

Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
Community Council
Minutes - June 8, 2016

Session 16-02. The fifty-sixth 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, Rose Robinson, and Liz Villarreal

Council members present: Ralph Broshes, George Matz, Curtis Jackson, Laurie Daniel, Linda Robinson, Paul Allen, and Donna Aderhold

Agency members present: Tom Dearlove, Kris Holderied, Willy Dunne,

Guests present: Dominic Hondolero (NOAA Kasitsna), Lukas Byker (ADFG Habitat Division)
Student Researchers: Brianna Pierce, Adam Lein, Daniel Garrett, Chris Guo

By phone: Matt Carlson, Derek Bynagle

1. Welcome & introductions
 - a. Agenda Addition: Remembering Carmen, our beloved longtime staff member who passed too soon.

2. Approval of minutes
 - a. Jim Hornaday, Michael Opheim and Ginny Litchfield not able to attend
 - b. Resignation of Steve Lewis from the council, replace from the alternate
 - c. Approve minutes from last meeting Donna motion, Ralph second

3. Manager Report: Jessica Shepherd
 - a. Introductions to new staff & students.
 - b. Increase in NOAA ops funding – request that NERRS made was that \$15,000 go to SWMP equipment; \$10,000 to TOTE program
 - c. Carry forward money that will not be spent down will go to cover staff salary

4. Quarterly Reports:
 - a. Angie: Research Coordinator
 - i. Loss of funding for HFA – need to start telling the story earlier for more buy in sooner, use our contacts with council to promote.
George – also highlight how vital KBNERR is economically for the region
Laurie – get Poppy Benson & Paul Seaton more involved
Syverine – Legislative committee could send letters of support
Kris - also express of letter of disappointment
George – can Liz be a part of legislative outreach with Willy? No, UAA employees are not allowed to do legislative work. *note – we found this out after the meeting.

Angela – Highlight what HFA designation means to NOAA & how that affects us & how we are a good investment

Kris - How the program provides existing relevant support & a good history of local interactions.

Donna – Outreach- get city clerk on info list; get mayoral proclamations & resolutions for city of Homer

Willy – Make sure that south side of bay contacts are on our lists, too (different district)

- ii. Gulf Watch oceanographic monitoring: Currently in its 5th year, proposal for initial review from science council for next 5 years was not recommended to go forward.

Jessica – bigger hit because it was our non-federal \$ match

Angela – will share contacts & talking points for council

b. Coowe: Watershed Research

- i. Anchor River: Introducing Dan & Chris to the team, inviting the council to the field to sample. Re-introducing Brianna. Project officially ends 6/30, but new avenues are opening up for habitat suitability models for juvenile salmon & models for National Parks.
- ii. Anadromous predictive models to help guide anadromous guide. New proposal with Matsu salmon partnership with FWS & Baylor University to apply predictive model in Matsu.

c. Syverine: Coastal Training Program

- i. Reserve is working well across sectors on multiple projects with early engagement to get good feedback from resource managers and stakeholders and ensure programs will be useful for them
- ii. We are leveraging Marine Ecosystem workgroup for Bivalve Project to make up for budget cuts, plan a bigger workshop spring 2017
- iii. CTP focused on climate change and adaptation this spring:
 - 1. Workshop with NOAA OCM for climate change, great springboard for fall climate scenario workshop (October)
 - 2. CRRC workshop this spring went well, provide insight for potential focus areas
- iv. Watershed: Looking at management plans & exporting research statewide – interest in reinstating watershed working group
- v. Blue carbon project: SERC professional coming up early July (Lisa S.) providing training in sampling methodologies, and helping envision new research project ideas for KBNERR. Check out NOAA blue carbon website. Pursuing NERR \$10K science collaborative capacity building grant to provide additional training in Blue Carbon

- d. Dana Nelson: Education Program
 - i. Water birds of winter with ANMWR 42 people
 - ii. EPSCoR– discovery labs, brown bags, school programs with Port Graham & Seldovia. 230 people;
 - iii. Earth day – nature path @ West Homer
 - iv. Lake Clark Programs: 7 oceans principles
 - v. Student estuary hikes: 232 students
 - vi. HHS student climate change debate
 - vii. Salmon Celebration @ Johnson Lake: 975 students
 - viii. Lunch lectures – 2 per month except for May (May was too busy)
 - ix. Master Naturalist training was a success
 - x. Upcoming estuary hikes, lectures & discovery labs- see schedule in quarterly report
Tom: River Center is interested in education coming up to deliver programs in the central peninsula

- e. Liz Villarreal – Outreach Update:
 - i. Social Media: Facebook – engagement up over 1250% since position began 4/4/16. Reach is over 13,298 in the same period with over 5882 this week alone, due in part to an outpouring of posts about Carmen. All organic, not paid – a huge accomplishment given the ad focused algorithms. Getting twitter & instagram accounts up & running.
 - ii. Collaboration on communication planning with staff as well as KBNERR partners. Working with NERRA & NOAA digital coast on updating communication strategies & social media marketing to enhance our visibility.
 - iii. New email outreach format coming soon – stay tuned & make sure to respond to the subscription request.
 - iv. Getting together website materials for publishing

- f. Rose Robinson – Harmful Species Program
 - i. Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring: found Domoic Acid using rapid field tests; coordinating with Lab in Sitka – able to see within 3 days if its toxic. New responsibilities with public information dissemination, we are working on better communication & how to get info out. Main communication is weekly phytoplankton update email.
Lori – what about a HAB update like state park trails update?
Kris – AOOS is trying to create places to get this information through a website with links etc.

Curt – have it listed next to the tides in the paper?

Syverine – “what’s new in the bay” news section?

Curt – more publicity & awareness will help political buy in

George – would like to see staff use council to work through these things as well to disseminate information

Dom – mid May we found high numbers of Alexandrium at head of Tutka Bay, less at mouth of bay. Trying to find out what the incubator for that is.

We are running a nutrient analysis in the water column as well to see if that is affecting Alexandrium. Put oysters on buoy lines to be sampled to test for accumulation. We didn’t find any mussels to test local populations.

- ii. Green Crab monitoring update: monitors have crab traps and will set up for trapping on the next low tide series
- iii. Tunicate monitoring: Erin McKittrick found a potential invasive outside of Seldovia & sent a sample. Rosie is planning to follow up sampling at next low-low tide.

g. Adam Lein: NERR Oceanography Intern

- i. Comparing sonde chlorophyll readings to lab readings & how that relates to management; as well as fresh water & saltwater sonde comparison & which work best in each situation.

Tom – how deep are these blooms – could oyster farmers lower their nets?

Dom – Chlorophyll to 10 sometimes 12 meters depending on conditions, always changing, so, probably not

h. Steve Baird:

- i. KBNERR did a coastal erosion program for City of Homer & they are interested in an update & an overall erosion rate
- ii. UAF group using drones to look at 2009 slump/uplift & do 3D mapping; but they are interested in doing a brown bag next Friday.
- iii. Remote sensing conference in the fall!

5. Updates from Council and Agency members

- a. Kris Holderied: new mapping operations with NOAA/AOOS and Don Field this summer

6. Creation of Committees – Syverine

- a. Committees important for updating strategic plan, due July 2017. Committees will meet quarterly separate from council meetings, and report progress.
 - i. Education – Derek, Linda, Paul, Jessica (& education staff)

- ii. Research – Ralph, Donna (chair) George, Angela, Ginny (& research staff)
- iii. Outreach Plan development – public relations & legislative components (council only on Legislative) Syverine, Liz, Willy, George, Jim, Jessica, Donna, Linda.
- iv. Willy – offer committee membership to people outside the council.
- v. Liz – please court people you think would be good
- vi. Donna – dust off the archive & reach out to people that used to be involved.

7. Future Directions Discussion – George

- a. Lots of great projects going on, but there are gaps in response and local relevancy
Murre example: Researchers found they were starving, but why? Plenty of forage fish in the bay. Need more information or synthesis. How can we fund these next steps, especially non - harvestable species?
- b. Pittman Robertson: Potential to tap some of the \$11 M in Federal hunting license fees that are channeled through ADF&G. The state no longer has general fund to provide match, so the \$ will not be able to be used. UAA already receives \$ from this – proposal by invite – not an open call. ADF&G is shy about using volunteer match, (25%) but there may be a chance because shorebird network has a strong record of volunteers & private \$.
 - Matt Carlson – had conversations about putting in proposal for these funds
 - Kris – forage fish study esp. for overwintering seabirds (Angela is very interested in this)
 - Syverine – could EVOS funding also be considered a match?
 - Coowe – major source of non-federal match is private universities – tracking tuition waivers etc.
 - Lucas – will work with Ginny to make sure it’s useful for wildlife division
 - Willy - Must address goals within the ADF&G Wildlife Strategic Plan in order to be considered for funding – like SWG funding.
 - Coowe – Wildlife Strategic Plan was just amended & is more system focused than the species focus it used to have
 - Syverine – NERR system focuses on restoration, but we haven’t because we don’t own any land.
 - Dana – work with ANMWR, CACS
- c. George – Use strategic planning to actively go after funding & more monitoring.
Topic for research committee?

8. Honoring Carmen – Ideas

Mud Bay outdoor education site

Carmen “Field Day”
Mud wallow in Mud Bay
Inviting Conrad & Eryn to be involved & engaged with everything
Nighttime tide pooling in the winter
Lori – has staff talked about blowing up a photo of Carmen with quote in
Entryway
Jess – we need a name for the building “Field Station”
We will think about these ideas, coordinate with family and friends on
possibilities, planning

9. Seldovia Logistics for next Council Meeting

- a. Lori – will talk to Billy about possibly collaborating with USFWS to travel to/from Seldovia on the Tiglax idea
- b. Date options - either first wed of Sept. or August 31. Jess proposes 8/31 wed prior to Labor Day weekend.
- c. We’ll send out a bulletin & get feedback.
- d. SBB students will be in town to come for our meeting across the bay

10. Council & Public Comment

- a. Linda Robinson:
 - i. PWSRAC approved an internship with CACS & PWSSC to come do oil education across the bay
 - ii. PWSRAC will be hosting marine firefighting symposium May 12-14 in Homer
- b. Brown bag email group needs reinstating, please email out notifications of these events
- c. Tom: group of 6 Russian professionals in town learning about how we manage through Rotary
- d. Ralph – wants to know if oyster farmers/DEC are doing DA testing Rosie – not now, just PSP

11. Closing remarks

Meeting Adjourns at 3:40 pm