

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, January 11, 2018

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, William Tappan, Monte Roberts, Ricky Gease, Keith Baxter, Glenn Arundell, Andrew Carmichael, Lisa Gabriel, Brent Hibbert, Matt Connors, Marion Glaser (via tele-conference), Brian Marston, Jack Blackwell and Jeanne Swartz.
- B. **Minutes:** Approved as written.
- C. **Agenda:** The agenda was amended to add under new business the letter to DEC and the Anchor Buoy regulation. Agenda was approved as amended.
- D. **Public Comment/Presentation:** Joe Hanes gave public comment regarding the tides on the Kenai River. This information was in reference to the turbidity in the lower section of the Kenai River.

II. REPORTS

1. Agency and Government Reports:

- a. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:
 - Board member Brendyn Shiflea has resigned from the board. Brendyn has moved to Anchorage and is unable to attend the meetings.
 - Jack also reported that the Governor's 2019 budget was announced in December and there is no change to the Alaska State Park budget.
 - Recruitment for upcoming terms expiring on the KRSMA advisory board will start on January 15, 2018. The recruitment will be open until the end of March.
 - The permit was issued to the City of Kenai/Chamber of Commerce for the second annual Silver Salmon Derby.
 - The board packets include the 2018 Kenai River commercial operator statistics. These reports are available upon request.
- b. DEC-Jeanne Swartz provided the board with the following report:
 - DEC is required to report on the condition of Alaska's waters, in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. The Integrated Report categorizes waterbodies in Alaska to meet the reporting requirements for the Section 305(b) report list of impaired waters. The Integrated Report helps the State prioritize waters for data gathering, watershed protection, and restoration of impaired waters. DEC collects water quality information through a public solicitation and through a year-round waterbody nomination process. Information is assessed by a multi-agency process called Alaska Clean Water Actions. Based on this assessment, a waterbody is categorized in the Integrated Report in one of five categories. Currently a segment of the Kenai River is proposed for listing under section 303(d) for not meeting turbidity standards.
 - The 2014/2016 draft integrated water quality monitoring and assessment report is posted on line: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/.aspx>



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



Written comments are due by 5:00 PM on January 29, 2018. A public informational meeting was held January 4, 2018 at 4:00 PM at the DEC office in Anchorage at 555 Cordova Street.

- DEC is currently working on the 2018 integrated report is scheduled to be completed by April 2018. The process is different from the past report, as for the process is a little more automated.
 - DEC will be doing bacteria monitoring at the Kenai River beach area located at the mouth of the river. With new guidelines put in place by the City of Kenai in managing these areas, DEC is hoping to find a reduction in the bacteria levels. The testing will occur between May through August.
- c. ADF&G-Brian Marston provided the board with the following report:
- Assistant Sportfish manager Jason Pawluk has taken a new position in Sitka, Alaska.
 - The King Salmon pre-season estimate should be available in late February.
- d. USF&WS-Andy Loranger provided the board members with the following report:
- The Chili cook out/ holiday open house at the Refuge Visitor Center on Saturday December 16, 2017 was a great success and was very well attended.
 - The Refuge staff is currently working on the competitive commercial operator application for guided sport fishing and scenic tours on the upper Kenai River. Once the ranking is completed the panel will send this on for final approval. There will be 19 upper river fishing guides and 9 scenic raft trips.
- e. USFS/Chugach National Forest –Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:
- Chugach National Forest is currently getting ready to start work on the Russian River entrance, contact station and exit overflow parking area. Work is scheduled to start in April 2018.
 - The staff is currently getting ready for 2018 summer seasonal hire.
- f. City of Kenai – No Report
- g. City of Soldotna – No Report
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough- Brent Hibbert provided the board with the following report:
- The Borough Assembly is currently scheduled to meet with the Kenai Peninsula School district. One topic of discussion will be the 2018/2019 budget.

2. Committee Reports

- a. President's Report-No Report
- b. Guide Advisory –Bill Tappan provided the board with the following report:
- There was a joint meeting between the Guide, Habitat, Legislative and River Use committee from 10:00 PM to 12:00 PM. This meeting was to discuss the 2014/2016 draft integrated water quality monitoring and assessment report.
 - The committee worked on the draft language for the anchor buoy regulation. The change included the amount of time someone can leave the buoy unattended, the

proposed time was changed from 20 minutes to 45 minutes. The changes also included the reason for leaving the buoy unattended.

- The committee also discussed violation trends for the 2017 season. There were 8 Kenai River guide violations, which is down from the previous year.
- 2018 Kenai River Fishing Guide stipulations were reviewed and there were no changes.

c. Habitat -Keith Baxter provided the board with the following report:

- There was a joint meeting between the Guide, Habitat, Legislative and River Use committee form 10:00 PM to 12:00 PM. This meeting was to discuss the 2014/2016 draft integrated water quality monitoring and assessment report.

d. River Use –William Tappan provided the board with the following report:

- There was a joint meeting between the Guide, Habitat, Legislative and River Use committee form 10:00 PM to 12:00 PM. This meeting was to discuss the 2014/2016 draft integrated water quality monitoring and assessment report.
- The committee discussed that there are no fees when obtaining your dip net permit. There was considerable discussion of the pro and cons of charging a fee.
- The committee also discussed a Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Stamp. Should a stamp be available to just those that fish on the Kenai River or to the whole Kenai Peninsula? The committee would like to meet with Ricky Gease and discuss some of the legal hurdles for such a stamp.

e. Legislative/Government Activities-Ricky Gease provided the board with the following report:

- Ricky along with Ted Wellman and Joe Connors attended the DEC public meeting in Anchorage regarding the 2014/2016 draft integrated water quality monitoring and assessment report.
- The sockeye stamp is currently just an idea in draft concept.
- Ricky is currently working with the Salmon Fellows organization. There are several ongoing projects and one is to see if salmon values are integrated into the Kenai Peninsula Borough management plan and if so in what ways. This will be used as a pilot program to look at other management plans and how salmon values are integrated.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Comment letter to DEC regarding the draft Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment report- Joe Connors provided the board with the following report:

- Throughout the day several committees and members of the public discussed bullet points to be compiled into a letter that would be sent to ADEC regarding the 2014/2016 draft integrated water quality monitoring and assessment report. The report recommends listing a segment of the Kenai River for the Section 305(b) report list of impaired waters. Comments are due by January 29, 2018, which falls before the next advisory board meeting in February.
- A copy of the letter will be sent to all board members via email and will also be available at the next meeting.



- b. Proposed regulation for anchor buoy unattended in the Kenai River Special Management Area.

Monte made a motion to change the current buoy regulation to the following language:

The proposed regulations: A person may leave an anchor buoy unattended for no more than 45 minutes, but may not leave an anchor buoy unattended to add to the number of occupants or change occupants after the anchor buoy was initially set.

The board passed the motion unanimously.

- V. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Jim Richardson submitted a letter of comment concerning a gravel pit processed he participated in within the City of Kenai. He is recommending the board work closely with the City on the new proposal to have ponds that require removing several yards of gravel along the Kenai River.

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

VII. **BOARD MEMBERS COMMENT**

VIII. **AJOURNMENT**