

Kachemak Bay Research Reserve  
Community Council  
Minutes – March 1, 2017

Session 17-01 The fifty-seventh meeting of the Kachemak Bay Community Council was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by George Matz at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, Homer, Alaska.

**Staff members present:** Jessica Shepherd, Angie Doroff, Syverine Abrahamson, Coowe Walker, Steve Baird, Jim Schloemer, Dana Nelson, Rose Robinson, Laurie Daniel and Alice Rademacher

**Council members present:** Ralph Broshe, George Matz, Linda Robinson, Paul Allen, and Donna Aderhold, Jim Hornaday

**Agency members present:** Willy Dunne, Ginny Litchfield, Kris Holderied, Jason Okuly, Karen Noyes, Dominic Hondolero.

**Guests present:** Scott Bartlett, Brad Graskey

**By phone:**

1. Welcome & introductions
  - a. Note all participants in room and on phone
  - b. Note Voting Council Members - 5 present
  - c. Additions to Agenda
    - i. George Matz – Add to agenda the topic of sending a letter to Fish and Game concerning changes in legislation to exact designation of lands in Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats area.
2. Approval of minutes
  - a. Approve minutes from last meeting motion, second
  - b. Minutes approved by George
3. Erosion Maps Presentation – Steve Baird
  - a. Assessment of erosion rates for the City of Homer
    - i. Project started because the City of Homer asked for info to update project. Original project (1951 – 2003)
      1. 1.7 meters per year – per original project
    - ii. Done by series of aerial photos
    - iii. Other than most eastern edge the erosion rates are fairly insignificant from 2003 – 2012
    - iv. Kachemak Drive showing decrease of erosion rates with some small exceptions
    - v. From original 2.39ft/year
    - vi. 2003 – 2012 average rate is 1.64ft/yr.
    - vii. Overall rate 2.28ft/yr.
    - viii. Erosion is slowing down overall

- b. Questions included
  - i. George Matz – Erosion rate is not increasing significantly but is there potential for major collapses?
    - 1. Steve - Yes, anywhere where there is a bluff there is a potential for a collapse.
  - ii. Angie Doroff – Have you worked with Tom Dearlove about causes of erosion? Might be interesting to compare studies.
  - iii. Laurie Daniel - Overlook Park had two winters of rain when the highway was closed. Since then, we have had dramatic erosion every year. Seems like it was stable until then.
  - iv. Jim Hornaday - Is the sea wall working?
    - 1. Steve Baird - Maybe, but we need to see more long-term data to know for sure. The sea wall could influence the increased erosion on the shoreline after the seawall.
  - v. Kris Holderied – Does this study look at the Bluff Road area erosion?
    - 1. Steve – No, this particular study is east of that. It would be interesting to look further into that area using the same data collection method.
  - vi. Jim Hornaday – Have you been looking at the end of the spit as far as erosion rates?
    - 1. Some, the owner of Lands’ End Jon Faulkner contacted me about the stairway lost due to erosion. Although, we have to remember that the Spit is different. It naturally would change if it wasn’t artificially stabilized, so it is hard to say anything definitive about the erosion rates. The owner of Lands’ End is looking into ways to stabilize the property but it largely depends on resources.
  - vii. George Matz - How does land ownership change with the shoreline changing? The State owns to mean high tide line, but when that changes does the ownership change?
    - 1. Steve Baird – I am not sure; the land ownership laws are very complicated. We should research further into that.

4. Fiscal Update - Jessica Shepherd

- a. Funding
  - i. NOAA ops proved 25% – 30% of funding
  - ii. This week a grant was submitted for \$619,322
    - 1. Same as last year but the university may take some overhead this year - Not sure.
  - iii. Go over budget spreadsheet – what we have and what we are short on.
  - iv. Grants have been written to cover all staff if we get them.

- v. We are in an overall good position as far as funding.
- vi. Overhead collected by UAA 12%-52%
  - 1. Around \$400,000 goes to the university.
    - a. Some for Matt and Theresa's salary and
    - b. Some is unrecovered overhead goes to matching grant
  - 2. This means we have evidence that we are fully contributing to University

Willy – anything from federal land and water? Jess – No.

b. Facilities

c. Staff

- i. Alice is new – please introduce yourself.
- ii. Bree Turner our NOAA liaison recommends to spilt Jess's poison
  - 1. Jess would stay as education coordinator and a new Reserve Manager would be hired.
  - 2. Hopefully afford to hire a manager around July and bring them on staff January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.
  - 3. George Matz – What is the hiring process of the manager?
    - a. Jessica Ryan – Shepherd - Jess and Matt will write the description. The total timeline would be 6 months.
      - i. The University will open the position nationally
        - 1. The position may require a PHD.
        - 2. Jess suggests that position not require PhD. Looking at other Reserve Managers, the position does not necessarily need a PhD.
      - ii. Look through applications and narrow it down to 3 candidates. Those 3 will be interviewed by Matt, Jess, and one other staff member.
      - iii. Then all staff meets the candidates (presentation or PowerPoint)
        - 1. Community Council may be invited
      - iv. Ultimately Matt will decide what person will be picked
      - v. George Matz – We have built up from 6 positions to now 12. . We are almost back to where we peaked in the past. Amazing recovery!

5. Quarterly Reports:

- a. New items not on quarterly report
  - i. Education

1. Rosie, Chris, Jim and Dana went to Tsunami Bowl Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> in Seward, AK
    - a. Marine science quiz bowl with 16 competing teams from all around Alaska. The Winner goes to a national conference.
    - b. Homer was 15 out of 16 teams. We hope to help them out more next year in terms of studying and supporting the team before the actual competition.
  2. Barley & O.A.T.s Date for March 16<sup>th</sup> has been changed for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. It is still about cold water scuba diving with Kim and Martin.
  3. We have had a real winter! Our partnership program water birds of winter with Alaska Maritime NWR has been modifying with this new/old weather. We went into the classroom instead of having the kids go out to the spit for two hours in single digit weather and gusty winds
  4. Sea Squirts is still Dana's favorite program! This month is Octopus!
  5. Sea Week is April 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. We will be going over across the bay to Seldovia and Port Graham to present to different programs, happy as a clam and translating our science in landscapes.
  6. Seeds of spring – going into the classroom in hope to take pressure off of funding.
  7. Artists Know Climate Change partnership with Kachemak Bay Conservation society.
    - a. We have completed all the workshops and are now looking forward to seeing the art for the competition!
- ii. Marine Research
1. Ocean Acidification:
    - a. Thank you to the Council for the letter of support for the data synthesis grant we were pursuing; unfortunately, that opportunity did not work out and we are seeking other grant opportunities to meet our local information needs.
    - b. We are continuing to collect water samples for carbonate chemistry during our Gulf Watch Alaska cruises (next cruise will be in Mar) and in a more limited winter time collection at our Seldovia and Homer SWMP stations. Water samples are being processed at the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery in Seward under a BIA grant that ends this coming October.
    - c. We are purchasing 2 SeaFET pH sensors to be deployed with the 3 that UAF are calibrating and will be doing trial deployments in Kachemak Bay later this spring.

- d. OA Monitoring Build out Plan for Kachemak Bay - UAF has outstanding proposals to NSF for a Facilities Improvement Grant for the NOAA KBL to become a fully functional OA research lab inclusive of the ability to, run multi-stressor OA, increased temperature, etc. experiments on animals in the estuary with the goal of better understanding terminal tolerances (OA/Temp/Salinity) and long-term OA impacts on global changes in nearshore biology. It will also serve as an institution for the calibration of multiple types of OA monitoring equipment.
- 2. Gulf Watch Alaska
    - a. We are doing our final rounds of edits on two 5-year long-term monitoring projects on the nearshore community ecology and the oceanographic environmental drivers impacting the estuary. I will be working with our Marine Working Group to share results from these larger monitoring efforts in the Bay. Want to get more people involved with a sharing session. Want to get Syverine involved to help make that happen.
- 3. Alaska Marine Science Symposium
    - a. Posters Presented – Jim took the lead on the SWMP poster data, all 3 are in the KBNERR office if you wish to see them.
      - i. Alaska Marine Science Symposium 2017: Building a Foundation of Decision-Support Tools Integrating Existing Mapping and Monitoring Information for the Benefit of Long-Term Shellfish Sustainability and Management in Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet, Alaska. Angela Doroff, Jamie Trammell, Syverine Abrahamson, Jessica Ryan Shepherd, Steve Baird, Marcus Geist, Megumi Aisu, and Jeff Hetrick.
      - ii. Alaska Marine Science Symposium 2017: Exploring Primary Productivity Processes During 2012-2016 Through Continuous Time-series Data on Water Quality in Kachemak Bay. James Schloemer, Angela Doroff, Steve Baird, Rosie Robinson, and Catie Bursch

- iii. Alaska Marine Science Symposium 2017:  
Exploring short-term variation in ocean circulation patterns to better understand hydrographic factors relevant to harmful algal blooms in Kachemak Bay, Alaska. Angela Doroff<sup>1</sup>, Mark Johnson<sup>2</sup>, Georgina Gibson,<sup>3</sup> and Catie Bursch<sup>1</sup>

#### 4. SWMP

- a. Warm water temperatures as of the end of 2016 are still positive
- b. Weather station on roof of lands' end
  - i. The owner of lands' end asked if the data it collected could explain the erosion.
  - ii. When looking at the data it is noticeable that in Kachemak Bay there are more time periods where the wind is over 20mph. Although the average for the year has stayed the same.
- c. There is a SWMP survey requested to help NOAA understand the need for more monitoring in Kachemak Bay. Please talk to Syverine to be on the survey list.

#### iii. Harmful Species

##### 1. AK HAB Network

- a. We are excited to be working on having one main website for people to go to. This will create an interactive map to let people have rapid updates on toxic shellfish.

##### 2. New HAB Monitors

- a. We have trained new monitors out at the Seward Sea Life Center (Resurrection bay) and Catie made connections in Prince William Sound. They will send in samples to us in the beginning, but the hope is that in the long-term they can check their own samples especially as we add more sites.

##### 3. Looking for new EGC Monitors

- a. Request to the council for recommendations for new EGC monitors in Bear Cove and Halibut Cove. Please let Rosie know if you have anyone in mind.

##### 4. Intern

- a. Grace Allen
  - i. Undergraduate at UAA
  - ii. Help Rosie this summer, while Catie is fishing
  - iii. Arrives mid May

5. Last Phytoplankton sample from Homer Harbor
  - a. Showed abundant phytoplankton in the harbor
  - b. Abundant levels of PN can create an acid that in large amounts may be harmful to marine mammals
  - c. Have seen some of the same results in the last tow from Jakalof Bay
  - d. Samples will start to be once per week – Thanks to Jane Middleton for all her help!

iv. Watershed Research

1. We will be rehiring graduate student Brianna Pierce for 3 months to assist with our estuary habitat models project. She will be finishing her thesis.
2. Our first SASAP next week – (State of Alaska’s Salmon and People) workgroup will be held Tuesday through Friday next week.
  - a. There are 21 people participating, including 3 Council members: Willy Dunne, Ginny Litchfield, and Michael Opheim; 3 people from our Nautilus/NCEAS collaborators 4 visiting researchers from outside (Dennis Whigham from Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Mark Rains from U. South Florida, Ryan King from Baylor, and Si Simenstad from U. Washington); 4 KBRR staff members (Coowe, Steve, Syverine, Chris); and 6 additional people representing local and regional interests (Sue Mauger-Cook Inlet Keeper, Mandy Bernard (Mountains to Sea), Katie McCaffery (US Corp of Engineers), Robert Ruffner (Board of Fish), Darrell Williams (Ninilchik Tribe), Karyn Noyes (Kenai Peninsula Borough land use permitting).
  - b. The workgroup meeting ends Friday at noon, and we will be hosting an informal lunch at KBRR seminar room for staff and council members to gather and meet with the workgroup. Please join us!
3. Anadromus waters project still ongoing
4. Downstream Effect project still ongoing
5. We are excited about the many publications we have been featured in. For more information on specific publications or topics please contact Coowe.
6. We have also written many grants
  - a. Thanks to the council for letters of support.

7. New projects combining watersheds and oceanographic worlds. More details to come about these exciting new partnerships.
  8. Chris has chosen an advisor –
    - a. Brenda Konar? – very excited to work with her.
  9. If you want to go out in the field we are happy to take people on projects this summer. Please contact Coowe.
- v. CTP
1. Woodard Creek Coalition: Technical assistance resulted in a final draft for Planning and Parks Commissions
  2. System Wide Monitoring Program Needs Assessment: Stakeholders are providing information on how they use SWMP data to better understand how synthesis research and information products can address coastal management issues. Upcoming meeting with project organizer on CTP social network analysis as well.....send her a note if you want to see the link.
  3. Land Management Forum March 7: We hope to identify mechanisms and opportunities to leverage those conservation efforts through ongoing governmental and tribal land management plans and land management partnerships,
  4. SASAP: Please join the workgroup Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> for a lunchtime recap of the wetlands and an overview of the project's progress.
  5. Marine Ecosystems Workgroup: Choosing a date in early April for a marine ecosystem workgroup focused on community monitoring and citizen science.
  6. Climate Art and Science Collaborative: Pilot project is focusing on how to expand our communications on the impacts of climate change
  7. Improved methodology for the April 20-21<sup>st</sup> Climate Resilience Workshop (save the date)
  8. CTP is continually interviewed (the city planner as well) by media interested in Homer's climate adaptation efforts
  9. Shellfish Sustainability: Good progress from our meeting at AMSS, focal point for CTP is developing opportunities for decision makers through a community council meeting in Seldovia first week of June.
    - a. Mini Seldoiva Science Symposium to showcase research going on.
    - b. The meeting could take –place on the vessel – then a field day once we arrive in Seldovia.
    - c. Question for Council -
      - i. Would you want to move the next council meeting to Seldovia?

1. Jess has been putting in the work as far as logistics and costs go.
2. Ginny Litchfield – What day?
  - a. Syverine – typically it would be the 1st Wednesday in June but we could do a weekend so people wouldn't have to take the whole day off work.
3. Jim Hornaday – Crystal and Mike have done it before, maybe talk to them about planning the trip.
4. George Matz - no objection
5. Donna Aderhold – not everyone is here so please create a google questionnaire to get an idea of how many and when people can go. Days and general interest. Send out to full council.
6. Linda Robinson – can we stop by Kasitsna Bay Lab?
  - a. If we charter a boat we can do whatever we want.
  - b. Dom Hondolero – It would be during tourist season. Would cost go up?
    - i. Participation of people in Seldovia – when can they participate?
  - c. Angie Doroff – I would suggest putting Michael and Dom on you planning committee
    - i. Extend invitation to Port Graham and Nanwalek.
10. CTP Needs Assessments for 5 year strategic Plan: Due August 1<sup>st</sup>, will request council's participation in the survey and feedback on the strategy.
11. More grant opportunities with FEMA several science collaborative NERR grants, we think we have good shot.

b. Questions about items on quarterly report

6. Committee Updates

- a. Education Committee – no meeting last quarter
- b. Research Committee – Donna
  - i. Met on January 4<sup>th</sup>
    1. Good discussion on AK Sate Salmon and People Grant
    2. Recapped OA workshop in Anchorage.

3. Recapped HAB in Anchorage – need to expand HAB program through AK it's great that is happening already!
  4. Grant writing – Collaborations are moving forward...good job!
- c. Council Success Stories – George
- i. Council Membership
    1. 9 council members – now on staggered terms
    2. Jim Hornaday and Ralph Broshes council membership expired in December both want reappointment until December 2020.
      - a. Syverine – Jim and Ralph do you want your seats reappointed?
        - i. Jim Hornaday – Yes
        - ii. Ralph Broshes - Yes
    3. In addition 2 alternate seats are available -
      - a. Before the next meeting advertise and have formal appointments for next meeting.
      - b. Best way to advertise and get the word out is personal contact.
      - c. Syverine – has sent out a notice before. Please send out again:
        - i. 2 alternate seats
      - d. Syverine has no responses yet, maybe as people come back into town from winter vacations we may get more applicants.
      - e. We should advertise more and make Seldovia trip a known benefit also encourage personal connections to join.
  - ii. Email from Jess last week from Fish and Game looking for support to specifically align boundaries for the Governors bill about the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay – housekeeping thing shouldn't be controversial
    1. George Matz – Question to the council– Do you want to write a letter in support of the legislation?
      - a. Jim why would you oppose it? Does it stop a specific person's cause?
        - i. George Matz– no
        - ii. Laurie Daniel – clarifying pieces that were inadvertently left out? Not expanded but on paper it will be corrected.
        - iii. Ginny Litchfield - with this type of legislation people don't understand details. They could think it's a land grant but it's just clarifying the existing laws.

- b. George Matz – I will draft a letter and send it out.
  - i. Council agrees to write the letter.

7. Council & Public Comment

- a. Willy – Question for Rosie –Catie talked last meeting about presenting her invasive species presentation in front of the city council. Did she do that and what were the reactions?
  - i. Rosie Robinson –There were lots of people in attendance. Also, she wants to go to the Harbor Masters Meeting.
  - ii. She now has a presentation and would be happy to share with any group. Please talk to Rosie or Catie about scheduling as Catie is gone for a month and will be gone this summer to fish.
- b. Kris Holderied - OA topic to look at next - not just water but the impact on shellfish and fish behavior and effects on their prey. This is not something we do directly but partners at UAF.
  - i. Statewide Network – in Dec the OA network and HAB network have advanced the regional efforts done here and S.E. places in Alaska where that is happening.
    - 1. I want to credit KBNERR for helping to make that happen by providing long-term monitoring. Now we can become better connected to the statewide efforts.
  - ii. Tsunami bowl – super fun if you want to go ask Kris about volunteer opportunities!
  - iii. Bay water temp at wave buoy was around 40 degrees
    - 1. George Matz – What is the normal temperature for this time of year?
      - a. Kris - 35 degrees.
  - iv. At the Science Symposium we had a chance to bring senior NOAA members in.
    - 1. Positive feedback from them on understanding what is being done here and that objectives being met, they appreciate time that reserve took
    - 2. George Matz - Do they see our proposals?
      - a. Angie – Pat from NOAA was instrumental in finding a way to help us be funded.
- c. Jim Hornaday - reminder of the Kenai Peninsula History Conference at the Kenai Peninsula College
  - i. Emphasis of conference – Changes in Alaska since its purchase by the United States. There will also be a focus on native Alaskans.
  - ii. Date – April 21<sup>st</sup>

- d. Syverine – National Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting - April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Sterling. The theme is “Home is Where The Habitat Is”
  - i. Angie Doroff – Does anyone know what the agenda is?
    - 1. Ginny – It should come out soon.
  - e. Jim Hornaday – Cook Inlet regional Advisory Council meeting – free to register.
- 8. Closing Remarks
  - a. Reminder to talk to people about Community Council Membership and get them to sign on. Thanks!

Meeting Adjourns at 3:00 pm