

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, February 9, 2017
5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center
514 Funny River Rd. Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Keith Baxter, Ricky Gease, William Tappan, Dwight Kramer, Monte Roberts, Ted Wellman, Brendyn Shiflea, Andrew Carmichael, Matt Kelley, Matt Connors, Andy Loranger, Brian Marston, Jack Blackwell and Marion Glaser.
- B. **Minutes:** Approved as written.
- C. **Agenda:** Ted Wellman added under Committee Reports add the letter H; an Ad hoc committee for the Cooper Landing Bypass. Under Old business Resolution 2017-02 Boating Safety/Obtaining and Cataloging Statistical Boating Accident/Injury Information on the Kenai River. Under New Business B. Letter of Appreciation to Ben Ellis an item C discussion about the Ninilchik Tribal council upcoming meeting for in river subsistence net on February 24th, 2017. The agenda was approved as amended.

II. **Public Comments:** Matt Conner gave a brief presentation on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

III. REPORTS

1. Agency and Government Reports:

a. State Parks

Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:

- Jack welcomed thanked Matt Connors and Andy Loranger for hosting the February meeting of the Kenai River Special Management Area Board Meeting.
- Ben Ellis is no longer serving as Director of Alaska State Parks. Ben started his position in 2011 and we appreciate his service. Currently, Deputy Director Matt Wedeking is in acting status as Director until a replacement can be appointed.
- A plane crashed near Morgan's Landing State Recreation Area on the Kenai River. Jacques Kosto, Melissa Smith and Dave Engholm were some of the first responders at the crash site and assisted emergency services.
- State Parks staff is currently working on a new regulation packet for the Kenai Area. One proposed regulation is the mandatory life jacket. This is a lengthy process; the first step is to identify the proposed regulations. The next step is a review by the department, which will than need final approval by the Lieutenant Governor.
- We have received the approval to hire the Ranger I position that became vacant when Ranger Don Barber retired.
- Recruitment is still open and we are still accepting application for the three open positions on the KRSMA board.
- Currently, the EVOS Trustee Council is withholding the funds for the Kenai River Flats project until it determines if any ADOT and Federal funds will be awarded for upgrading the parking area along the highway. The project is currently slated to start in 2018.

b. DEC-Jeanne Swartz No report

c. ADF&G –No Report

d. USF&WS- Matt Connor provided the board members with the following report:

- All currently issued Refuge Upper Kenai River guided sport fishing permits expire either in



Kenai Area Office, PO Box 1247, Soldotna, AK 99669, 907-262-5581
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



- e. USFS/Chugach National Forest – Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:
- f. City of Kenai – Matt Kelley provided the board with the following report:
 - The City of Kenai City council will be meeting and there will be three proposal presented for comments on three Board of Fish proposal as follow:
 - PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Amend the area open to dip netting from shore in the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:5 AAC 77.540(c)(1)(D) is amended to read:(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:(1) in the Kenai River, as follows: (D) from shore, in the area from ADF&G regulatory markers located on the Cook Inlet beaches outside the terminus of the river **to a line at the mouth of the Kenai River from No Name Creek on the north shore to an ADF&G regulatory marker on the south Shore**
 - PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Extend season and liberalize the bag limit in the Kenai River personal use fishery when the sonar estimate is projected to exceed 1.2 million sockeye salmon, as follows: **When the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement can be projected to exceed 1,200,000 fish, the Commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Kenai River personal use dip net season through August 10, and the Kenai River personal use limit may be increased by 10 salmon. During August all king salmon must be immediately released.**
 - PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 77.540 Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Extend the boundary of the Kenai River personal use dip net boat fishery upstream to Cunningham Park, as follows: Extend the Kenai River personal use boat fishery farther upstream (to Cunningham Park).
- g. City of Soldotna- Andrew Carmichael provided the board members with the following report:
 - The city will start to install 600 feet of new trail at Centennial campground that will be considered the back loop to the already existing trail. The purpose of this new loop is to help keep public off the main entrance road to the park.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough- No Report

2. Committee Reports

- a. President’s Report-Ted Wellman provided the board members with the following report: Keith Baxter contacted Ted and asked if he could be relieved of his duty as chair of the Habitat committee. Ted asks the board if anyone else was willing to chair the Habitat committee. No board member came forward; Keith agreed to continue as chair until May.
- b. Guide Advisory –
- c. Habitat –No Report
- d. River Use –
- e. Legislative/Government Activities
- f. Cooper Landing Bypass-Joe Connors provided the board with the following report: The president asked Joe to

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. KRSMA Resolution 2017-02- Ricky made the motion that the board passes the resolution 2017-02/obtaining and cataloging statistical boating accident/injury information on the Kenai River. The resolution requests State Parks to consult with other agencies and municipalities to adopt procedures that will improve the coordination, collection and consolidations of boating accident/injury reporting on the Kenai River. Ricky Gease made the motion to approve resolution 2017/02, Joe Connors seconds the motion. The board approved unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- VI. CORRESPONDENCE:
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
- VIII. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENT
- IX. AJOURNMENT



Kenai Area Office, PO Box 1247, Soldotna, AK 99669, 907-262-5581
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

