



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

Draft Minutes

Thursday, January 13th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call-Joe Connors, Ron Rogalsky, William Tappan, David Maternowski, Monte Roberts, Ted Wellman, Andrew Carmichael, Brent Hubbert, Matt Connors, Marion Glaser, Colton Lipka and Jack Blackwell
- B. Minutes Approval-Minutes were approved as written
- C. Agenda Changes and Approval- Agenda was approved as written
- D. Public Comment-None
- E. Presentations-Jonathon Tymick the project manager from the Alaska Department of Transportation gave a presentation regarding the Cooper Landing Bypass, Sterling Highway milepost 45 to 60. The presentation included detailed information regarding the 6 phases of the project. It is projected that the 6 phases will be completed in 6 years from 2021 to 2027.

II. REPORTS

- A. Agency and Government Reports
 - a. State Parks –Superintendent Jack Blackwell reported that the Governor’s proposed budget added 1.45 million dollars to the State Park budget of Alaska State Parks. This will be an annual increase and it is from the vehicle rental tax. The money will help cover some of the operational cost in the State Park system including allowing State Park staff to visit some of the remote sites that have not been visited in several years. It will also help with some of the emergency fixes that need to be completed in the spring before opening the park units to the public. One of the big components of the funding is to change the 10-month seasonal Par Ranger to 12 months. Jack will also be working on the upcoming recruitment for the Advisory board.
 - b. DEC – Sarah Apsens written report contained the following
 - The 2022 Integrated Report is out for public notice as of January 6th, 2022. The public comment period ends February 6th. A public meeting is scheduled for January 18th. More information on the 2022 IR and waterbody listings can be found on the DEC website (<https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/>). No Kenai Peninsula waterbodies are proposed for listing changes in the 2022 IR.
 - The lab results from year one of the DEC Kenai River Metals monitoring project are available on the web from DEC (<https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/>). Finalized results for the 2021 season will be uploaded to EPA’s Water Quality Portal (WQX) portal shortly (<https://www.waterqualitydata.us/>). A field report will be completed by spring 2022, and a final report in spring 2023. A presentation to KRSMA board is planned for a future date. Additional sampling events are planned for 2022.
 - c. ADF&G – Colton Lipka reported that the department of Fish and Game are working on the 2022 projections. They are due to be released the last week of January.

- d. USF&WS – Matt Connors talked about the new multi-use trail that runs parallel along Sky Hill Road. The Refuge is working on acquiring the funding for the Jim’s landing project. Construction is slated to start in fall of 2022. The Refuge is also working on hiring the 2022 seasonal hires. Marion is also working on the five-year agreement between the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service to co management the Russian River Area.
- e. USFS - Marion Glaser – Gave a power point presentation on the Russian River 2021 program. The District Ranger Francisco Sanchez has retired and Ruth D-Amico has taken the position. The Forest Service is also working on the 2022 seasonal hires.
- f. City of Kenai – Lisa Gabriel reported that Mayor Gabriel was appointed to the Governors the Alaska By- Catch task force for the coastal mayor seat. The first meeting for this task force is the end of February.
- g. City of Soldotna – Andrew Carmichael reported to the board that the City of Soldotna is also working on starting the process for the summer hires. The City of Soldotna has plenty of Spruce Bark Beetle trees to deal with, but they are currently waiting for their grant money.
- h. Kenai Peninsula Borough – No report

B. Committee Reports- There were no committee meeting for the month of January

- a. President’s Report
- b. Guide Advisory
- c. Habitat Committee
- d. River Use
- e. Legislative/Government Activities

III. OLD BUSINESS:

IV. NEW BUSINES

- a) Review Silver Salmon Derby permit-The board agreed that if the tournament is conducted the same ways in years pass, the permit should be issued.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS-Monte Roberts thanks everyone for the thought and prayers. He is out of the hospital and on the mend.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting: March 9th, 2022.