

Kachemak Bay State Parks Board Meeting
Advisory Board Minutes
January 14, 2015
5:30 pm

1. **Members Present:** Willy Dunne, Steve Schultz, Dave Taylor, Lindsay Wolter, Beaver Nelson, Nancy Hillstrand, Stan Lefton, Carol Harding, Mako Haggerty, Glenn Green and Dave Martindale

Staff Present: State Park Superintendent Jack Blackwell, Chief Ranger Roger MacCampbell and Natural Resource Specialist Pam Russell

2. **Changes to Agenda:** Willie Dunn change under old business f to state Board of game proposal 183 and strike item i and f.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:**

- a. Motioned – Mako Haggerty
- b. Second – Stan Lefton
- c. Adopted as amended

4. **Adoption of Minutes:**

- a. Motioned – Beaver Nelson
- b. Second – Nancy Hillstrand
- c. Minutes were approved

5. **Correspondence: None**

6. **Introduction of Visitors:**

- a. Toby Wheeler
- b. Jeff Lee
- c. Janet Klein

7. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Operations Report:

Chief Ranger Roger MacCampbell provided board members with the following operations report.

Some of the highlights of the report included:

1. Diamond Creek recreation area is continuing to receive a lot of trash in the area. Board member Willie Dunn picked up several bags of trash. Roger will continue to patrol at late night to see if he can determine to source of the trash.
2. Landing craft is back in the water.
3. Roger presented Libby Vesey and the staff from HOWL with a special certificate of appreciation for all of the work they have contributed to the park of over the years. Mako also added thank for helping with trails day.
4. Rangers Jason Okuly and Jacqui Erion will be back to work on February 1, 2015.
5. Roger will be working with Parks Design and Construction on the new dock design for the Halibut Cove Lagoon SRA. This is being funding with deferred maintenance funding previously appropriated.

Mako Haggerty asked for clarification on what happen to the floating docks that originated from the Homer city dock and were seen across the bay. The docks have been retrieved and will be disposed of properly.

b. Jack Blackwell provided the board members with the following report:

1. Currently Governor Walker moved forward the proposed budget submitted by Governor Parnell with no or little changes. The only significant change the Governor made was that every capital budget project that did not have federal funding was pulled out of the budget. This budget is currently been submitted to the legislature and Governor Walker has to February 18th to turn in his final budget.
2. Jack asked Nancy Hillstrand and Mako Haggerty to submit an application for reappointment to the advisory board. Once the applications are submitted they will be sent to the director for his review.
3. State Park director Ben Ellis will be attending February meeting.
4. The three state park advisory boards in Seward, Valdez and Kachemak Bay sent a joint letter to the governor requesting additional budget for preplacing the three vessels in all three areas. The governor suggested that all three boards work with their local legislators to advocate for projects in their area. The Seward advisory board will be sending a letter to their local legislators.
5. Jack thanked Willie for the first day hike and the cleanup at Diamond creek.

c. Friends Report

Mako provided Board members with the following report:

1. Mako reported that the balance of the account is \$7500.00. There was a meeting on Monday for the friends of Kachemak Bay group and on Tuesday there was a meeting for the trails committee.
2. The committees are currently planning three events: Shorebird festival, friendship walk and the pancake breakfast.
3. The water trails committee is going to have an event, paddling kayaks in Kachemak bay during the shorebird festival which is a fund raiser for the committee.
4. The friends and water trail committee has combined the two groups and there is a lot of energy.
5. 39 people came out for the first day hike at Eveline trail. There were 12 to 16 volunteer hours for this event.

8. Old Business:

- a. Dark Sky –Tabled
- b. Staff funding- Mako Haggerty, Steve Schultz and Lindsay Wolter have started a letter, but asked the question of who it should be sent to. The letter will be address to the Governor Walker. The letter is not going to request money, but just welcome the new administration. The Seward advisory board would like to work with other area advisory to combine letters urging replacement of the park boats. The K Bay letter will welcome the governor and then talk about the value of Kachemak Bay. A second letter to the legislature will talk about the park and then list the priorities for the park such as the boat or trail crew that are needed to maintain the numerous amount of trails in the park. It will point out what the park needs, not what you want! Two letters will be sent to the Governor which will be more appreciative and the one to the legislature is more pointed and direct.
- c. Kachemak Crack-Tabled.
- d. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Permit Application- Tabled until further notice.
- e. New management Plan update-The board ask for an update at the February meeting.
- f. Board of Game proposal 183: Nancy Hillstrand and Willie Dunn have drafted a letter to the Alaska Board of Game in regards to designating Kachemak Bay as a Special Management Area within the game management unit which would aid in balancing consumptive use for wildlife with wildlife viewing. Dave Lyons, the chair of the local fish and game advisory committee, recommended that someone from the Homer fish and game advisory committee should be present to the give the background and answer any questions the board may have. Dave also recommended that the board just recommends the special

management area and should refrain at this time from mentioning and hunting regulations. Simplify the letter. Get it change into the management area first. Dave Lyons recommended using Chugach State Park as an example.

The board would like to simplify it to just recommend the special management area, and then at a later date propose additional regulations.

The board recommends that the committee get together and rewrite the letter and pass it through the board and Dave Lyons.

- g. Trail Plan working group/committee. Lindsay Wolter reported that the committee met before the holidays and looked at the trails across the bay. The group drew on a map where they would like to see new trails and ranked the trails on a scale from one to five, with one as rustic all the way to five which is paved. Nobody wanted to change the existing trails but would like to add to the existing trails or create new long terms hiking trails. The board suggested working with Fish and Game when trails are recommended to not to impact the wildlife.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22 for trails on the Homer side.

This information will be due by February 2, 2015. The next meeting is January 22, 2015.

- h. Hunting numbers: Ask Dave Lyons to report at February meetings.

9. New Business:

- a. Grewingk Lake-Planes Landing –David Martindale and two people approach him about planes landing on Grewingk Lake. One plane was private and the other was a business plane possible being used as a private trip. This is not allowed by state park regulations. The only lakes open for landing is Leisure, Emerald, China Poot and Hazel.

Pam Russell recommended putting a copy of the regulations in all completed air taxi services commercial operator permit in Kachemak Bay.

- b. Diamond Creek-Willie Dunn asked about the easement at Diamond SAR. Willie proposed a motion to the board to have State Parks to vacate the easement and Nancy second the motions. Currently the road is not lined up with the road across the highway. ADOT is going to upgrade the highway and State parks would like ADOT to put in a parking pad at the top of the hill and align the road with the one across the highway.

The board voted to have state parks to vacate the easement.

It passed unanimously

Comments and Discussion: Jeff asked Roger to write down the history of all the trails in the bay and how they came to be and the future sustainability of the trails.

Jeff asked about Dark Sky and why is being tabled. Nancy commented that Homer needs to start having events to show that they are serious about becoming a dark sky community. Jack Blackwell will have this placed in the management plan.

Nancy will work with Shawana to have this place in the management plan.

Adjournment.