

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2018

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call: Board Members: Aron Peterson, Nancy Hilstrand (Chairman), Glenn Green, Robert Ostrom, Jeff Lee, Sera Baxter, Jonathan Sharp, Robert Archibald and Patrick Miller.

State Park staff – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell.

State Park Guest: Matt Wedeking, Monica Alvarez and Rob Earl.

- b. Public Members: Janet Klein, Roger MacCampbell, John Allardice, Tom Young, Doug Reid and Jesse Nelson.

2. Minutes: Minutes were approved as amended.

3. Agenda Changes/Approval:

4. Public Comment/Presentation: Jesse Nelson commented that at the work session for the management plan held on Tuesday November 13, 2018 that there was a long discussion that if the 15 words that were deleted from the matrix pertaining to the net pens, that it would eliminate a lot of the conflict. Can anyone answer if those words are removed it would eliminated the conflict of the hatchery. If those words are not in the plan would people stop assaulting the commercial fisheries and the staff of the hatchery?

Roger MacCampbell stated that he takes exception that there is an assault on commercial fisherman. This is about the hatchery and the legality of it. No one is against commercial fisherman or commercial fishing.

Nancy Hilstrand comments that if the words that Jesse referred to that are in the management plan matrix were deleted, that would help to reduce the problem.

5. Correspondence:

6. A. Committee Reports- Staff gave the following update:

a. Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:

- At the last meeting, someone asked about HEA having some sort of reflectors or reflective orange balls on the power lines within Kachemak Bay for aircraft. HEA staff responded by stating that it is not required to have anything identifying the line if they are less than 500 feet from the ground. They currently do not have staff to work in this issue and HEA believes that all the lines in Kachemak Bay are below 500 feet.
- Jason also checked with Fish and Game as to the effects the new trail has on goats. Fish and Game had completed the goat surveys the week before this meeting and noted that with the installation of a new trail the goats will leave, but after time the goats will return. Fish and Game, believes it is too early to determine the impact on wildlife and when a future survey will be conducted.

- The board recommend having Fish and Game give a presentation to the board regarding wildlife surveys in the Kachemak Bay Park.
- The board discussed ways to help with the wildlife sightings and counts. A couple of ideas that were discussed included asking park user to report their information or to solicit future research projects that could be conducted by students from universities.
- The new Kachemak Bay State Park Ranger Tim Blackmon will start working in February 2019. He will be going through the enforcement academy, complete his field training in the summer of 2019 and be on board with Jason by the fall of 2019.

b. Friend's Report- Robert Archibald reported to the board the following:

- The Friends group has not had a membership meeting this month, but they have been meeting as a group working to compile comments on the draft Kachemak Bay State park and Wilderness park management plan. A draft of comments has been compiled and will be finalized to be sent to the state by Friday November 15, 2018.
- The group has received \$1700.00 from Pick, Click and Give on line. The group
- is currently working on ideas on how to spend the funds they have accumulated. They will have an official meeting in the future to talk about fundraising money and what projects to use the funds on.
- The next meeting of the Friends is on Monday December 3rd, 2018.

7. Old Business

a. Kachemak Bay Management Plan update

- Jack Blackwell commented that we have had two work sessions, the first one was 6 hours and the second one was 3 hours. DNR staff has heard several comments and recommendations and looks forward to receiving the boards comments. At tonight's meeting DNR staff is available for any other questions or comments.
- Nancy Hilstrand commented that there is currently 8 board members present at the meeting and the board realizes that they do not have all the board member present to vote on comments. There is a quorum, but there is only 8 out of 15 members. Nancy did recommend that the board could review and vote on the Friends of Kachemak Bay comments.
- Robert Archibald stated that they have done a lot of work on the comments. The board should really read the comments and make any recommendation to the Friends group. But there is not enough time tonight to go through 30 pages of comments and make any changes. They could send it out via email to the board members and have each member vote if they approve or not the comments.
- Jeff Lee asked for clarification. Board members can review the comments and determine if they would like to sign on to the Friends comments. It is also recommended that each board member send in their own individual comments.
- Sera asked for an update as to where the board is at with comments. Sera's comments were sent to Monica Alvarez and all board members.
- Nancy asked the board if they wanted to go through the comments that were compiled by the Friends of Kachemak Bay?
- Jeff agreed that they would have to go through all 30 pages of comments. Is that possible?
- Jon Sharp said he does not feel comfortable voting on the comment with more than half the board members not present. He commented that this board represents the public and that the members do not have enough time to share the comments of the Friends Group with members of the public to make an informed decision on the comments.

- Nancy feels that there is just not? enough time to go through the whole plan and make comments.
- Jack stated that if the board would like to send a letter in that a vote should be taken. You do have quorum and take a vote with the members that are present.
- Jon Sharp asked if there was a possible of a second draft of the plan would be available before the Final? Monica Alvarez said that it was unknown if that was a possibility.
- Nancy Hilstrand asked the name of the new commissioner of DNR? Her name is Core Feige and she will be in office on December 3rd, 2018. And there is no news about the State Parks Director currently.
- Robert asked if all the comments could be completed and ready for Commissioner Andy Mack by December 3rd when the new administration takes office? It is unknown currently.
- Nancy asked if the board would like to take a vote to draft a letter to be submitted by Friday November 15.
- Jon said he would support a letter requesting a second draft and improving the process, such as clarifying the timeline and working more closely with the advisory board.
- Jeff Lee thought the board has stated that clearly that they do not agree with the process of revising the management plan.
- Several board members did participate in compiling the Friends comments but not everyone has had the time to review all the comments.
- Jeff Lee recommended that the board start with the Friends comment. Send them to everyone by email, give everyone until Thursday to send in comments, changes and recommendation and then have the board meet on Friday to discuss and take a vote to determine if they support the comments.
- Monica Alvarez commented that this process has not been a-typical, there were several stake holder meetings and with change of commissioner and staff it has taken a little longer to get the draft completed. Advisory board members do not see the draft plan until the public draft is available.
- Robert Archibald stated that the Friends comments where never intended to be the decision maker for the advisory board. It was one to be submitted by the Friends Groups and we don't want that cross relationship.
- Aron Peterson commented that he read the Friends comments and he agrees with them but can see how some board members may not agree with all the comments. Let just send in our individual comments and let the DNR planning group put the comments into the report to be reviewed by the commissioner.
- Patrick Miller commented that the board should move forward with accepting the Friends comments.
- Robert reviewed some of the comments that the Friends are submitting. They included such as limiting helicopters in the park and heliskiing. The plan needs to address climate change and MOU with other agencies.
- Sera stated that the board does not need to act to support or not support the Friends comments.
- Robert does not agree with taking a vote on the Friends comments.
- Monica Alvarez said that DNR planning team has never received comments from the citizen advisory board. Each individual board member should submit comments. One group comment weighs the same as other groups comments.

8. New Business

- Aron Peterson made a motion that we do not meet for a December advisory board meeting unless something comes up with the management plan.
Jeff seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Comments and Discussion by Visitors

- Roger MacCampbell commented that the enabling legislation for the park refers to the protection of flora and fauna. Roger stated that DNR should have a seat at the table when Fish and Game is having discussion about the fish allocation and any other policy or limitation on wildlife.
- Roger asked the list of stakeholders that the DNR Planning team met with during the rewrite process of the management plan. Monica listed the cycle club, water taxi operators, helicopter companies, water trail, lodge owners, personal water craft advocates and the ski club.
- A member of the public asked if a management plan had ever been amended? Monica stated that it is very rare, but it has happened.
- Tom commented that there is some rapid growth happening in Homer and in the State Park that if access should be kept to a minimum. If we make it natural restricting it would be more self-regulating to access the park.
- Helicopters are noisy, and I do hope that they do not allow helicopters in the park. I live next to the park and there is a lot of helicopter traffic and its noisy. Restrict it before it gets out of hand.
- There is nothing in the plan that says you must provide maximum development. Protect and preserve the lands and not develop the park to its maximum.

10. Comments and Discussion by Board Members:

- Jeff Lee commented that conflict tends to bring out change. So maybe that will be a positive thing. We should support the development we have and add to the existing development.
- Glenn Green commented that you cannot make the park so restricted that people would not be able to use. If we get so restricted that public would not want to use the park. It's a people park. The plan is an ongoing living document and amendments can be proposed.
- Sera stated we should manage this public trust for the public. We currently have three zones in our park plan and the present plan is for the maximum development in the easy access ways. A natural zone has less development and wilderness we have less. Those help with the development where some people cannot push through the devil's club. The park should be accessible to everyone. Keep the development restricted to the recreational zones. No helicopters.
- Glenn Green hope we are mixing the Wilderness with the State Park. The Wilderness park can be left as Wilderness. The State Park is for people to access the park. Don't? confuse one with the other.
- Monica explained that the DNR planning team will respond to each issue raised by public comment. The Commissioner has the final decision as to what changes may be made and will sign it once completed.
- Nancy commented that the surrounding infrastructure should be included in the plan. Many are in place to protect and preserve the flora and fauna.
- Aron Peterson commented that Jack Blackwell, Pam Russell, Monica Alvarez, Matt Wedeking, Aron Peterson, Robert Archibald and Dave Braun went out to Mile 16.8 and walked to the end of the road and then drove farther down East End Road to Ratone Road. This was the Cottonwood Eastland Area and we just talked about some of the options to access the area and a possible public use site.

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: January 9th, 2019 at 5:30p.m.