

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, March 10, 2016
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center
Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Brendyn Shiflea, Keith Baxter, Dwight Kramer, Monte Roberts, Andrew Carmichael, Brent Johnson, Andy Loranger, Robert Begich and Jack Blackwell.
- B. **Minutes:** The minutes were not approved because we did not have a quorum.
- C. **Agenda:** Approved as written.

II. Public Comments-No Comments

III. REPORTS

1. Agency and Government Reports:

1. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:

- The governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2017 included a \$36,000 cut to the state parks budget. That would eliminate a permitting officer in the Anchorage office and an administration position in Kodiak. The legislature is currently working on the budget and the House has proposed a \$328,000 cut. That is an unallocated cut do that leaves it up to the department on what cuts to make. The Senate has restored the cut for one year.. No final decision has been made.
- Brendyn ask what percentage to the park budget is that and Jack did not know.

2. DEC-Jeanne Swartz provided the board with the following report:

- The attainment determination for the Kenai River for metals and ph has been submitted to EPA. Unless there are any problems or concerns they generally accept the report. Any changes would then go in at the next integrated report is approved, which is in 2016 or 2018. No report on turbidity. Monte asked for clarification of the report that was submitted to EPA. Jeanne said that there are a number of regulated pollutants for waters. For the last 14 years, the Kenai Watershed Forums has surveyed water quality twice of year. Monte asked what pollutants of concerns was DDEC looking for in the report? Jeanne said the report looked at cadmium, arsenic, lead and ph were not at levels of concern.

3. ADF&G – Robert Begich provided the board members with the following report:

- The Board of Fish proposal for the winter 2017 meeting is due on Monday April 11, 2016.
- The department is not looking at making any changes to the management plan. They are looking at simplifying the regulation such as combining dates for different aspects of the river. Change up to 29 regulations. Adding two additional habitat closure and some boundaries changes.
- Monte said the statewide board meeting was just completed and asked if there were any changes that may affect the Kenai? Robert stated the only change was the definition concerning fly fishing only waters. Beads will be allowed in front of the hook in fly fishing only areas.

4. USF&WS- Andy Loranger provided the board members with the following report:

- The Environmental Assessment report for the Russian River elevated walkway and bank restoration is out for public comment until March 26, 2016. The Refuge is currently gathering funding to complete



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



some repair work and the walkways in the Moose Range Meadow area off of Keystone Drive. This is possible a late summer project.

5. USFS/Chugach National Forest-No Report
6. City of Kenai- No Report
7. City of Soldotna- Andrew Carmichael provided the board members with the following report.
 - The City is currently working on the walkway that connects the Centennial Campground with the Soldotna Visitor Center.
 - The city is also working on some vegetation management at the Soldotna Creek Park.
8. Kenai Peninsula Borough- No Report

2. Committee Reports

- President's Report-No Report
- Guide Advisory –Monte Roberts provided the board members with the following report:

The guide committee discussed the following items:

- The committee discussed guide citations for 2015 including relevant suspensions. The committee also received a report from Ranger Kosto on guide citations/suspensions for the past three seasons. It was a pretty contentious meeting. There appears to be a section under Fish and Game statute AS 16 that does not allow for a suspension to guides if they are cited. Under state park regulations there is a provision to cite a guide for violating their permit which can result in not only in a citation but a suspension. The committee will continue to work on this.
- Habitat –Did Not Meet
- River Use –Dwight Kramer provided the board members with the following report:
 - Dwight reported that the committee has still not received any response from the Dept. of Law on the proposed questions.
 - Kenai River Easements – Mark Fink, Holly Zafian, Jeff Breakfield and Pam Russell gave a presentation of the section line easement and road right of way accesses along the Kenai River. It was more for information about the ramifications as the uses and restrictions what is appropriate for use and what is not.
 - Working on what agencies would be appropriate and what type of data gathering would be useful for such things as boat count data, shore anglers counts and access areas on the upper river. Timeline for when the data should be collect such as June 11 through August 31. Looking at ways to get this data. Letter to the agencies of methodology to collect some of the data this year.
 - Continue work on guide limit proposal, running out of the time and can move forward until they receive the decision from the department of law
- Legislative/Government Activities-Did not meet.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **River Ranch Update.** Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
 - Jack first of all thank the board for submitting their time and work on the process and for submitting their recommendation. Jack was pleased to announce that concept one was selected which was conservation concept with vegetation work along the riparian zone. The process was a learning experience for all. State Parks will be considering applying for EVOS funding for the revegetation work.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Advisory Board Recruitment -Jack provided the board with the following report:

- The applications for the board are due on March 31, 2016. Board members who terms expired Ted Wellman, Keith Baxter and Clayton Holland.

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE** – The board sent letters to the legislature and would like to encourage the state to consider new revenue sources to support Alaska State Park operations. Some of the revenue sources included the sale of merchandise, establish a sockeye stamp, and to allow Parks to sell merchandise to increase revenue.

VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

VIII. **AJOURNMENT**

B. Board Comments Keith Baxter commented that there is a report that was sent to him concerning the waste water treatment plant from Rick Koch. If anyone would like the report Keith would be happy to send it to them. Jeanne attended the public meeting concerning the Kasilof Area public parking down by the mouth of the river. She complemented the Division of Mining, Land, and Water and the contractor on the meeting and left with all of her questions answered.

