

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

1. **Members Present:** Stan Lefton, Nancy Hilstrand, Willy Dunn, Lindsay Wolter, Glenn Green, Beaver Nelson and Aron Peterson.

Staff Present: State Park Superintendent Jack Blackwell and Park Ranger Jason Okuly

2. **Agenda Changes:** Nancy Hilstrand added soils under new business. The agenda was approved as amended.
3. **Minutes Approval:** Minutes were approved as amended.
4. **Correspondence:** Lindsay sent a letter to Director Ben Ellis summarizing the public comments from the last meeting about the permit application for commercial helicopter flights by Norse Flight, Inc.
5. **Introduction of Visitors:** Janet Klein and Toby Wheeler

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:

- State Parks is currently looking for two volunteers to fill the position at the Halibut Cove ranger station. We also have two volunteer positions open for the second trail crew. We are also looking for a crew leader for our grant crew and a Volunteer Coordinator which we have received no application for. The position is currently posted on the state web site and hopefully by word of mouth the position will be filled.
- Homer Electric has completed some work at Stonehocker Creek.
- Restoration is being completed on the west cabin by the individual that was occupying the cabin at the time of the fire.

Jack Blackwell thanked Jason Okuly for his follow up on the cabin. He spoke with the gentleman who caused the fire, and he agreed to restore the cabin to State Park standards. A crew has been hired to complete some of the work and the rest will be completed by the occupant of the cabin at the time of the fire.

- The work on the Halibut Cove Lagoon dock is schedule to start at the end of April and be ready by the end of May.

- A crew is headed out to Halibut Cove to work on the leaning outhouse and also some other maintenance around the lagoon.
- State Parks asked for a special request form the Directors office of \$6000.00 to put in a composting toilet at Halibut Cove Lagoon. The money has been granted. The toilet will be placed by volunteers to help keep the cost down.
- Jason Okuly and Eric Clarke had a meeting with the Friends of Kachemak Bay. The group will be taking on more of the responsibility of trails day.
- The current MOU with the Friends of Kachemak Bay for Cottonwood/Eastland is currently a working document and will take a long time to processes. Jason is currently working under the pretense of the existing document and will make any changes necessary and will send it to management for a signature when the document is completed. This MOU outlines what Parks expectations are for the area.
- Ground Truth Trekking is currently working with State Park Technician Eric Clarke to scout out the Sea to Sea trail route. Jason, Eric and Pam Russell will work on completing the Special Use permit and the stipulations for the project. There is a possibility that there is archeological significance in the area of the trail and should be reviewed by the State Historical Office.
- The conservation MOU with State Parks regarding the Overlook Park is still in place at this time.
- Cook Inlet Aquaculture has submitted an application to do some instream water which includes a weir, digging out some of the stream area to create a pool and also to develop some bank infrastructure to process returning pink salmon egg take.

Nancy is concerned about too much pollution from the dead fish in the stream. Water quality and oxygen levels need to be monitored during this process. It is believed this is more efficient way to harvest pink salmon.

Nancy moves that the board write a letter on the concerns of water quality, oxygen levels and also that there is no adverse effect to other species like Rainbow. Stan Lefton seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Beaver Nelson was not at the meeting at the time), and Nancy and Willy will send a letter for Lindsay's signature to be sent to Jack Blackwell.

- Jason is a local hunter's education instructor and has given a few courses. He also took a coast guard auxiliary boating law course. The National Forest Service conducted research on aphids discovered on spruce trees at Cottonwood/Eastland. This is done by shaking the leaves on the branches and collecting what falls off on a white piece of paper.

- Global Geophysical has been given a permit to do seismic work in Cottonwood/Eastland area. The permit is just for the company to put in receivers in the park and is not allowed to cut any vegetation.
- State Park staff is out in the field completed hazard reports for the different areas. One report was approximately two dozen trees were down between Moose Valley and the Ranger station, due to strong winds. Cleared the Saddle trail and also conducted a chain saw class with six volunteers.
- An unguided guide service was contacted and is currently working on getting permits ready to go. This company was advertising in the Shorebird festival brochure.
- Jason has been working with Kevin Walker in regards to the mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay. The mooring buoys that were in place used a chain secured to an anchor. It is believed that the anchors are still in place and chain rub caused the chains to break. It is believed that if the anchors can be located they may be reused for future buoys.
- Jack Blackwell reported that he talked with Jack Wiles about the Eveline Development. Jack Wiles provided comment and also ask the legislature for funding for the project. At this time the funding was denied for the 2017 fiscal year.
- Jack Blackwell also reported at this time the budget is still undecided for the 2017 fiscal year. Something should be decided by the end of April.
- The Park Ranger I is slated to be hired this summer.
- A merchandise bill has been passed by the Senate and is currently in the Senate. This would allow state park to sell such things as t-shirts, hats and coffee mugs.

b. Friends Report- No report

7. Old Business:

- a. Dark Sky Park Proposal (tabled)
- b. CIAA permit application-Jack Blackwell reported that the commissioner's office has a special assistant working on the appeal process. No decision has been made at this time.
- c. New Management Plan update - State Park staff is currently working on the goals and objectives. We are also working on setting up stakeholders meeting in late April.
- d. Vacating Diamond Creek ROW (tabled)
- e. Sea to Sea trail- Jack Blackwell reported that State Park Technician Eric Clarke will be working with Ground Truth Trekking in determining the route and the MOU agreement for maintenance of the trail.

9. New Business

a. Soils- Nancy reported that the soil conservation group is willing to do soil sampling within the Kachemak Bay State Park. The samples would give us a map of all the different types of soils. It would also identify if the soil is permeable, sandy ,etc. This would help to identify if the area is good for a trail, cabins and even outhouses. It would also give the slope recommendations. Nancy is going to work with the conservation group to get the soil sampling completed. This may take quite a while.

10. Comments and Discussion by Visitors: Janet Klein reported that National Geographic will be redoing their maps for Kachemak Bay. Janet and Taz will be meeting with National Geographic to discuss the names of places within Kachemak Bay State Park.

11. Comments and Discussion by board members-None.

12. Adjournment-Next meeting is May 11, 2016. This will be the last meeting before September 2016.