

Kachemak Bay Research Reserve  
Community Council  
Minutes – December 14, 2016

Session 16-04 The fifty-sixth meeting of the Kachemak Bay Community Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by George Matz at the Carmen Field Station, Homer, Alaska.

**Staff members present:** Jessica Shepherd, Angie Doroff, Syverine Abrahamson, Coowe Walker, Chris Guo, Steve Baird, Jim Schloemer, Dana Nelson, Rose Robinson, and Catie Bursch

**Council members present:** Ralph Broshe, George Matz, Curtis Jackson, Laurie Daniel, Linda Robinson, Paul Allen, and Donna Aderhold, Derek Bynagle

**Agency members present:** Tom Dearlove, Kris Holderied, Willy Dunne, Jason (Parks), Jim Hornaday, Marilyn Sigman, Kim Powell

**Guests present:**

**By phone:** Laurie Daniel, Michael Opheim, Brenda Konar, Ginny Litchfield

1. Welcome & introductions
  - a. Note all participants in room and on phone
2. Approval of minutes
  - a. Approve minutes from last meeting motion, second
  - b. Approved:
3. Invasive Species Presentation – Catie Bursch
  - a. Assessment on invasive species on the Randolph Yost Jack Up Rig
    - i. One pagers to e-mail out after meeting
    - ii. Next step: present to city?
    - iii. See 1 pager & powerpoint
  - b. Questions included...
    - i. If they were required to remove all growth would it cause the rigs to have a shorter life span?
      1. Expensive to scrape all organisms off – more so than to dry dock
    - ii. Good presentation – ready to present to city council
      1. Include coast guard
      2. Start with port and harbor and then go to the city
      3. Having this in front of all harbor masters – harbor master meeting for the state of Alaska – discuss the potential loss of commerce
      4. Presented nice in an unbiased way
    - iii. Prince William Sound RCAC: research done on costs impacts from invasives
      1. Next round of this a presentation to RCAC?
    - iv. Coalition of people trying to build advocacy around salmon and trying to change title 16 (statute under which knowingly sits)
    - v. Council pass a resolution with these resolutions – involve legislators

- vi. Amount of time necessary out of the water needed to kill these species – studies done?
  - 1. List of best practices say 3 weeks, good to have documentation that that’s what it takes to kill these species
  - 2. Working w/ Homer harbor master for ramp removal
- vii. Clarification of transport & dry dock
- viii. What about eggs that can be more resilient?
- ix. Tsunami marine debris research that’s been done

4. Watershed Project Presentation – Coowe Walker

- a. SASAP Synthesis Project
  - i. See 1 pager
  - ii. Just saw grant in November
  - iii. Send out website to Moore foundation to council members
- b. Several years ago, KBRR conducted a genetics study in partnership with Baylor University. Our goal was to determine if there are genetically different populations of Coho Salmon and Dolly Varden in the Kenai Lowlands watersheds (North Fork Anchor River, South Fork Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Ninilchik River), and between headwater rearing fish, mainstem and estuary rearing fish. We are currently working on a manuscript from the findings of that project. A couple of very interesting points from this project are: 1) one of the headwaters sampled in the Anchor River watershed appears to have a genetically distinct population of Coho Salmon; and 2) there appears to be a genetically distinct population of Coho that rear in estuaries, but are not restricted to a particular river’s watershed. For example, Coho salmon rearing in both Stariski and Anchor River estuaries formed a group that was genetically distinct from the general population of Coho salmon that were in those rivers. This is very interesting new information that should be considered in conservation strategies. The manuscript will be forwarded once it has cleared peer review and is published.
- c. Questions included...
  - i. Exciting because it brings together Coowe’s long-term projects w/ other researchers
    - 1. Great to make data available for watershed group
  - ii. 200,000 in funding how long?
    - 1. 18 months
    - 2. Can use it as match for other nonfederal proposals
    - 3. Spend it up to June 30, 2018
  - iii. Looking at making recommendations for headwaters/private land for future conservation efforts?

1. Yes – no cookie cutter protection, have to follow the flow and change of the ecosystem. Holistic approach

5. Quarterly Reports:

- a. New items not on quarterly report

- i. Harmful Species

1. HAB Meeting in Anchorage

- a. Over 70 people at statewide workshop
      - b. Interest due to blob
      - c. More saxitoxins in bay then in 10 years
      - d. Not much known w/ how toxins flow through food chain – puffins?
      - e. Outcomes: run by sea grant, will have proceedings, agencies should work together to make a hab network, one central website and data base, ultimately it could be a map to inform various stakeholders, trying to follow toxins through the food web
      - f. Sitka Q's : SEATOR's background, tribal funding
        - i. Can people dig or not
      - g. Kris Holderied:
        - i. Nice mix of people from researchers to state agency
        - ii. A lot of networking is going to be similar between HABs and OA – same people
        - iii. Reaching out to community monitors
        - iv. A lot of discussion about how we work w/ the tribes
          1. Access to funding
        - v. Leveraging things statewide vs. region specific groups
      - h. OA comment
        - i. How OA would impact HABs
          1. Warmer waters better for OA & toxins?

2. ASGA

3. Curtis:

- a. Lots of community interest in phytoplankton and shellfish toxins
        - b. Letting passengers assist w/ taking tows

- ii. Marine Research

1. Ocean Acidification Workshop

- a. Alaska group maturing being able to discuss nearshore and offshore

- b. Discussed clams : Habitat Focus Area
  - c. Outcomes: presentation by Burk Hail – Burk-o-laters
    - i. Only one here is at Alutiiq Pride Hatchery in Seward
  - d. Understanding impact of OA on bivalves
  - e. 2 people took advantage of long distance webinar
- 2. NOAA FFO
  - a. Data synthesis: nearshore data
  - b. A part of that will be community workshops before & after
  - c. Scaling up to vulnerability assessments
    - i. Needs to be a community assessment vs. individual assessments
  - d. Q: Also talking about citizen scientists?
    - i. BIA grant w/ APH
- 3. Working on putting out buoy and satellite drifters
- 4. SWMP
  - a. Took one of 4 sondes out today due to icing
  - b. Attempting to get 15 year summary report – hopefully out in a year
- 5. Just finishing up Jim’s work to make it relevant to CTD data
- iii. Erosion study
  - 1. By end of calendar year or early January will have update from that study
  - 2. Adding on 2012-2014? Updated erosion rates
- iv. Watershed Research
  - 1. New focus at the head of the bay
    - a. Working w/ Tim Whip (school Principal)
    - b. Have funded grant to do rehabilitation
    - c. Could use teacher time as salary match
  - 2. Genetic work w/ dolly and coho
    - a. Seeing if headwater fish were different and differences between basin
    - b. Dolly’s are similar everywhere
    - c. Coho have a basin signature, similar headwater down
      - i. Nearshore populations in Anchor and Stariski similar
    - d. 1 headwater was genetically distinct
- v. Education
  - 1. Barley & Oats tomorrow w/ George Overpeck
    - a. At grace ridge brewery

2. Sea squirts program
    - a. Ice fishing program
  3. February
    - a. Tsunami bowl: statewide quiz bowl for highschool students
  4. Brown bag lectures
    - a. Will be at I&O from January to March
    - b. First one 1/11 on sea otters outreach with Adriana Ferello
    - c. 2/22 Steve's talk about Belize
    - d. George Matz: talk on trip to Cuba?
  5. Shorebird
    - a. Meeting tomorrow w/ Robbie
    - b. Drawing class out on Reserve's deck
    - c. Birding walk by mud bay (Brown bag birding)
    - d. Peeps smores?
  6. Q: Estuary talk last week?
    - a. Linda Robinson: miscommunication with I & O?
  7. Partnering w/ Coowe w/ Salmon research
  8. Will soon have our calendar up on ACCS website
- vi. CTP
1. Art & Science call for art in January
    - a. Art contest
    - b. Reserve will host demystifying sessions (3)
    - c. Kim McNett: focus on learning sessions at highschool
    - d. Unveiling of winners happen on Earth Day
    - e. April 7<sup>th</sup> : in connection with first Friday
    - f. Q: how do you define art?
    - g. Top 12 submissions turned into a calendar distributed locally & statewide
    - h. Topic: Climate action on the kenai peninsula

## 6. Committee Updates

### a. Education Committee

- i. Dana covered it along w/ quarterly
- ii. Met November 28<sup>th</sup> w/ Jess and Dana reporting out
- iii. Linda Robinson, Ryjil Christiansen, Derek, Jessica Ryan, Dana Nelson, Paul Allan
- iv. Doing a fantastic job – Dana & Jess plus volunteering scientists
- v. Barley & Oats getting traction – science & beer A+
- vi. Discussed mud bay quite a bit
  1. Lot of potential

- 2. Need funding to do some planning – to get a 5 year plan on the bit
    - 3. Infrastructure for a capitol project
  - vii. I&O going to start charging
    - 1. Looking for outreach venue – have ideas for local access please share
    - 2. Hopefully someone could donate an area or at least lower cost
  - viii. Teacher profession development workshops
  - ix. Let Paul know if you're interested to involve others
  - x. RCAC approved project for teachers in the Sound to learn about the area
    - 1. Bring them there
  - xi. Ageya
    - 1. Fabulous space? Potential there?
    - 2. Folk school
  - xii. Education team
    - 1. Spear something about the water trail
  - xiii. Sea Grant
    - 1. Given grants directly to schools
    - 2. How to coordinate w/ reserve
    - 3. Potential funding for Seldovia
    - 4. Bolster field trips
- b. Research Committee
  - i. Did not meet
  - ii. Hoping to meet this Friday sometime
  - iii. Talking about two recent meetings : OA and HAB workshops
  - iv. Recent project wins
  - v. Some of the current grant proposals
  - vi. Incoming interns
- c. Council Success Stories
  - i. Trustee council funding
    - 1. Designated hitter role – accomplished the unbelievable to override science writers decision
    - 2. Understanding how this work supported management needs
    - 3. Only one Alaska person on the science council currently : this program supports local and federal management needs
    - 4. Science panel lacked community connection
    - 5. Trustees got informed ahead of time and made extra effort
  - ii. Letters of support for upcoming NERR Science Collaborative proposals

7. Fiscal Update - Jessica Shepherd

- a. Funding

- i. All KBNERR staff are fully funded through the end of the fiscal year
- ii. A huge shout out to George and other Council Members who wrote letters and made phone calls in support of continued funding for KBNERR under the next five years of the EVOS funding and the next year of HFA funding
- iii. Looking ahead to FY18 we are currently working on several Science Collaborative proposals, and are working with Matt and others to see where ADF&G is in terms of continued SWG funding and the re-introduction of DJ funds, plus several other projects. Coowe was recently awarded a healthy grant that came, indirectly, through the Moore Foundation – which opens the door to an exciting new collaboration.
- iv. On the National level – on Monday Congress passed a continuing resolution to fund the government without a Federal 2017-year budget through April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- v. Trump has nominated Wilber Ross (a billionaire businessman dubbed kind of bankruptcy) as his pick for Commerce secretary, which oversees NOAA and thus the Reserve System. The hope from NERRs leadership is that the Reserve System is not on his radar.

b. Facilities

- i. Field Office renovations
  - 1. Cabinets and counter space in the administration area
  - 2. New kitchen
  - 3. Bid for library shelves
  - 4. Carpet before July 1
- ii. Continued efforts to transfer Bay Ave Lab – Bree Turner (our NERRs liaison) this she has a new angle that doesn't require a letter from NOAA absolving ADF&G of all liability for I&O exhibits or long-term assets. ADF&G is liable for anything that happens to Bay Ave, so that alone should be a motivation. Bree thinks this could be resolved with a letter spelling out what NOAA assets transferred.
- iii. New gate at the top of the access road down to Mud Bay!
  - 1. \$10K SC capacity building grant available for proposal development – Mud Bay planning

c. Staff

- i. Laurie Daniel has been hired for two distinct projects – HFA historic research and Mud Bay planning effort. She'll be with us for up to 12 weeks. So the CC will need to determine what to do about her status on the CC.
- ii. Laurie Daniels
  - 1. Suspending her on council until no longer an employee
    - a. Supported

- 2. Find an alternate
    - iii. Brad Marden?
    - iv. New Pratt museum director? Laurie Morrow?
    - v. Time to repopulate list of alternates
    - vi. Alice Rademacher will join us on February 1<sup>st</sup> for a 5-month position as a technical assistant. She will assist with administrative support duties and help Syverine with CTP workshop planning efforts
    - vii. Tim Blackmon will be coming back to work with us for 4 to 6 weeks to help with the HFA project.
    - viii. Chris Guo is continuing with us but will be transitioning into a graduate program this fall
    - ix. The paperwork is making its way through UAA to bring Dana and Rosie on at term positions on July 1
  - d. Add update from Jess via e-mail
  - e. Comments
    - i. Old cars in next door lot
      - 1. Borough program
      - 2. Cash for clunkers
    - ii. Staff salaries?
      - 1. Employees comfortable in new positions
      - 2. Benefits have transferred
      - 3. CB: not allowed to work less than 9.5 months – must work a certain amount of hours
8. Strategic Planning Discussion – Syverine
- a. National Program Requirements
    - i. 5 year management plan expiring June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017
      - 1. To successful engage public it needs to be at the front end
  - b. Opportunities with ACCS
  - c. New Directions, partnerships and proposals
    - i. NERRS science collaborative
      - 1. Great way for the council to be involved
    - ii. CTP planning a needs assessment survey and informal interviews
      - 1. Will hopeful feed into strategic plan
      - 2. Looking at partners, decision makers, and managers to invest
      - 3. Need to do something different to attract people
      - 4. People feel like if they come they'll get some information
    - iii. Updating 2014 prospectus
      - 1. Who we are, what we do, and how we're connected
  - d. Resolution on Jack Up Rig from council

- i. Adopt the recommendations from the Jack up Rig and Invasive Species program
  - 1. Seconded by Donna Aderhold
    - a. Great opportunity for legislative committee to get together
  - 2. Spurred on by Jim Hornaday
  - 3. Connect w/ RCAC
    - a. Homer has 3 board members and a few committee members
  - 4. Contact Circac
  - 5. Thinking along who's more likely to enforce
  - 6. None opposed
  - 7. Syverine organize a meeting by e-mail legislative committee for getting together
  - 8. CB: continue proceeding and present to Port and Harbor and City council – call Joe Johnson for direction of how to be a visitor
  - 9. Port & Harbor first politically – let Donna Aderhold know and she will attend that meeting as well
  - 10. Borough assembly – meeting to then sponsor a resolution talk to Willy Dunne – after city presentation

9. Council & Public Comment

- a. Linda Robinson:
- b. Kris Holdereid: thanks for support on EVOSS council
  - i. Under habitat focus area program, available training 9<sup>th</sup> of January all day training at I & O about outcomes, how do you assess performance
    - 1. Open to anyone who would be interested in going
  - ii. Thank Dana for setting up brown bag lunches
  - iii. Federal continuing resolution April 28<sup>th</sup> – cannot finalize budgets until May, after some acquisition deadlines
    - 1. Complicated extension, can keep going but cannot start anything new
  - iv. Talked to Russell Calendar – has been to Homer once
    - 1. In the Ocean Service, message of coastal resiliency seemed positive with incoming staff
    - 2. More encouraging than expected
    - 3. Things that go towards assisting coastal communities that NOAA could be involved in
  - v. Link to state park management revision and critical area management w/ adfg
    - 1. Linking to management plans is key especially for future grants

- a. Documents available for future proposals
  - 2. State Parks has not been reached out to be on ADFG board for critical habitat area revision
  - 3. Council write letter to suggest a Reserve member is on the board for the critical habitat area
  - 4. They have not had their first meeting yet (Ginny Litchfield) not much has been passed around
    - a. Reach out to Tammy Massie in Anchorage
- c. Willy Dunne
  - i. Reach out to state park when redoing our management plan
  - ii. Glad to hear about interactions w/ K-selo and Razdolna
    - 1. Funding for a new school in K-selo
  - iii. Syverine & Coowe connect w/ Willy about future project development
- d. Laurie Daniels
  - i. Thank you – really values community council and being able to participate, looks forward to being able to continue to contribute
- e. Tom Dearlove
  - i. Kenai River ice jam, river gauge went from 7 to 14 ft. right at highway bridge about to break
  - ii. When it breaks, move down to next choke point – like a freight train
  - iii. Tamera McGuire
    - 1. Does beluga whale studies, brown bag potentially on this
- f. Coowe gave brown bag on salmon diet in Kenai
  - i. Attended by 17 people

## 10. Closing Remarks

Meeting Adjourns at 3:00 pm

KBNERR hosted an open house following the council meeting to give more public and council access to staff to ask questions and converse about projects.