

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, November 8th, 2012
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Members Present:** Joe Connors, Carol Padgett, George Heim, David Carey, Andrew Szczesny, Teri Carter, Brent Johnson, Janet Schmidt, Andy Loranger, Bobbie Jo Kolodziejki, Robert Begich, Time Stevens, Jack Blackwell and Brenda Trefon (on phone).
- B. Minutes Approval** was approved as written
- C. Agenda** changes include under public comment/presentations Andy Szczesny will give a presentation on the Upper Cook Inlet King Salmon Task Force and under new business the election of officer for the 2012-2013 board session and Jim Richardson to give information about the City of Kenai Comprehensive Plan update about changing land designations from rural to multi-use. The agenda was approved as amended.

- II. Public Comments/Presentations-** Andy Szczesny gave a brief explanation of how the Alaska Board of Fishing is putting together a task to identify a set of recommended adjustments to the Kenai Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan that would result in the best mix of in-river (sport, guided sport, personal use) and Upper Sub district set gill net fishing opportunity while providing the best means of attaining the escapement goal for Kenai River Late-Run Chinook Salmon during times of low King Salmon abundance as experienced in the 2012 season. The task force will consist of 10 members, Co chaired by Members Webster and Kluberton, three members will be Upper Sub district Set Gillnet fishers; one Drift fishers; two sports fishers; one sports guide; and , one a personnel use (dip net) fisher. The first task force meeting will be at the Kenai Peninsula College on November 16, 2012 at 8am until 5pm. Public is welcome. The recommendations will be based on the science.

III. REPORTS

A. Agency and Government Reports

- a. State Parks-** Jack Blackwell first congratulated the members that have been re-appointed to the board Joe Connors, Teri Carter and Brenda Trefon. After the 2012 flooding event this fall State Parks staff did a take a look at all the parks and even with the high water levels the Kenai River parks facilities only sustained minor damage. A large amount of the damage was sustained at the State Park southern facilities. The September storms hit the beaches facilities at Ninilchik, Deep Creek, Anchor River and also several trails at Diamond Creek and several Kachemak Bay State Park. State Parks is currently assessing the damage.
- Other items discussed in committees were the Mandatory boater's education requirement. This has not had any movement at the State level and we are looking how to move forward with this recommendation at this time.
- Jack is currently working with the River Use committee on a draft set of guidelines on recommendation on future closures of the Kenai River during high water event and also to have some guidelines when working with stakeholders such as the city and borough governments when a possible closure may be decided.
- Pam just gave a brief overview of an e-mail and a section of the City of Kenai comprehensive plan. Jim Richardson was to give a brief presentation on the phone about the change from the land designation from rural to multi-use. This was postponed until next meeting.
- b. DEC-** Tim Stevens stated that he will have a presentation on turbidity at the December meeting. At this time the department is working on actions to be taken on priority waters with possible impairments. Other than the beach grant where they collect water samples during the dip net fisheries, there are no other action for the Kenai River. Hydro carbons will not be collected for the 2013 season.
- c. ADF&G-** Robert Begich no Report
- d. USF&WS-** Andy Loranger commented that Rick Johnson is retiring and they will be having a party for him on December 2012 at the Kenai Merit inn. Janet Schmidt also added that that Pam Ables, Bill Larned and Claire Cauldes is retiring and a party will be held on November 30, 2012 at 4:30 pm at the Gilman River Center. Andy commented that they will be filling the position.
- e. USFS/Chugach-** Bobbie Jo Kolodziejki asked if the membership list could be sent electronically. She will be gone both December and January and will try to participate by tele-conference. The Russian River Interagency Meeting was held on November 5, 2012, the action plan is completed as far as the committee can get it. There are some last minute details such as



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



a cover letter and then the plan will be sent to the executives for review. Many agencies are glad to see a draft final after two years of work. It should be presented for public comment in the future.

- f. **City of Kenai**- Was not present
- g. **City of Soldotna**- Was not present
- h. **Kenai Peninsula Borough**- Brent Johnson stated that he has nothing to report. He attended the anadromous stream 21.18 task force meeting. He stated that the task force had presentation from members of the science community. Brent believes that the scientific information will be helpful when the task force make a recommendation for the 21.18 ordinance. The main issues are that some concern citizens would like to see the most recent addition to 21.18 is removed and the assembly should reconsider the complete process.

B. Committee Reports

- a. **President's Report**-Joe Connors commented that he was great to have a full board and that the level of participation by everyone is very encouraging including those that are attending the committee meeting. Joe stated that this board passes a mandatory boating safety program and as of last year we thought the recommendation was moving forward and it appears as if the state is ready to move forward at this time. The committees are going to work on how to move this recommendation forward.
- b. **Guide Advisory**-Joe Connors stating that they had a great turnout and that they first point of business was to review the Kenai River guide stipulations and to make recommendation for changes to the state for the 2013 season. They group will finalize the guide stipulations packet in December t to be sent to all the Kenai River guides in January. One of the stipulations that were also discussed in the river use committee was the concern about human waste. This is a major concern on the upper portion of the Kenai River with the lack of restrooms. All parties would like to find solutions to this problem. They also looks at citations and if there was any trends and since there was not much of a king fishery but a sockeye fisheries and how the efforts are move to the middle river. As the guiding fishery changes areas, problems and issues slao change. The river closure draft for guidelines is also being discussed in the committee.
- c. **Habitat** –Bruce was not present. A letter in the packet for the support of 21.18 and is asking the board for input for it to move forward. Does the board want to sign on to the letter? Tim recommended we except the letter and Dave second the motion. It was the idea that the ordinance not to be repealed but let the task force follow through with there mission. The board voted and it passed unanimously.
- d. **River Use** –Carol Padgett stated that they had a presentation from AmeriCorps on the issue of human waste and human waste awareness. They explained how they are trying to address the issue and how can it be expanded to the lower part of the river. Bobbie Jo is putting together a brochure for education the public on proper human waste disposal.

There was also discussion about the Mandatory Education and how there is not much traction and would like to talk to Senator Peter Micciche about taking this issue to the legislature for the 2013 session.

Camping issue, Janet stated that the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge CCP recommends moving the camping ¼ mile from the road and 100 yards on all Refuge Land on the Upper River. The question is will this cause more damage.

- e. **Legislative/Government Activities**-Dave commented that the president, superintendent and the vice is the committee and that everyone is invited to participate. Dave commented that he would like to see the mandatory boater's education move forward or develop a pro-active boater's education program. People may accept it easier than something that is mandatory. A legislative session is 2 years long and that things are presented this year and then acted on the following things. We should also try to get items placed on the governor's budget. We as a board can go out of our way to strongly say things such as we need more money, needed education, funding for the position, tackling deferred maintenance for those items that have been on the list over ten years past due, and the to continue to resolve the issue with Bing's Landing and support 21.18 as a board.

Dave stated that member of the board should not speak for the board without the permission of the President Joe Connors, vice President Dave Carey and Superintendent Jack Blackwell.

- f. **Board Development** –No report
- g. **Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping** –No report

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- V. **NEW BUSINESS**-Board Election. Dave Carey moved to keep the same board in place. George second the motion. The board voted unanimously, so the board will remain the same.

Jim Richardson was not available at the 6:30 time. Carol recommended that we all read and look at it in the future.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE -none

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Board Comments
- B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting December 13th, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.



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