

Kachemak Bay State Parks Board Meeting
Advisory Board Minutes
January 13, 2016
5:30 pm

1. **Members Present:** Glenn Green, Lindsay Wolter, Steve Schultz, Mako Haggerty, Carol Harding, Beaver Nelson and Nancy Hilstrand.

Staff Present: Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell. On the phone was Nevenka Kitanovski from DNR planning department.

2. **Agenda Changes:** The agenda was changed by removing under New Business item C, Commercial Aircraft Operations in Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park. This was postponed until the February meeting. Lindsay added the new boat house at the Homer Harbor for C. The Agenda was approved as amended.
3. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes were approved.
4. **Re-election of Board Members:** (Carol Harding, Stan Lefton, and Lindsay Wolter) It was determined that Stan Lefton and Carol Harding have not submitted applications at this time. A vote for Carol and Stan cannot be taken at this time until applications are received. It is also required that interviews be conducted for all new members applying to the board. Ranger Oukly has received two new application and interviews will be scheduled. Glenn Green motions that the board support the reappointment of board members Carol Harding, Stan Lefton and Lindsay Wolter with receipt of submitted applications. Mako Haggerty second the motion.
The board voted unanimously to approve the board members.

5. Correspondence:

- A letter was received from Beaver Nelson to the State that stated that the Kachemak Bay Advisory board has not taken an official vote of the application for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture net pens in Tutka Bay.
 - A letter was also submitted from all of the State Parks Advisory Boards from across Alaska recognizing the critical budget crises we all face. The Kachemak Bay board has been asked to sign the letter.
6. **Introduction of Visitors:** Janet Klein, Ruth Dickerson, Roger MacCampbell, Ken Jones, Glenn Holloway, Jason Herreman, Aron Peterson, Caroline Cherry, Gary Fandrei, Tim Schmidt, Camron Hagen, Hunter Hammer, Jeff Lee, Clem Tillion and Paul Shadura.

7. Committee Reports:

- a) **Operations Report:** Chief Ranger Jason Okuly provided board members with the following operations report.

Some of the highlights of the report included:

- State Parks has signed an agreement for offices with Islands and Ocean. The offices are currently being painted but Jason expects to move in within the week.

- Jason had a meeting with the Homer Cycle Club who are working very hard to have an adventure trail and to continue work on the Diamond Creek bike trail. An MOU has been signed by State Parks deputy and the club approving work to continue on the Diamond Creek bike trail.
- State Parks is currently working on a regulation change packet. For Kachemak Bay state park some of the proposed changes include opening the Wosnesenski Lake for aircraft landing and Diamond Creek SRA for bike use. It also been discussed to allow bike on approve designated trail in Kachemak Bay State Park.
- We are currently working with the Homer Electric Association to develop an agreement for routine maintenance, emergency work, and helicopter landings to the electrical line through the Kachemak Bay State Park. One of our goals is to establish better communication with HEA and Parks.
- Halibut Cove Dock has gone out for bid.
- There is a new proposed sea to sea trail that is being discussed out of Seldovia. A group of people are currently working on the process which would provide a back country travel route to the outer coast, via the Rocky River drainage..
- The Arts in the Park program was a great success in the Southeast Area. The program selects an artist to live in a state park a produce art which is then donated to the state. Jason would like to see Kachemak Bay State Park sponsor an event.
- State Parks received \$400 dollars of advertising from the Homer Recreation program for all the partners and supports.
- There is discussion to have a monthly guided hike in Kachemak Bay State Park from May until September.
- Willy Dunn put together the 3rd annual First Day hike held on January 1, 2016 at Eveline State Recreation Site and it was a great success!

b) **Friends Report-** Mako Haggerty provided board members with the following report:

- Currently there is almost \$13,603.00 in the Friends account. With outstanding donations of approximately 16,000.00 dollars from local contributors. \$15,000 of these donations are being directed towards the boat house for the water trail that would be built over by Pier one theater.
- Upcoming summer events included the shorebird festival and trails day.
- Mako asks the board if they are still interested in sponsoring the pancake breakfast. This passed with an overwhelming yes.

8. Old Business:

- a. **Dark Sky:** Mako Haggerty was recently in Tucson Arizona, which is participating in the Dark Sky program. He said it is amazing the amount of light that have been installed which reduce light pollution. This can be noticed in the evenings by the lights along the roads are dimmed and the stars are visible. It has been noted that the bright lights have an effect on wildlife, fish and people. Board members are still working with the City of Homer and State Parks to become a Dark Sky park. Nancy stated that the committee is working with a new director of the Dark Sky Association and anticipated more help with the procedure and guidelines. Nancy gave a brief overview of the Dark Sky program. The idea is to make light dimmer so that you are able to see the stars at night.

Jeff Lee is working with the city of Seldovia to become a dark sky town.

- b. **Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Permit Application:** It was determined that the board did not vote on this application because State Parks denied the permit application. The board agreed at the May 2014 meeting to have a committee work on a resolution over the summer. In September 2014, Parks denied the permit application before the board met. When the board met later in September, it was a moot point so no further action was taken. The decision was appealed to the Dept. of Natural Resources Commissioner, Mark Myers. Commissioner Myers approved the application and issued a three year permit. Then in light of new information the decision was rescinded and the issue is now being reviewed by the commissioner office.

A Resolution of the Council of the City of Seldovia, Alaska to oppose the Cook Inlet Aqua Culture's permit to place net pens outside of Tutka Bay Lagoon in Kachemak Bay State Park Waters was submitted to the board.

Beaver Nelson made a motion that the Kachemak Bay Advisory board should vote to approve the Cook Inlet Aquaculture permit application to support net pens in Tutka Bay that was submitted by Cook Inlet Aquaculture. Glenn Green seconds the motion.

After a long discussion with both the board and audience, a vote was taken by a show of hands. There were two yes votes and five no votes.

The yes votes were as follow: Beaver Nelson and Glenn Green. These two members cited fishery and economics enhancement as their primary reasons for approval.

The No votes were as follow: Carol Harding, Mako Haggerty, Lindsay Wolter, Steve Schultz and Nancy Hilstrand. The five members cited several reasons from a desire to preserve the scenic value of the park to having ten large pens at the head of a pristine bay would negatively impact the view shed. There was also a concern about allowing a commercial use in a state park that benefits one user group (fisherman) over all others as well as environmental concerns and impacts on other users.

Lindsay Wolter will send a letter to Commissioner Myers regarding this vote..

- c. **New management Plan update:** Nevenka Kitanovski is currently back to work and is currently working on scheduling meeting for stakeholders in February in Homer. Details have not currently been worked out and more information will follow..
- d. **Update on place names in the park:** Janet Klein reported to the board a map of all the place names that have been given to various locations in Kachemak Bay State Park. On the map were green papered names which are the official ones by the US Geological Association. These names are from as far back as 1880. Tas Tally and Josh Dufus are considering rewriting the place name book and Janet is going to work closely with them to correct some of the names that are not official

Jason reported that National Geographic maps will be updated and will be soliciting information and comments from Parks and the board in the fall of 2016.

The Friends group of Kachemak Bay is currently considering helping Josh Dufus with funding in rewriting his place name book for the Homer Area.

- e. **Vacating Diamond Creek ROW:** Jason reported that Alaska State Parks is not going to vacate the Diamond Creek Road at this time. Jason said currently this allows for more parking both at the beginning of the road and also at the bottom near the trail head. Jack stated that we do have the ability to close the road and parks would like to research more information about the history of the road. One question is if this road is platted, who should be maintaining it. Mako would like to see the road closed to encourage more foot traffic.
- f. **Trail Maintenance:** Mako's draft resolution urges the State of Alaska to welcome volunteers into the ranks of trails crews during this time of tight budgets. Mako would like to send this to the Kenai Peninsula elected state representatives and the Governor.

Nancy Hilstrand made a motion to adopt Make Resolution pertaining to volunteers. Steve seconds the motion.

It passed unanimously.

9. New Business

- a) **Coordinated CAB letter to the legislature:** Lindsay received a letter that has been sent to all the advisory board statewide requesting that the state legislature support the division efforts to broaden its funding sources to become more self-sufficient. Also, that the budget also be held at the 2015 levels with no further reductions with no more funding cuts.
Mako moved that we support the letter and Nancy second the motion.
The vote passed unanimously.
- b) **Transportation of Volunteers by State Parks:** Roger MacCampbell reported that the issue was that the Division of Risk Management states that State Park's cannot transport volunteers to the park to work. They are not objecting to vehicles and airplanes but with boats. They believe this comes from the maritime law that you have a greater risk when you transport public by boat. They are currently reviewing this policy and it will be discussed in the future. Jack Blackwell commented that this is coming from the Division of Risk Management which is part of the Department of Administration. Mako will put a resolution together for the next board meeting supporting transportation by state park staff for volunteers to the park.

10. Comments and Discussion by Visitors:

- Ken Jones a member of the public stated that he would not like to have the Diamond Creek SRA road closed to public and questioned if this is legal. The road is a mess and icy but someone with a vehicle with four wheel drive and studs can access the area. With the gate closed it denies public access to the road and the recreation area. Please open the gate.
Jason Oukly responded that after driving the road, he felt that it was very slick and dangerous for the public to use. He observed areas where other vehicles had been stuck or had driven off the road. He will re-open the gate once it is safe for public use.
Jack Blackwell had conversations with Division of Mining, Land and Water and Jason has talked with the Kenai Peninsula Borough road maintenance department, director, Pat Malone. The borough has the ability to close the road. It was determined that the road was unsafe and should be closed for public use until conditions improve

11. Comments and Discussion by board members-None.

12. Adjournment-Next meeting is February 10, 2016.