

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

Thursday March 13,, 2014

5:30 p.m.

Gilman River Center  
Soldotna, AK

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Brenda Trefon, Carol Padgett, Andrew Szczesny, Ted Wellman, Keith Baxter, Brent Johnson, Jack Blackwell and Tim Stevens. Bobbie Jo Kolodziejski was telephonic.
- B. Minutes Approval:** Joe Connors added House Bill 148 under old business. The agenda was approved as written.
- C. Agenda Changes and Approval-**Approved as written.

- II. Public Comments/Presentations:** Dennis Randa presented the board with a two page summary on Kenai River Chinook salmon. Dennis stated that the data suggest that the harvest pressure placed upon these main stem Chinook salmon has severely reduced the production of salmon in the area below Skilok Creek. Dennis proposed that sanctuaries be placed throughout the river. Dennis referenced that this information was submitted by ADF&G (Adam Reimer) RIR 2A13-06 Migratory Timing and Distribution of Kenai River King Salmon, 2010-2013.

**III. REPORTS**

**A. Agency and Government Reports:**

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

- 1. State parks are continuing to work on the operational plan for Eagle Rock SRA. Parks is planning to install a new concrete toilet later this summer.
- 2. The college is currently having the first 2014 Kenai River Guide academy class. There were 22 attendees and Jack thanked all those instructors and volunteers that help to make the class a success.

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

- 1. The FY14 Department of Environment Conservation grants have been awarded. Two in the Kenai Area went to the Kenai Watershed Forum to continue the Kenai River beach sampling program and compile a report of water sampling data from 2007-2014.
- 2. The 2014 Integrated report should be available in April.

**c. ADF&G** –No Report

**d. USFS/Chugach**–Bobbie Jo Kolodziejski provided the board members with the following report:

- 1. The Russian River draft fish waste management plan will be available on May 1, 2014.
- 2. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the Stream Watch program. They will be several special celebrations celebrating this occasion.
- 3. The Chugach Forest service is currently assessing the Campground entrance at the Russian River campground area. The road is currently eroding away the road; a stabilization plan is being drafted.

**e. US F&WS-** No Report

**f. City of Kenai** –No Report

**g. City of Soldotna** –No Report

**h. Kenai Peninsula Borough-** Brent Johnson provided the board members with the following report:

- 1. The Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly board is currently discussing cutting the Kenai Peninsula College funding for 2015.



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Kenai Peninsula Borough, 144 N. Binkley, Soldotna, AK 99669 907-262-4441  
Gilman River Center 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, AK 99669, 907-260-4882  
Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough



### C. Committee Reports

- a. **President's Report**-Joe Connors asked that all committee chairs have agenda items to Pam Russell the Friday before the regular schedules board meeting.
- b. **Guide Advisory**-Joe Connors reported that a short Guide Advisory meeting was held. Member Mark Glassmaker asked State Park if having a school program to help clean up the Kenai River would be an allowable activity. Jack Blackwell and Pam Russell both agreed that this would be allowed with a possible waiver for liability. Mark will work on details to move the project forward  
The committee also discussed a proposal that would limit the number of Kenai River Commercial Guide operators on the Kenai River.
- c. **Habitat** –Brent Johnson reported that the committee discussed that the 2014 DEC Integrated report that should be available in April. The committee also looked at the compliance of structures along the river. Several structures along the river have been built but are currently not being maintained and are out of compliance with the permits that were issued.
- d. **River Use**- Carol Padgett reported that the River Use committee met jointly with the Guide Advisory committee. State Park's Lucy Baranko and Rys Maranda gave a presentation in the updated plans for the Bing's Landing back line access and parking lot improvements and the Kasilof Boat launch area. The meetings were well attended by the public and committee members. One s  
  
The committee also looked at the placement of toilets on the lower and middle river and provided staff with input on location and other considerations
- e. **Legislative/Government Activities** –No Report
- f. **Board Development/ Nomination** – No Report
- g. **Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping** -No Report

### IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion about revising the Kenai River Special Management Plan-Jack Blackwell explained that State Parks is currently revising the Kachemak Bay State/Wilderness park plans. This plan will take approximately 3 years two complete. Planners typically work on one state park plan at a time. The board would like to see the department revise the KRSMA plan and start work on this soon.
2. House Bill No. 148; Stampede State Recreation Area. The Northern Area Alaska State Parks Citizen board is seeking support in creating the Stampede area into a State Recreation Area.  
The board discussed this proposal and determined that it would support the Northern Area board. In the future, the board would like more time to evaluate these types of proposals and it would be helpful to have a representative from the sponsoring advisory board available to ask questions.

### V. NEW BUSINESS: None

### VI. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

### VII. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. **Board Comments**
- B. The board discussed trying to improve communications with the KRSMA agencies. Joe will contact agency members and discuss ways of improving communication with the agencies.
- C. **Date/Agenda of Next Meeting: April 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.**