

Kachemak Bay Research Reserve  
Community Council  
Minutes- March 2, 2016

Session 16-01. The fifty-fifth meeting of the Kachemak Bay Community Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by George Matz at the Reserve Headquarters, Homer, Alaska.

**Staff members present:** Jessica Shepherd, Angie Doroff, Syverine Abrahamson, Coowe Walker, Steve Baird, Jim Schloemer, Dana Nelson

**Council members present:** Ralph Broshes, Jim Hornaday, George Matz, Derek Bynagle, Donna Aderhold

**Agency members present:** Tom Dearlove, Ginny Litchfield

**Guests present:** Laurie Daniels, Curt Jackson, Brad Marden, Kim Powell, Paul Allen, Linda Robinson, Will Files

**By phone:** Michael Opheim

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Approval of minutes
3. Review of Charter Updates- Syverine Abrahamson
  - a. UAA new State Partner
  - b. Additional Council Members
  - c. Outreach Committee
4. Approval of Charter
  - a. Motion to approve- Jim
  - b. Second- Derek
    - i. Unanimously Approved
5. Selection of New Council Members- George Matz
  - a. New charter allows new members
  - b. Voting members-
  - c. New alternates-
  - d. New Agency Members- Willie Dunn
  - e. Motion to approve- Derek
  - f. Second- Donna
    - i. Unanimously Approved
  - g. New Members introduce themselves
    - i. Linda Robinson- Outreach Coordinator RCAC
      1. Oil Spill Response
      2. Outreach and Education
    - ii. Paul Allen- Science Education 40+ Years
      1. Involved with schools, universities, administration
      2. Outreach experience

- iii. Laurie Daniel- Local Conservation Biologist
  - 1. Original Ecological Characterization for KBay
  - 2. FWS, Contract, Environmental Community
- iv. Curt Jackson- Marine Ed, Research and Industry
  - 1. High school Biology Teacher
  - 2. Pacific Research
  - 3. Marine Trades Fisherman/Water Taxi/Net Building
- v. Brad Marden- Commercial Fisherman
  - 1. Biology/Freshwater Ecology
  - 2. Liaison for fishing groups- NPFA
- h. Council Expectations: George Matz
  - i. Thank new members for involvement
  - ii. Community engagement and outreach
  - iii. Source of letters of support
- i. Comments on Council:
  - i. Donna: at the beginning of the transition the committees went defunct, would like to revitalize
  - ii. Angie and Jess: Agree, we should renew with new members
  - iii. Jim: We are part of a larger scientific community and initiative
    - 1. Jess: LTER proposal has been submitted (first marine) consistent funding from NSF. Timeline unknown.
  - iv. Council members volunteer letters of support
  - v. Syverine: Sign up for committees after you hear the quarterly reports
  - vi. Committee meetings should meet in addition to full quarterly meetings
  - vii. Committee's had an agency rep- perhaps have a staff liaison too
  - viii. Research Committee- helpful for GRE program
    - 1. Other Student Opportunities- coordinate with Debbie
  - ix. Jim: Outreach- journalists at KBay science conference, lead with understandable conclusions and recommendations
  - x. Paul: Communications courses required for GK12- translating science
    - 1. Multiple levels of translating science- Outreach Plan
- 6. Proposal to hold a future Council meeting in Seldovia- Jessica Shepherd
  - a. Have held meetings in Seldovia, Kenai River Center,
  - b. September meeting in Seldovia
    - i. Mechanism for Payment? SVT ferry (charter?), Tiglax, Tustumena
    - ii. Field Trip to water quality station
    - iii. Meeting with local community
    - iv. What's new in the bay format?
  - c. Meeting format: Future meetings have a larger research presentation?
    - i. Ginny- yes!
    - ii. Donna- only if it enhances research
    - iii. Steve- often nice practice runs

Break 1:15 pm

7. Manager Report- Jessica Shepherd

- a. Last Fiscal Year Report: Bree has said we've gone above and beyond
  - i. Moving SWMP stations
  - ii. Education numbers
- b. Transition:
  - i. Bay Ave Lab- legal closure between NOAA and ADF&G
  - ii. Purchasing vehicles- paperwork process
- c. Jess title: ~~Acting~~ Manager
  - i. National search for a manager once we have the funding
- d. Budget/Funding: All staff funded for next year
  - i. State Wildlife Grants: F&G honoring match for these grants
    - 1. Harmful Species, Watershed and Nearshore
  - ii. NOAA Ops - \$25 k increase: SWMP and TOTE workshop
  - iii. EVOS- next 5 year grant
  - iv. NERRS Science Transfer Grant
  - v. BOEM grants for Otters and Salmon
  - vi. Not funded: Angus Gavin UA Foundation (Shorebirds and Bivalves)
- e. New Staff:
  - i. Rosie Robinson: Harmful Species Program
  - ii. Admin/Outreach: Applicant review next week
- f. Spring Newsletter: Volunteerism at KBNERR

8. Quarterly Reports:

- a. Angie:
  - i. Alaska Marine Science Symposium: attended ½ mortality working group and discussed whales (MMPA, UME), Common Murres, Sea Otters
  - ii. Ocean Acidification: AOOS sponsored 2day OA Workshop
    - 1. Deep water monitoring, important for how things set up in the nearshore
    - 2. Data gaps for the nearshore habitats like KBay; Sitka is working OA into their climate resiliency
    - 3. Lots of discussion on the status of new monitoring equipment and failure rates. Collective take from the group was to wait until the technology stabilized.
    - 4. We are retooling our draft OA plan for KBNERR to include extensive water chemistry analyses (supported by a BIA grant to APSFH) and leveraging our GulfWatch project. The goal is to build an algorithm from which to measure OA change in collaboration with NOAA PMEL
  - iii. LTER update: pre- proposal, submitted. don't have a timeline on it from Brenda
  - iv. NERR Intern from Great Lakes will be joining us in Homer this summer and working on Chl/temperature/salinity data for his Capstone project
  - v. GulfWatch... just completed the February sampling! It has been a big challenge having a weather window long enough to conduct those surveys.

Next planned one is for April. Kris Holderied has funding from BOEM for 2 additional charters this year and we'll bracket those surveys around the spring phytoplankton bloom.

- vi. Data from this project have been used to validate the NOAA model used for the tidal energy project
- vii. Analyses to date suggest that on a longer time scale, there is synchrony between the estuary and inner shelf in the Gulf (implications for upper trophic level responses) however, time frames < 3mo have higher variability and may drive local patterns in primary/secondary productivity.
- viii. Clam Project ~
- ix. On 18 March we'll meet with Chugach Regional environmental coordinators and talk about this project and what it means on local scales.
- x. We will be collecting brood stock this spring for little neck, butter clam, and perhaps cockle. We'll be taking time to update and inventory habitat to feed back into and validate the clam models.
- xi. APH has a graduate student starting on an OA larval clam dosing project this summer

George: Possibility for carbon sequestration studies for estuaries.

Coowe: Has time to look into salt marshes as carbon sinks

Jim: earthquake drop, RSLR changes on salt marshes?

Steve: will be working with partners to get updated rates

b. Steve:

- i. SWMP- overview for new members: water quality and weather
- ii. Operation- a lot of things were breaking down during the transition, all fixed and up and running
- iii. 2014-2015 warmer and fresher water in K Bay: See figures in quarterly report. Also same pattern Homer, Seldovia Surface and Seldovia Deep
- iv. Also going to look at salinity and pH
- v. Algorithm to look at National SWMP database
  - 1. Programmers from EPA- what products can we get out of this?
- vi. MET station move on Spit- not taken lightly for long term monitoring

c. Coowe:

- i. Watershed: Juvenile salmon rearing in freshwater portion of our estuary
  - 1. Difficulty with ice jamming and logs for antenna this winter
  - 2. 6 new nominations to Anadromous Waters Catalog
- ii. Collaboration with Fireweed Academy
  - 1. Mobile structure for a bridge for fieldwork and visitors
- iii. Sustainable Salmon Fund
  - 1. Anadromous Waters Catalog ~70 streams checked
  - 2. Seeking interns
  - 3. Thanks to Ginny and Tom for Letters of Support
- iv. State Wildlife Grant proposal
  - 1. Downstream salmon habitat

- d. Jessica and Dana:
    - i. Water Birds in Winter: 1 group this spring so far, 1 weathered out. 2 more scheduled this spring
    - ii. Discovery Labs:
      - 1. 10 school groups at Our Amazing Oceans DL
      - 2. EPSCoR DL coming up: 1 public, 7 school groups
        - 1. 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programming
        - 2.
    - iii. Brown Bag Presentations: Lecture Series for month of March at KBC
  - e. Syverine:
    - i. Community Monitoring
      - 1. Update on monitoring numbers, SBB Student spotlight
      - 2. HAB Response Workshop
    - ii. CTP:
      - 1. HAB Workshop Outcomes:
        - 1. More communication between organizations:
        - 2. More public outreach
        - 3. Faster Test Results
      - 2. Climate Adaptation Training: three-day no-cost workshop for area managers and decision-makers
      - 3. KBNERR staff have been invited to present Reserve science at a climate change listening session/workshop for the people in the Chugach region
      - 4. Woodard Creek Commission:
        - 1. Steve and Syverine outreach watershed maps and science
      - 5. Marine Ecosystem Workgroup meeting- a half day of presentations and discussions this spring
9. Updates from Council and Agency members
- a. Tom Dearlove: Planning commission meeting April 11<sup>th</sup> in Homer
    - i. Resolution for request for support
  - b. Ginny Litchfield: no updates, waiting for budget
  - c. Donna Aderhold: Gulfwatch report
    - i. Preparing Proposal for next 5 yrs
    - ii. Compiling information- good outcomes
10. Council and Public Comment
- a. Will Files: Long term council involvement
    - i. Congratulations to council and Reserve!
    - ii. Glad to see new members and changing of the guard
    - iii. Two catchphrases:
      - 1. World class lab
      - 2. Magnet
    - iv. Suggestion to bring in international researchers
  - b. Ralph Broshes: University budget situation?

- i. Legislature cannot dictate how U allocates money
  - ii. Jess has submitted a letter to explain match 19:1 investment
- c. Jim: Recent testimony from the budget committee
  - i. Outlook for any additional money from University is grim
  - ii. Governor is supportive of generating/looking for additional funds
- d. Will Files: Write letters and vote to support your interests!

#### 11. Closing Remarks

Meeting Adjourns 3:15 pm