

**Kenai River Special Management Area
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Gilman River Center
Thursday, December 8, 2011, 5:30 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

- A. Members Present:** Travis Moseley, Bruce King, Jack Sinclair, Joe Connors, Tim Stevens, Carol Padgett, Terri Carter, Janet Schmidt, George Heim, Brenda Trefon, Brent Johnson, and Ricky Gease.
- B. The Minutes** from the October 13th, 2011 meeting were approved with changes. The Minutes from the November 10, 2011 meeting were approved as written.
- C. Agenda Changes and Approval**, no changes.

II. Public Comments/Presentations

Michelle Martin with the Kenai Watershed Forum gave a presentation over Reed Canary Grass.

III. Reports

A. Agency and Government Reports

- a. State Parks, Jack Sinclair**, gave handouts for Kenai River Area Statistics from 2006 to 2011 and Kenai River revenue comparison calendar from 2009 to 2011. The director has made a commitment to come to our next meeting on January 12th, 2012. He plans to discuss the ranger position, which may be potentially going away.

Ricky Gease will be chairing a committee to look at options for keeping funding within state parks.

Bruce King will draft a letter for the next KRSMA meeting, regarding funding of the ranger position.
- b. DEC, Tim Stevens**, signed a contract with the KWF to conduct a review of the turbidity study with the final report due in February.
- c. ADF&G- Vania/ Begich**, was not present, but left a handout with information dealing with the Northern Kenai Peninsula Management Area.
- d. USF&WS, Janet Schmidt**, we are busy looking at our hiring process for this coming summer. We have some new events going on, we have added moonlight snowshoe walks. The first one is tomorrow night. Our cabins are now on www.recreation.gov, you can make online reservations for one of our 14 public use cabins.
- e. USFS/Chugach, Travis Moseley**, has restoration work going on at Cooper Creek Campground. We will go back in there this spring and anchor things in. Right now we are working on an EA to do some restoration work at the lower end of Cooper Creek. It is contingent on the Cooper Lake Hydro Electric Plant and their FERC relicensing, in which they will attempt to moderate the water temperatures. Three options are being proposed to possibly relocate Cooper Creek, as a result of mining activities that have gone on there. Looking at Invasive Weed Analysis on the Kenai River Forest Service Lands.
- f. City of Kenai, Sean Wedemeyer**, was not present.
- g. City of Soldotna, Peter Micciche**, was not present.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough, Brent Johnson**, nothing to report.

B. Committee Reports

- a. President's Report, Joe Connors**, was told by director that we have 2 new appointees; both Ricky Gease and Dave Carey have been selected. We have one position still open, for the next month if you know of anyone that is interested. Encouraged everyone to stay positive and keep working hard.

- b. **Guide Advisory, Joe Connors**, met today and had 12 people present. Talked about the ranger position and its importance. Jack Sinclair brought us up to spend on the intentions of the priorities for law enforcement for this coming year. One of the things that we do every year on the guide advisory committee is to look at the Kenai River Guide Stipulations. We looked at those today and we found two things we'd like to tweak a little; Jack Sinclair will look at modifying those. Something we do every year and we didn't get to do today is to deal with citations and complaints. We have our middle river issues and concerns; we received an update about Eagle Rock. Jack Sinclair reported that Eagle Rock will not be coming online as a State Park this coming year. The same enterprise that ran it last year will be running it next year, but will be looking at it for the following year. The other item we talked about was something that we actually started back when we did the Kenai River Working Group; one of the original working group's recommendations was that all guides be required to participate in a random drug testing program. The coast guard license guides must have a random drug test program, but those that don't have a coast guard license certificate, or those that row a boat are not required to have a random drug test program. It has come back up to review the drug testing program.
- c. **Habitat, Bruce King**, spent the entire meeting talking about the turbidity issues. We spent time putting together what sort of options we could use to keep us from being listed. There was a lot of disagreement about what it means. The consensus was that our hope is that we can get ahead of it and not have the EPA tell us what to do. We want to look at how to let current uses on the river continue.
- d. **River Use, George Heim**, met today and started out with a presentation from Andrew Carmichael about the new fish cleaning station that will be installed at Centennial. The first item on our agenda was to talk about the two resolutions that came out of the September meeting. One was to stop the transiting behind the island, at the Russian River Confluence; the second was to restrict anchoring just above the Russian River Ferry. We will vote at the next KRSMA meeting on Resolution 2011-4. Robert Begich gave us the table of information for Angler days of effort fishing within the Northern Kenai Peninsula Management Area. Dwight Kramer had submitted proposal to prohibit powerboats below the Soldotna Bridge. The concern was that drift boat Mondays were getting spoiled because of dipnetting.
- e. **Permits**, did not meet.
- f. **Legislative/Government Activities** did not meet.
- g. **Board Development**, did not meet.
- h. **Agenda/Board Structure/Housekeeping, Jack Sinclair** stated a media release was sent out for the open KRSMA board seat, extending the recruitment time through January 13th, 2012.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS - none

VI. CORRESPONDENCE - none

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Board Comments

B. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting January 12th, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

