - Jack Blackwell reported that they are currently working on plans for facilities improvements, which include the Cooper Landing Boat Launch. State Parks design and Construction is also currently asking for input on the Kasilof River Boat Launch Area. The area currently just down stream of the launch is eroded. This area is currently used for staging of boats for guided trips. State Parks staff is currently working on contingency plans for reduced staff this summer. Staff is trying to address how to deal with the amount of work with a reduced staff. Kenai River Sport Fish Association and State Park are revising the Kenai River brochure and hope to have this available this summer. Jack and Jacques are working on the summer 2012 guide citation and suspension letters. There are approximately 10 guide letters going out.  
Jack reminded members that Director Ben Ellis is having a teleconference on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 pm. The Kenai River Center conference room is available, the phone will be set up and everyone is welcome to join us here.
  - b. **DEC** - Tim Stevens reported that DEC will be meeting with EPA on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to go over the data for the Kenai River turbidity study.
  - c. **ADF&G** - Robert Begich was not present.



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Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough



- d. **USF&WS** - Andy Loranger stated that the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is currently working on a new design for the Visitor Center. They are hoping to break ground in April. It is scheduled to open in 2014.
- e. **USFS/Chugach** - Bobbie Jo Kolodziejski reported that the Chugach National Forest is currently starting work on its 4<sup>th</sup> revision of the plan. This plan will provide guidance to the Chugach National Forest staff. This may take approximately 3 years to complete. Today the Russian River Interagency Coordination group has finalized the plans that addresses the issue of human and bear conflict in the area. One of the first plan's projects is to address the fish waste problem along the river. The Forest Service is planning on asking for requests for proposal for ideas and solutions to this issue.
- f. **City of Kenai** - Sean Wedemeyer/Rick Koch was not present.
- g. **City of Soldotna** - Andrew Carmichael suggested to the board members as summer approaches to please check out the City of Soldotna website. The city is currently working on a master plan and it has some projects that will affect the Kenai River which includes such things as board walks and trails. This summer projects includes are a walk way between the Soldotna visitor center and Centennial Park. The fish cleaning tables at Centennial are working great, there are times it is 5 deep and each table is being utilized.
- h. **Kenai Peninsula Borough** - Brent Johnson was not present.

## B. Committee Reports

- a. **President's Report** - No Report
- b. **Guide Advisory** - Joe Connors combined the president's report with the guide advisory committee report. Alaska State Parks invited three members of the Design and Construction section of Parks to discuss three different projects that they requested input from the board committees which included the Bing's Landing boat launch area. One major concern was at certain water levels there will different issues to address. Cooper Landing boat launch will be modified. Kasilof River Boat launch in the area downstream that is used for staging. This area is being eroded and Park's was looking for suggestions on how to revise the area while making it user friendly. The guide committee also looked at the boater safety requirement for all users of the Kenai River. They requirements would include the standard rules of the road but the committee is also looking for what other Kenai River specific should be included.
- c. **Habitat** - Bruce King-reported on the 21.18 TASK FORCE Next week is the last meeting and vote on plan to forward to assembly. The main issue is to completely repeal the 21.18 ordinance. Some of the issues that the task force has discussed are lack of Public notice; none documented streams in the catalog and how to treat lakes within this ordinance. There are two options to be voted on by task force next week; one is for total repeal of the ordinance or the task force will continue the work and present options as amendments to original ordinance. EPA and DEC will meet March 4. EPA will make their case about listing and revisions to their analysis will be presented. If the decision is made to list, the draft integrated report may be revised with a possible mid-summer report. There is some voice to wait until the borough funded study on near shore differences in turbidity. Preliminary implications (increased duration of events, but not necessarily amplitude of event) will probably increase the percent of time in violation.
- d. **River Use** – Carol Padgett stated the committee discussed two issues. One was the baseline boat counts and looking at how to obtain the funding and the services of an airplane to conduct the counts. They also discussed the Red Salmon stamp; Ricky Gease was not present at the meeting. He will report in March. Legislature has change and it has not gained much recognition.
- e. **Legislative/Government Activities** - Dave Carey stated he will be in Juneau on the February 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. If the board passes the action item, then Dave will work on meeting with Legislatures and getting the letter and word out that State Parks needs to have the funding restored for vacant positions and to reestablish the Rangers position on the Kenai. The president and all board members are welcome to join in meetings that are currently being set up to visit with their local legislatures when they are back in the area for a visit.
- f. **Board Development** - No report

**g. Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping – No Report**

- IV. OLD BUSINESS-Action Item:** Dave Carey presented a letter to the board to be sent to the local legislatures to help in funding important state park issues and projects. Bruce King motioned to accept the letter as written and George seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

- V. NEW BUSINESS** - Jim Richardson asked the board to send a letter to the City of Kenai. He has been working on the comprehensive update and one of the major concerns is changing the land use designation along Angler Drive (this is located along the Beaver Creek) from rural residential to multi-use. The multi use designation includes high density residential and commercial use. There are no specifics as to what they would allow in the multi use area. Jim would like the board to write a letter stating that the Kenai River Special Management Area plan does not support high stream bank development and would not support the change in designation.

Dave made a motion that the KRSMA board give the leadership of this board the authorization write a letter expressing the great concern the board has over the proposed land designation. It was suggested that the letter include how the designation would directly impact the riparian habitat.

Dave Carey would like to send the letter to the City Counsel and the City of Kenai Administration, the Peninsula Clarion and the Redoubt Reporter.

Jim Richardson will write a draft letter that will be sent to Jack Blackwell and the rest of the board. This will be sent to Pat Porter and the planning commission.

The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

- VI. CORRESPONDENCE** - None

- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT-** Chris Degernes commented that the board needs to do more research on the municipal entitlements. There are several maps showing what areas that the borough has preselected and those selections will have a direct impact to the Kenai River Special Management Area.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Board Comments**-none

- B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting** March 14, 2013, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

**If you would like to tele-conference the meeting the number is 714-2471**



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