

**Kenai River Special Management Area
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Gilman River Center
Thursday, May 12, 2011 5:30 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Members Present:** Joe Connors, Jack Sinclair, Grant Watts, Bruce King, Carol Padgett, Janet Schmidt, Andy Loranger, Kevin Lyon, Robert Begich, George Heim, Terri Carter, Brenda Trefon, and David Carey.
- B. The Minutes** for April 14, 2011 were approved as written.
- C. Agenda Changes and Approval:** Joe Connors added under New Business, item B, support draft letter for dispatch.

II. Public Comments/Presentations

Lt. Col Lowe (Ret) gave presentation on Russian & Kenai River confluence boat closure proposal.

III. REPORTS

A. Agency and Government Reports

- a. State Parks, Jack Sinclair**, all our campgrounds are now open; campground hosts are arriving and host training is on Monday. Hope that the board can have a chance to go down and check out the new walkways at Morgan's Landing this summer. The Pillars boat launch got off the ground a little slower, so we are not going to have as much work done early on this year, work will go into October. We are almost through with our selection for our Ranger I position for the Kenai River. The River crew is doing the water rescue class this week.
- b. DEC, Tim Stevens**, was not present.
- c. ADF&G, Robert Begich**, king runs are forecasted to be below average. Kenai sockeye run is forecasted to be slightly above average this year, with the total run being around 3.9 million. Anticipate normal run for Russian River. Also, wanted to mention that if you saw our presentations at the board of fish meetings, you will see a lot of information on the King sonar. We won't be posting information on a daily basis on the internet this summer; it will be on a weekly basis. Fish count webpage is going to be different on website this year. Also, we will be running the Russian River weir.
- d. USF&WS, Janet Schmidt** stated the Refuge will be offering several programs for children this summer. The YCC crew has been decided; they have 8 kids between the ages of 15 and 18, and are scheduled to begin June 6th working on our trails. They have two groups coming from Scotland and will be here in July working on our cabins and trails. **Andy Loranger**, stated that since the last KRSMA meeting, we held our meeting on ways to deal with the Human/Bear conflict. Public comment and suggestions were given, all of which our consultant has gathered up and will be meeting on the 20th of May to consolidate. We will get back to the public with some ideas that came out of that process. We are hoping to have stream watch volunteers on this end of the Kenai River this year; including some of the public fishing areas off of Keystone Drive. The interagency river conference went well last month.
- e. USFS/Chugach, Bobbie Jo Kolodziejski**, was not present.
- f. City of Kenai, Kevin Lyon**, stated construction is under way at the dip net fishery; council raised the fee at the dip net fishery from \$15 to \$20. This will help defray the costs of the added facilities and services for fish cleaning tables and fish waste disposal containers. The city dock is open; we have the crew down there working, trying to clear out some of the mud. We will have the dock set by the end of the week. USF&WS finally got the paperwork done for the Meeks Bridge; we may or may not get the bridge completed this year. We had some movement on the bluff this year and need to work on stabilization.
- g. City of Soldotna, Peter Micciche**, was not present.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough, David Carey**, this coming Tuesday at the assembly meeting, they will be looking at the additions to the 21.18, in particular that all streams be put on the list. Regarding the Bing's

Landing issue, believe that it is resolved. We are getting signs up and it has to go to the Planning Commission.

B. Committee Reports

- a. **President's Report, Joe Connors** stated he did participate on the panel yesterday; it was before the River managers, 50-60 people in the room, and they entertained questions at the end. It seemed like all the panel people were on the same page.
- b. **Guide Advisory, Joe Connors** stated they met today. We dealt with several issues. We discussed the dispatch issue today again. We are going to have to deal with that sooner than later. We got an update on the implementation of the mandatory boating safety; it has been moved up 3 years from 2018 implementation date to 2015. We also talked about middle river concerns in terms of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, CCP (Comprehensive Conservation Plan). The other item we discussed was re-naming areas on the river and coming up with a policy/procedure.
- c. **Habitat, Bruce King** met today and talked about two issues. The first was turbidity; the final draft will be going to DEC in the next few weeks. We will see the results from 4 years of study. The second is the Watershed Symposium; we did receive a \$25,000 grant for the Symposium.
- d. **River Use, George Heim**, we had a short meeting today. In discussions with the Refuge, it was clear that we should make a formal request for public comment regarding camping along the river. During this time, it will give us an opportunity to go down and do some site inspections this summer. We talked more about the human waste issue.
- e. **Permits**, did not meet.
- f. **Legislative/Government Activities, David Carey**, well over 10 million dollar operating budget. The capital budge, 2.1 billion and then they rolled 1 billion was federal projects. There was 200 million put in by the house; at least as of 2 hours ago and 50 something projects. The large fight now is the Coastal Management Program. There is some very significant issues; **(Gave an update on the operating budgets and capital budgets for the state)**
- g. **Board Development, Jack Sinclair**, stated we are going to be soliciting for applicants for the board.
- h. **Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping**, nothing to report.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Kenai River Deferred Maintenance projects 2012-13, Jack Sinclair**, stated he has to have the budget for deferred maintenance projects to the Department level by the end of July.

Dave Carey moved that we support the list of deferred maintenance.

George Heim seconded.

Vote was taken to support the list of differed maintenance.

Passed unanimously.

B. Draft Letter support for dispatch

Grant Watts made the motion to support the draft letter conceptually.

Bruce King seconded.

Vote was taken on the concept of the draft letter for supporting dispatch.

Passed unanimously.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Board Comments

George Heim volunteered to take people on the upper River for site inspections.

Janet Schmidt; The Power of Place: Gathering Collective Wisdom to Transform Climate Change Communication June 22nd, 2011 at the Kenai Princess Lodge.

Jack Sinclair hopes that everyone will help with the symposium and thanked everyone on the board for their help.

B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting September 8th, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.