



KENAI RIVER

Special Management Area

"Working together...for the river"

ADVISORY BOARD

Kenai Region Office
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Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board

*** Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, May 9th, 2019

5:30 p.m. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Rd., Soldotna, AK

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **Roll Call:** Joe Connors, Ron Rogalsky, William Tappan, Glen Arundell, Monte Roberts, Ted Wellman, Andrew Carmichael, Lisa Gabriel, Matt Conner, Marion Glaser, Colton Lipka, Sarah Apsens, and Jack Blackwell.

Visitor: Teri Lomax, Department of Environmental Conservation

- B. **Minutes:** Minutes were approved.

- C. **Agenda.** Ted added an item under new business: a letter of support for the Sockeye Salmon Stamp. Agenda was approved as amended.

- **Public Comment/Presentation.** Teri Lomax from Department of Environmental Conservation gave the status of the integrated report. The report is submitted to EPA on the status of Alaska waters. This is completed with data that is supplied to DEC by either grants that are funded through DEC, staff collected data or other agencies research. The 2014/16 integrated report was submitted to EPA at the beginning of November 2018 has been approved. The Kenai River was going to be listed for turbidity, but DEC decided that more data needs to be obtained before that determination can be made. Public notice for the 2018 integrated report is still going through internal review, once completed it will be release for public review. After the public review is completed the report will be sent to EPA for review. Within this report the Kenai River is going to potentially be listed impaired for zinc. The Kenai Beach will not be listed impaired for fecal coliform at this time. DEC is currently asking for a call for data for the 2020 integrated report. The information on how to submit the data is available online on the DEC web site.

REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports:

- a. State Parks-Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:

- All the State Park facilities are open for the 2019 season, with the exception of the Eagle Rock boat launch which will open on July 1st after the repairs to the access road is completed.

- The second Kenai River Guide Academy has just been completed. Monte Roberts, Joe Connors, Matt Connor and Colton Lipka all participated in teaching the course. Two classes each year are offered one in March and one in April.
- The Kenai Municipality of Kenai approached State Parks and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge about replacing the public lands display at the airport. The first meeting was held and there was a consensus to revise the public lands display at the airport. A committee has been put together to work on developing a new plan for the display.
- The Salmon Celebration was held at the Johnson Lake SRA. There were several area schools at the celebration learning new techniques such as fly casting, dissecting a fish and how to put on a life jacket. One of the highlights is the release of trout in Johnson Lake.
- The Kenai River cleanup was held May 2-3.

b. DEC- Sara Apsens provided the board with the following report.

- ACWA grants have been awarded to the Kenai Watershed Forum for the baseline water quality sampling on the Kenai River and tributaries. They will also be monitoring the City of Kenai beaches for bacteria which will start on May 21st.

c. ADFG -Colton Lipka provided the board with the following report:

- As of May 26, ADF&G freshwater logbooks will no longer be required to be filled out by freshwater fishing guides. Saltwater are still required. Colton are encouraging guides to volunteer to hand in logbook sheet
- The 2019 projects are beginning to start. Ivan will be back on the Kenai River next week.
- Both sonar sites will both be installed next week.
- The culvert work has started at Crooked Creek and is scheduled to be completed by June 12th.
- The Russian River crew is back, and the weir will be put in place this week.
- All regulations that were issued prior to today's date is still in place.

d. USFWS-Matt Conner provided the board with the following report:

- The boardwalk and stairways at Moose range meadows are slated to be repaired and replaced early fall or next spring.
- The boat launch at Keystone Drive is also slated for repairs next spring.
- There are conceptual designs being developed for Jim's Landing near Cooper Landing. The draft design should be available next spring and there will be a public review.
- The Refuge had a public cleanup around the headquarter area and it is always amazing once the snow is gone how much trash is left. There were about 50 public participants helping staff.
- The Refuge participated in the Sport show a few weeks ago.
- The Refuge had a booth at the Salmon Fest at Johnson Lake.
- The Junior Warden camp is this weekend.
- June 1st is a spey class that will be at the Russian River confluence. Learn how to fly fish. This will also have the pop up information booth that will have information on leave no trace, wag bags and how to be bear aware.

e. USFS/Chugach National Forest –Marion Glaser provided the board with the following report:

- The Forest Service has scheduled the next two weeks of volunteer training. The trail crews have been out on the Russian River installing all the hand rails and stair cases.
- Other crews have been out refreshing all the seasonal signage along the river.
- The campgrounds are open. No fees no services until the concessioner come on for the season.
- Don't forget to take your trash out and bring water in.
- The Forest Service had a stream erosion table at the Salmon Celebration.
- On June 1st will Stream Watch ambassador training is scheduled for June 1st, June 22nd and on June 29th.
- Marion attended a Wildlife human attack training in Girdwood that was put on by law enforcement office from Canada.

f. City of Kenai –Lisa Gabriel provided the board with the following report:

- The City of Kenai passed an ordinance to accept the funds from ADEC for Kenai Beach bacteria testing.
- The Harbor Commission sent out a survey asking people how they use the harbor, what improvements they would like to see. The survey is just to gather information about the area.

g. City of Soldotna-Andrew Carmichael provided the board with the following report:

- All of the City of Soldotna infrastructure in the park units will be in place by the end of next week. Centennial will open unofficially on Friday and then officially on May 13th.
- Swiftwater will open right before the Memorial Day weekend. The area won't open until the hazardous trees have been removed and do not cause a hazard to the public.
- The city is still working on the spruce bark beetle mitigation at Swiftwater. They have currently taken out approximately 400 trees.
- Tourism is expected to be down this year.

h. Kenai Peninsula Borough-No report:

II. Committee Reports

a. President's Report-No Report.

b. Guide Advisory-Monte Roberts provided the board with the following report:

There were two agenda items the committee discuss. The first one was the open house meet and greet with the State Park Director, Superintendent, Park Rangers and Kenai River Guides on June 5th at 6 pm at the Gilman River Center. The purpose was to have the guides meet staff and to have any discussion on items before the guiding season starts.

The second item is to work on a proposal to restore the 5th seat in the Kenai River guide boats for the month of July. This was removed back in 1996. The committee will research how this regulation was established and what it will take to get it changed.

The committee also discussed how is could restore the tourism on the Kenai River. This is something the committee will work on in the future.

c. Habitat Committee- Jack Blackwell provided the board with the following report:

The habitat committee had a great discuss with Teri Lomax from Department of Environmental Conservation when she gave the status of the integrated report. The report is submitted to EPA on

the status of Alaska waters. This is completed with data that is supplied to DEC by either grants that are funded through DEC, staff collected data or other agencies research. The 2014/16 integrated report was submitted to EPA at the beginning of November 2018 has been approved.

- d. River Use Committee- Bill Tappan provided the board with the following report:
The focus of the meeting was three items: One was the recent action in the form of the letter to the editor in the Peninsula Clarion regarding the Funny River Boat launch. Funny River community would like to continue to have discussion as to the location of this ramp.
The committee did discuss a possible location that is on the Funny River side and across from Keystone drive. The proposed area is within the Kenai National Wildlife Area. Jack Blackwell stated that there are several other locations that will be considered.
The committee also discussed the update of the Kenai River Special Management area plan. The committee decided that this is currently off the table.
Salmon stamp was another item they discussed. The benefits and structure and how things may work. The committee needs to find champions to sponsor the proposal. A motion for this proposal will be addressed under new business.
- e. Legislative Committee-no report

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Letter of support for EVOS funding at Slikok Creek and Izaak Walton- Jack Blackwell reported that State Parks is interested in applying for funds to do some restoration work at Slikok Creek and Izaak Walton. This would include improving access at both locations. The Izaak Walton project will restore 250 linear feet of habitat, 100 linear feet of ELP walkway with four sets of stairs and include three interpretive display. The Slikok Creek project will remove existing stairways and walkways and replace with ELP stairways and walkways and revegetate the area with natural vegetation. Three interpretive sites will be installed.

Joe Connors made a motion to send the letter of support to EVOS.

Monte Roberts second the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Letter of support for a sockeye salmon stamp - Ted Wellman reported to the board the proposal to draft a letter to each of the user groups to propose a Sockeye Salmon stamp for the Kenai area and asking for their input. Some of the parameters of the program that would be included in the letter is establishing a grant like program. Where agencies or user groups would ask for approval for funding of projects based on the money that is received from the stamp. The stamp is currently proposed to cost \$10.00.
The concept is to have the Sockeye Stamp required by all anglers on the Kenai Peninsula and that money would be available to fund grants to support new access to infrastructure, habitat protection, educational and research, enforcement. Any stake holder could apply for funding by turning in a request. This would somewhat mirror the King Salmon stamp.
The projects would be rank by the KRSMA board members and make recommendations as to what project should be funded. If the board supports the concept a letter will be sent to the stake holders such as City of Kenai, Soldotna, Fish and Game and other organizations.
Fish and Game would be the one collecting the revenue that the way other stamps monies are collected. Fish and Game would get administration fee.

Colton commented that Fish and Game would first review the proposal and provide comments as to the administration of the funds.

It was determined that the letter would be written by the chair Ted Wellman and sent to stakeholders

Joe Connors made the motion to write the letter and get it sent to the stake holders.
Joe called the questions.

Passed unanimously.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VII. BOARD COMMENTS - Have a great summer.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT