



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board
PO Box 3248, Homer, AK 99603
Meeting Minutes
March 13th, 2019

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call:** Board Members: Aron Peterson, Nancy Hillstrand, Jeffrey Lee, Carol Harding, Sera Baxter, Robert Archibald, Patrick Miller, Kevin Walker, Marc Romano and Curtis Jackson

State Park staff –Jason Okuly, Pamela Russell.

Public Members: Doug Lee, Tom Young, Roger MacCampbell, Eric Clarke, John Allardice, Chris Holderied, Mitchell Hrachiar, Gary Fandrei, Janet Klein, Bob Evenson and John Allardice.

- b. Minutes:** Minutes were approved with corrections.

- c. Agenda Changes:** Under new business Nancy added review the application timeline for new members. New member introductions. Robert Archibald added under committee reports the Kachemak Bay 50th anniversary as a standing committee.

d. Public Comment:

Janet Klein reported that Dave Erickson and herself have received a permit for the 2019 season to continue conducting plant surveys in Kachemak Bay State Park.

Mitch Hrachiar gave a report of the Diamond Creek Trail. He stated that there are areas of ice and places where the ground slumped down the slope. The trail needs maintenance, Mitch Hrachiar commented that he will complete some maintenance on the trail in 2019 but stated last year there were two injuries in 2018. One incident required a group of volunteers to go and help a hiker that slide down the hill and the other person fell and sustained a broken wrist. The trail is in bad condition and needs repairs that will make the trail safe. Money needs to be requested to fix the trail and Mitch though it would be a great idea to have the board write a resolution in support of repairing the trail.

- e. Presentation:** Josh Hankenfoley gave a presentation on using an underwater remote operated vehicle to help locate the anchors that were put in place in the Saddle Trail area in 1996. The south anchor set was located and with the camera Josh was able inspect the status of the chain and the anchor. The boat was able to get directly over the anchor and record an accurate GPS location. An anchor buoy was attached temporarily to the anchor through the eye of the chain but is not to be used by vessels for mooring at this time. The north anchor was also located, and a GPS location was marked and a buoy was attached. Josh will return in the future and mark the north anchor when he is able to get the proper tools to attach the line and buoy. Josh is willing to work to the future to help in locating the anchors.

The mooring buoys were put in place by Alaska State Parks and then one by one the buoys began to disappear. It is believed that the same thing failed on each of anchors and State Parks did not have the ability to replace the equipment. There are no mooring buoys available at this time.

Kevin Walker gave a brief history of his attempt to replace 16 mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay through a grant process. The grant was not approved because of the lack of a bullet proof maintenance plan. Kevin is recommending that if it will take only a couple hundred dollars to fix the anchors that are currently in place, then maybe a group such as the local Yacht Club or Friends of Kachemak Bay could provide the funds.

Roger commented that these mooring buoys are what is used in the Washington State Parks. In Washington State the park owns a large powered barge that can lift each of their anchors. Every three years they lift 1/3 of the anchors and inspect the chain and line and replace equipment when necessary. Divers also inspect each anchor system every year. Each of the buoys has a fee box to pay to use the mooring buoy. Roger has concerns about making sure that the system will work and who will be responsible if they fail. There are approximately 7 anchors and buoys that were installed in various areas of Kachemak Bay State Park.

Mako Haggerty stated that there are anchors in Tutka Bay, two in Halibut Cove Lagoon and two at Right Beach.

Jason commented that State Parks put out an announcement that they were looking for divers to help with the inspections of these anchors. He had received a few inquiries if Parks paid for filling their air tanks. Currently the system that is in place has been approved by State Parks and this may be the way to proceed with new anchors and buoys. Jason did contact the Coast Guard and they showed some interest in possibly taking a boat over and lifting the existing anchors off the bottom.

The board discussed the possibility of removing the old anchors and replacing with a new design. The cost of replacing the system is more that State Parks budget would allow.

How would State Parks charge for using the buoys? Parks could possibly use the reservation system that is currently in place for renting cabins.

Robert Archibald recommended that we should look at the existing hardware and see if it is something that can be salvaged and used.

Sera asked: "what is the park position for using a running surf line to the shore to anchor your boat in the Park?" Jason stated that State Parks has no problem with someone using this type of anchor system.

Nancy asked if there is any mapping of what the bottom of the bay may look like, for such things as kelp beds and vegetation? Chris Holderied commented that they are currently working on some drop camera video for the bottom of the bay and that the information will be available in the future. It will be helpful for the board to go through the video to make the determination as to what vegetation or sea life may be on the bottom.

Jason is going to work with Josh to see what it would cost to first locate all the anchors and then possibly pursue having the Coast Guard go out and pull the anchors for inspection.

2. Committee Reports

- a. **Operations Report**- Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:

- **Diamond Creek SRA**-Erosion events have taken place on the trail leading to the beach. A rope is strung through the trees where a 20' section of trail is missing. Steep slopes exist on the uphill side and downhill side of the trail. The board requested an update as to where the FEMA money is to repair this trail. Design and Construction will be contacted by State park staff to get the update. Eric Clarke State Park technician will inspect the area and report back to the board in April.
- **Cottonwood Eastland** -Concerned citizen reported that trees are being cut from the Cottonwood Eastland property off Fox Sparrow. Conducted a patrol, did not find evidence trees were being taken from the park.
- **Meetings** -2 - 50th birthday planning meeting, creation of google documents to share planning information. Some ideas the group is discussing include: creating banners to be hung around town, 1 event each month, birthday party on May 9th, 2020, fund raising. I would like this board to participate in hosting an event. Kachemak Bay Watershed Collaboration founded by Hal Shepard. Focus was on Fox River flats and cattle grazing. Next step is to have a meeting with the cattlemen for their input. Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Management Plan meeting – discussion of storage of fuel within the critical habitat area. Friends meeting – Jason attending the Kenai Peninsula-Cooperative Weed Management Area meeting. A topic of discussion was invasive species on Park lands specifically Orange Hawkweed in Tutka Lagoon. It was discussed that the group develop an invasive plan Best Management Plan to be used for State Park projects.
- **HEA** -HEA continues to work on the Stonehocker Creek project. Jason conducted a site visit and noted a few discrepancies between the issued permits and the activity. Storage of fuel with insufficient secondary confinement within 100' of mean ordinary high tide, construction of a crane platform in Stonehocker creek, and traveling outside the right of way. These concerns were brought to HEA's attention and we are working to resolve the laps in communication and failure to follow permit stipulations. Fish and Game as well as the Corp of Engineers were notified to allow them to reference their issued permits.
- **Administrative** -Advisory Board candidate interviews. Created aerial imagery with ½ mile buffer around park structures to illustrate our hunting regulations. These will be posted at yurts, trail heads, and public use cabins.
- **Kachemak Bay**-Collect trail registers and trail counters from Glacier Spit trailhead and Kayak Beach. Explored Halibut Creek to find a possible bridge site.
- **Enforcement**-Tanner Crab pot seized after season closure, no contact info on buoy, located individual through troopers, individual states he lost the pot and could not find it. Gear was returned. Report of heli-skiing in park. Checked with local helicopter operators, they say they were not flying in the park. Reports of commercial fishing vessels in Park Waters w/o a park permit.
- **Eric Clarke**-RTP grants were tentatively approved, waiting for Federal approval. Saddle Trail contractor set to start June 7th. Contractor will be using a mini excavator to finish the construction of the Saddle Trail. Trees will be felled during the summer season. Saddle Trail will be closed temporarily throughout several days while trees are being felled near existing trail. Working on hiring summer staff for the China Poot Trail RTP grant. Looking for crew members and crew leader. Working on a SWPPP for Saddle trail contractor work.

b. Friend's Report- Mako Haggerty reported to the board the following:

- The Friends group met on Monday March 4th, 2019. The currently balance of the account is approximately \$18,000. The group will be looking at project that they would like to fund by application that have submitted proposals.
- The group had won a raffle and received a \$250.00 price money from the Homer Foundations. The funds are currently earmarked for a project at Halibut Cove cabins.

- There are new board members Doug Reed, Laura Kelly (secretary) and Roger MacCampbell (head of the 50th Anniversary committee of the State Park).
- The trail report will continue to be broadcast on KBBI radio. The kiosk at Diamond Creek trail will have current information as it becomes available.
- Shorebird Festival - there will no booth at the high-school for the committee will not be sponsoring a fair at the high school, but there is the Friends Pancake breakfast and Friendship walk on May 11, 2019.

c. Kachemak Bay 50 Anniversary celebration: Roger MacCampbell gave the following report:

- The committee has five meetings. The goal is to have an event every month starting next year, and it would start with first day hike, a parade in the winter and possible one on Fourth of July.
- Roger asked how many members of the board are members of Friends? If you are not a member you should be a member and the sign-up fee is \$50.00 for the 50th anniversary.
- The group is going to sponsor a raffle, so they are soliciting donations.
- The committee is also in need of volunteers. If you are interested in helping, get in touch with Friends group to sign up.
- Janet Klein is going to provide hikes.

3. Old Business

4. New Business:

- a. Introduction of new board members: Marc Romano is a Wildlife Biologist in the Homer Area with Alaska Maritime and Curtis Jackson is sportfish guide and is currently working as a water taxi operator for Mako's Water Taxi service and he has the boat called the Orca.
- b. Kachemak Bay Bylaws propose changes to the new board member procedure. Nancy Hillstrand reported to the board about trying to streamline the application process into a predictable timeline for board members and administration. This would entail call for applications in January. The application process takes six months
 1. call for applications in January,
 2. end of application in April 15,
 3. interview in early May,
 4. board review
 5. recommendation to Headquarters by end of May,
 6. decision in headquarters by end of June
 7. decision by June / July,
 8. seated at first meeting in September.

It was determined that the board would like to review the proposed process and have the discussion at the April meeting.

5. Correspondence
6. Comments and Discussion by Visitors: Tom Young asked about the update for the Kachemak Bay Management plan. We are working through the issue response summary and that takes quite some time because of all the comments we received on the draft.
7. Comments and Discussion by Board Members: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Next meeting on April 10, at Islands and Oceans at 5:30 pm