

**Kachemak Bay State Parks Board Meeting**  
**Advisory Board Minutes**  
**February 10, 2016**  
**5:30 pm**

1. **Members Present:** Glenn Green, Willy Dunn, Lindsay Wolter, Steve Schultz, Mako Haggerty, Carol Harding, and Nancy Hillstrand.

**Staff Present:** Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell.

2. **Agenda Changes:** The agenda was changed by removing b. CIAA permit application, d. Update on place names in the park and g. Trail Maintenance (Mako's draft resolution). The Agenda was approved as amended.
3. **Minutes Approval:** Willy Dunn noted under the Friends report from January that the name boat house is called Water Trail Pavilion. The minutes were approved as amended.
4. **Correspondence:** The letter to Commissioner Mark Myers in regards to the Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizens Advisory board official position on the CIAA permit application for temporary placement of the net pens at the head of Tutka Bay was sent after the January meeting
5. **Introduction of Visitors:** Aaron Peterson, Glenn Hollowell, Jason Herreman, Kevin Sidelinger, JT Thurston Jeff Lee, Erin McKittrick, and Bretwood "Hig" Higman

6. **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:

- Jason and volunteers have visited Cottonwood Eastland for some cleanup. The group collected approximately 50 pounds of trash. This also included a gillnet that was being stored on site.
- Diamond Creek SRA has experienced several mud slides due to the warm and wet winter. Part of the slide has covered the trail. About twenty feet of the trail has sloughed off. The trail is still hikable.
- Some new signs have been posted regarding no fires and no winter maintenance signs.
- An outhouse at Halibut Cove Lagoon has lifted 3 feet out of the ground, likely due to the recent earthquake.
- State Parks is currently working with HEA for authorization for helicopter landings during times of emergency, such as power outages. They currently have proposed 23 helicopter landings. State Parks would issue a blanket permit for emergencies. A permit will be issued for individual projects. In addition Jason is currently working with HEA for restoration for the Stonehocker Creek area. Possible in the future HEA is considering a possible recommendation to change the right of way from 40 foot to a 100 foot which would help with helicopter landings.

- An individual in Sadie Cove is currently offering Viking Funerals. Not sure if this activity is being offered in Kachemak Bay State Park. Per EPA regulations human remains cannot be disposed of within three miles of land.
- Water Trail currently has 30 sites in State Parks. State Parks is requesting that they develop a plan to monitor the things that they are placing in the park. Jason would like them to adopt Chugachik Island and prepare hazard reports, such as if a tree falls on the outhouse, or if the group is out there fixing the outhouse. An MOU with the Water Trail and State Parks would be preferred to outline the agreement.
- State Parks is currently asking for a waiver to hire a three month ACC. This position would coordinate volunteers, help with trail maintenance and provide hikes in the park.
- Currently hiring volunteer for the trail crew.
- A chainsaw training is tentatively scheduled for March 19 thru 21. The maximum number for participation is 6 people.
- The Yacht club mooring buoys application was denied, so there will be no mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay for 2016.

Superintendent Jack Blackwell provided board members with the following operations report. Some of the highlights of the report included:

- Advisory Board applications have been submitted to the State Park Director Ben Ellis. One application was unreadable so Jason is working with the applicant to get a hard copy of the application.
- Design and Construction issued a request for quotes on the Halibut Cove Lagoon dock. The lowest bid came in \$140,000 more than the amount available for the project. The state is currently scrambling to secure funds from other sources.
- Congratulation to the advisory board and friends for helping resolve the transportation of volunteers using State resources.

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

- Currently \$15,000 is being directed towards the Pavilion for the Water Trail that would be built over by Pier One Theater.
- The board is currently working on creating committees for upcoming events such as the Shorebird festival, Kayak at Mud Bay at high tide and the Pancake Breakfast, all of which are scheduled for May 12 thru 14, 2016.
- Confirmation of Shorebird Festival dates
 

Otter Eye paddle	Friday morning	May 13
Friendship Walk	Sunday morning	May 15
Pancake Breakfast	Saturday morning	May 14

## 7. Old Business:

- a. **New management Plan update:** Nevenka Kitanovski and State Park staff are planning a meeting in late April with stakeholders and working on the permit matrix for the plan. Nancy is currently working on the history aspect of the plan and as the board to create a subcommittee to help with

this process. Carol Harding, Nancy Hillstrand, Willy Dunne, Lindsay Wolter and Jason Okuly volunteered for the committee.

- b. 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 and the bottom near the trail head. Jack stated that we do have the ability to close the road in cooperation with the borough roads department.

Willy Dunne would like to have the gate moved back 100 feet away from the highway to provide additional parking, otherwise visitors park along the highway, causing a hazard. Willy also stated that the Friends of Kachemak Bay has voted to pay for the ROW vacating application filing fee and Kenton Bloom would complete the survey for State Parks free of charge.

Mako Haggerty would like State Parks to proceed in vacating the Diamond Creek ROW.

- c. Composting Toilets:** Jeff Lee reported that the material cost for a composting unit is \$5,000 if volunteers (rather than Jeff) would maintain the unit. Otherwise, the cost is \$15,000 per unit (less per unit if more than one unit is ordered at once) for Jeff to build and maintain the unit for two years. Jeff is currently working to sell the composting toilet to private land owners to get a fixed price of the project. Jason would like to work with Jeff to determine whether the Halibut Cove Lagoon outhouse could be modified as a composting toilet.

## 9. New Business

- a) Kachemak Bay aircraft:** Jack Blackwell reported that State Park staff put together a white paper on fixed and rotary winged aircraft operation in Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park. The paper included the regulations, the management plan recommendations and a summary of past and present registered commercial operators. A copy of the report is available upon request.
- b) Sea to Sea:** Hig and Erin of Ground Truth Trekking presented Alaska State Parks with a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a primitive hiking route within Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park, referred to as the "Tutka Backdoor" route. The Tutka backdoor route will allow low-impact hiking based recreational use in an exceptional setting. It will create the longest route in the park, provide access to the Gulf of Alaska, and connect overland to the Seldovia road system. Ground Truth Trekking would construct the trail and then provide maintenance through volunteers.

State Parks just received this MOU last week and would like to take the time to review the proposal.

10. Comments and Discussion by Visitors: None.

11. Comments and Discussion by board members-None.

12. Adjournment-Next meeting is March 9, 2016.