

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2018

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call: Board Members: Aron Peterson, Nancy Hilstrand (Chairman), Mako Haggerty, Glenn Green, Beaver Nelson, Carol Harding, Stan Lefton, Lindsay Wolter, Sera Baxter, Jonathan Sharp, Robert Archibald, Robert Ostrom, and Kevin Walker. State Park staff – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly, Pam Russell and Eric Clarke.
- b. Public Members: Dave Brann, Janet Klein, Gary Fandrei, Hig Higman, Ed Berg, Brent Johnson, John Elderlies, Robert Rob, Roberta Highland, Neil Wagner and Ross Homberg.

2. Minutes: Approved as written

3. Agenda Changes/Approval: Nancy added under Committee Reports the report from Dave Brann on the Eveline SRA. The agenda was approved as amended.

4. Public Comment/Presentation: Hig Higman from Groundtruth Trekking gave a presentation about the Backdoor Trail and the Waterfall Overlook Trail Extension that is safer and gets folks out of the salt grass. He also presented some findings on possible safety issues at the Grewink Glacier. He also showed up the Kachemak Bay State park map that he has been working on.

5. Correspondence:

6. A. Committee Reports- Staff gave the following update:

a. Eric Clarke reported to the board the following:

- The 2018 trail crews are all done for the season except for one person who will be done on September 15th.
- The crews worked on the Lagoon trail, they worked on a two-mile section between Alpine Ridge to Halibut Creek Flats. This included brushing, retread places, and rerouted an area that went through a bog and took large logs and trees off the trail. Towards the Alpine Ridge side of the trail were several steep alignments, so the crew rerouted the area and put in some switch backs.
- The crews completed around 2600 feet of reroutes on the trails in Kachemak Bay.
- At the junction of Alpine Ridge and Lagoon trail has changed a little. It was moved about six feet. This should be a better place for people to walk.
- This season brought a lot of bear sightings in the Park.
- Trails Day was a great success for 2018. This included a group of people on the Saddle Trail completed some finish work and some other odds and ends to the reroute that was completed last year. South Grace Ridge, China Poot Lake and Sadie Knob Trails the volunteers did some logging out and brushing the trails. There was also some work completed on the trail on Chugachik Island from the campsite to the backside of the island.
- The trail work parties were also a great success. The parties were as large as 8 people and most of the work was on the South Grace Trail removing alders and retreading places where the trail had completely sloughed away. The mowing of the grass on this trail will have to happen every

year. Some additional mowing of the grass on the China Poot and Saddle trail were also completed.

- A Boy Scout group worked on the Coalition Loop Trail. They did some logging, taking trees out and some brushing during the month of May. State Park staff is hoping that the club will adopt that trail and continue to work on the trail every year.
- The Moose Valley Bridge has been installed beginning of August.
- An RTP grant was applied for to complete work on the Saddle Trail. The bid process has been completed and a Trail work, a company from Wasilla has won the bid. The company should be able to start the work sometime next year.
- The Bike Club has been making some improvements to the work that had been completed last year, maintenance such as pulling roots, trees and putting turns in places. Derek did have his brush hog stolen from the area and has filed a police report.
- Six volunteers from the AmeriCorps Vista Program came down from Anchorage and worked on the Saddle Trail. They removed some logs from the existing trail and brushed several of the areas.
- Some miscellaneous trail work was brushing South Grace, China Poot Lake and North Grace, Sadie Knob Trail from Otter Cove the crews cleared a lot of grass and debris along the trail.
- State Park volunteers worked on brushing out to the Moose Valley Cabin. This is from Halibut Cove Lagoon Cabin to West Cabin.
- China Poot Trail is experiencing some flooding, the creek that flows out of Moose Valley into China Poot Lake has changed course and is now by the Tillion Cabin. Until the creek has found a more define channel flooding will continue to happen. With this flooding, the Park staff is considering a reroute of the trail to a higher slope.
- Jason and Eric went out and looked at some possible new bridge sites in the park. One may be at Halibut Creek which would be a 150-foot-long clear span bridge. Eric and Jason are looking at other spots up in the canyon.
- Eric has asked the board for a letter of support for a new RTP grant application he will be submitting to work on improving the China Poot Lake trail. This may include a new bridge in one area and repairing an existing bridge, removing some stumps, retreading areas and some reroutes in areas.

The board approved the letter of support for Eric's grant proposals.

Mako Haggerty noted that the trailhead sign at Glacier Spit is often hard to see. State Parks said they would place a new dead spruce that has been peeled and place it as the marker.

Jason Oukly reported to the board the following:

- There have been several bear issues in the park. The Grewingk Valley Trail was closed for 3 of 4 days because the bears were being aggressive to visitors.

Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:

- Homer Electric power line that runs along Stonehocker Creek has flooded the area. The flooding has impacted the integrity of the powerline, some poles have fallen over. State Parks and HEA are working together to come up with some solutions to help protect their structure.

b. Friend's Report- Mako Haggerty reported to the board the following:

- The Friends had a booth at the Salmon Fest. This was to promote awareness of the park.
- Firewood sales at the harbor were very brisk this year with a total of \$1268 dollars sold. That covered the cost of buying the firewood.
- There is \$17,000 in the bank. The board is currently looking at ways to help the park with this money.
- Public Lands Day. This is a celebration of the volunteers and board members that help on the trails of Kachemak Bay State Park. This event will be held at the Water Trail pavilion out on the Homer Spit from 2 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, September 22, 2018
- Mako Thanked Christina Whiting for her work as the volunteer coordinator. That is a very important job for State Parks.
- The Friends group is signed up for the Pick, Click, Give campaign on line. When you sign up for your Alaska Permanent Fund check you can donate to the Friends of Kachemak Bay group.
- Robert Archibald said the Friends is currently slated to receive \$1700.00 dollars from Pick, Click Give.

c. Eveline State Recreation Area report Dave Brann reported to the board the following:

- Through the Friends and Water Trail group has adopted three places, Cottonwood Creek, Kayak Beach and Chugachik Island. The groups maintain these areas for Alaska State Parks, Chugachik Island they have developed some campsites, tent platforms and a trail across the island.
- Dave also presented the board with the 2019 Eveline State Recreation Site report. This area is maintained by the Kachemak Bay Nordic Ski Club that has a Memoranda of Agreement with State Parks. The report includes 339 volunteer's hours recorded, expenses for the year, donations, events, and much more. A copy of the report is available upon request.

7. Old Business

a. Kachemak Bay Management Plan update- Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:

- The Kachemak Bay Draft Management plan is scheduled to be released for public comment on Wednesday September 19, 2018. It will be open for a 30-day public comment period. Commissioner Andy Mack is tentatively scheduled to come down to Kachemak Bay on October 10, the regular scheduled advisory board meeting. This document will be the guidance for managing Kachemak State Park for the next 20 years.

Nancy Hilstrand asked how the public comment period can be lengthened from 30 days to 90 days. Jack Blackwell recommended a letter to the Commissioner.

Robert Archibald made a motion that the board send a letter to the Commissioner requesting that the comment period be extended from 30 days to 90 days. Mako seconds the motions. The motion passed unanimously.

The draft plan will be available in paper copy at the Homer Public Library and Island and Ocean Visitor Center and will be available on line for review. State Parks will send out the public notice information for everyone to find the link the draft plan on-line.

They? The board? decided to write a letter asking for an extension for the review of the draft management plan and to also ask for hard copies for all board members and key locations to review.

8. New Business

- a. A report from Fish and Game regarding the Cost recovery program-Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:

At the last meeting, a discussion about the hatchery and several questions came up at the September meeting and Fish and Game gave the following response:

How many seiners are there common property user? 20 seiners and they harvested approximately 140 thousand pink salmon were harvested in the Tutka Bay sub district. Also included was 8 set net users that harvested approximately 40 thousand pink salmon in the Tutka Bay sub district. The question as to how many boats participate in the cost recovery program? Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) typically puts the bid out for cost recovery in the late fall or early spring. Typically, several processors will bid on the opportunity to harvest these fish using CIAA's permit. The processor with the highest bid that is awarded this contract then assigns the task of harvesting these fish to a fishing boat with gear that is legal to fish salmon in the state of Alaska. This boat does not have to be a boat that is currently being used to commercially harvest salmon in Alaska, nor does the vessel captain must be a permit holder for salmon in that area (or anywhere else in Alaska). Let me know if you need further clarification. Another question was what percentage is caught by who. He referred us to the **Who else harvests Tutka's pink salmon outside of Tutka Bay?**

Pink salmon from the Tutka sub-district are likely found in most sub-districts outside of the Tutka sub-district to varying degrees dependent on location and timing of harvest.

How do they harvest Tutka's pink salmon – set, drift, purse and what percentage of each?

Set gillnet and purse seine. Percentages of hatchery pink salmon found in samples in 2017 can be found in the LCI Annual Management Report, appendix F. This report can be downloaded from the state website, <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR17-26.pdf>

How may pinks do these other harvest methods collect?

Tables 1-5 of the Lower Cook Inlet Annual Management Report addresses this, <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/FMR17-26.pdf>

Do you know if water marked pink still sell?

Yes, they do.

Mako asked if there was more information about who uses the fishery? That was not available because that question was not asked.

9. Comments and Discussion by Visitors

10. Comments and Discussion by Board Members:

Aron commented that at Mile 16.7 of East End Road there is going to be an RTP grant submitted for access to the area. This included a parking lot 50 x 50 and a drive way access that is 400 feet long. If approved the monies would be available in Spring 2019 and the money needs to be spent first before reimbursement would occur. A letter of support is also being requested from the board.

Mako thanked everyone that came down from Soldotna for the meeting. We do have a bear problem in the park, but we also have a people problem. This is due to an increase in visitors and the concentration as to where visitors can go. There needs to be more trails in the park to disperse the people in more areas. The other things is that the camping areas are getting trashed out do to the high volume of visitor use. Mako would like more education as to pack out what you pack in. CIAA dumping fish in the fishing hole of Tutka bay is destroying the area and would like to see it dumped in a different area.

Robert Archibald commented that there is an educational component for the users of the Kachemak Bay State Park. This year we seem to have a high volume of users in the area. Robert is also disappointed that there is not a better program to dispose of the carcasses from the CIAA hatchery. There should be a permitting process to control the dumping.

Beaver Nelson commented that back in the day users stated that there has always been a dead zone in Sadie Cove but that when they trawl Tutka Bay there was no dead zone and they were very successful.

Nancy commented that is the concern is that with dumping the fish in Tutka Bay could cause a dead zone in the area. It is a matter of doing things right.

Sera the big boats that fish pollock and crab offshore have strict regulations as to how far they must stay off shore and what kind of dumping they can do. Why are these regulations not the same for the CIAA hatchery?

Stan Lefton the pressure to increase the fish production at CIAA hatchery and management needs to be able to handle those fish.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting: October 10, 2018 at 5:30p.m.