

KBNERR March Community Council Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2024

12:30–3:30

Kachemak Bay Campus

533 E. Pioneer Ave

Room 201/202

Homer, AK 99603

Meeting called by:	KBNERR Community Council Chair George Matz	Type of meeting:	Quarterly Community Council Meeting
Note taker:	Francie Roberts		

Attendees:	<p>Council Members: George Matz, Donna Aderhold, Laurie Daniel, Carol Harding, Paul Allan, Linda Robinson, Michael Opheim (Zoom), Francie Roberts, Louise Seguela</p> <p>Agency Members: Kris Holderied (NOAA), Reid Brewer (NOAA), Jason Okuly, Cheryl Butner, Late joiners: Matt Carlson (UAA on Zoom), Debbie Tobin (UAA), Paul Cziko (NOAA)</p> <p>Guests: Scott McEwen (Tutka Tours)</p> <p>KBNERR Staff: Katherine Schake, Lauren Sutton, Rosie Masui, Syverine Bentz (Zoom)</p>
-------------------	--

Minutes

Agenda item:	Welcome & Introductions	Presenter:	George Matz
---------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	-------------

Discussion:

George Matz called the meeting to order. Participants introduced themselves. George welcomed visitor Scott McEwen.

Agenda item:	Approval of Minutes, Approval of Agenda	Presenter:	George Matz
---------------------	---	-------------------	-------------

Discussion:

George asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting.. Donna noted several names were misspelled that needed to be corrected.

George asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and with no suggested changes the Agenda was approved.

Agenda item:	Administrative/Fiscal Update	Presenter:	Katherine Schake
---------------------	------------------------------	-------------------	------------------

Discussion:

Staffing - Katherine reported staffing has changed. Jacob Argueta and Ben Peters have both moved on to new jobs. There are three vacancies at this time. Syverine returns from maternity leave soon. Rosie's job has been extended for another three months. A job offer has been made for Admin Specialist and the EcologyTech position is in the process of hiring. The Davidson Fellows have been interviewed by the committee and an applicant will be chosen within the month.. Three Hollings scholars are expected this coming summer. The boat captain position will not be filled this summer as the funding for replacement engines has not been received to date. In lieu of the whaler, staff will use water taxis and coordinate with Kasitsna Bay Lab for transportation.

Facilities - The heating system in the bunkhouse and modular building have been repaired extensively this winter, which cost \$8000.. Local experts recommend the replacement of the systems as they are out of date. Kathryn is awaiting an estimate for the cost of replacing the heating system. Katherine will investigate Homer Drawdown project on supporting

heat pump installation in the Homer area. There is a concern about the bunkhouse being used to house people without adequate heat.

Future Colocation with KBC -All proposals for co-designed space at KBC discussed at the last meeting were submitted in early 2024. Optimally this space would include a KBNERR offices, a dormitory, lecture hall, NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab office and a Science/Education Lab. The cost is estimated at \$20-30,000,000.00. Laurie asked about the future of the Mud Bay site. This project is a long way out so the long term use of Mud Bay property has not been determined.. The first stage might be dormitory space. Paul inquired about funding - how much would be KBNERR responsibility. Katherine said the first stage is merely a preliminary design stage.

Katherine has missed having an Administrative Assistant but stated she has learned a lot about what is going on as she has taken over these jobs.

Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting - The reserve had a good presence. Katherine is on the steering committee.This group has created excellent partnerships for the future of salmon habitat. Katherine gave a presentation at their March 8th meeting in Homer.

New Website - All council members were asked to review the new site. A discussion ensued regarding logos of the reserve and its cooperating partners. Reid stated everyone is committed to their logo. Katherine reiterated how glad she was to be associated with UAA ACCS. It was noted there is no NOAA logo on the site. One suggestion was to develop a logo containing all three entities.

NERRA - Katherine is traveling to the NERRA meeting next month. She hopes to meet Jennifer, who is the new NOAA liaison for the Reserve.

KPB Material Site Extraction - Katherine presented changes to material code which has been passed by the borough. Changes were made with regards to the Reserve’s role.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Attach KPB Material Ordinance info	Kathrine Schake	3/15/24

Agenda item:	Research Program Update	Presenter:	Lauren Sutton
---------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	---------------

Discussion:

Research Committee - Lauren asked for the Research Committee to meet soon. She also asked for emails in lieu of telephone calls, as her telephone has problems. Next week Lauren and Ross have organized a “Data Summit” at the reserve. Partners from UAA, UAF, NOAA Research Reserve and others will begin the task of assembling the data in one place.

Science Conference Speaker - Jonah Jossert will present at the Science Conference as to how mariculture affects the benthic environment. He will practice his presentation on March 13th and Lauren inquired if any Community Council members would be willing to come to the run through. . Donna, Kris, Laurie and Francie were willing to volunteer.

Summer Interns - Three Hollings scholars will be here this summer. One will be studying near shore diets. Ainsley will be arriving in time for the upcoming Science Conference.

Alaska Marine Science Symposium - Lauren presented and led an Environmental DNA group there, which was very successful. As an offshoot of this project, a Homer based eDNA workshop is scheduled for this summer.

Green Crab - Jasmine went to Washington state to learn to identify larval green crab.

Phytoplankton Program - Lauren asked for feedback on the Phytoplankton program.She believes it is time for this to turn to a volunteer program. Instead of NERRS employees, it would be good to build community relationships. There will be a training on April 8 on Phytoplankton observation skills and in May for green crab.

Motus Tower - The tower is going up at Kachemak Drive office site and will be erected during the Shorebird Festival. There is a website that goes with it and it will livestream data about birds.

<https://motus.org/>

Nearshore Fish Ecology - Beach seining will occur on the spit this summer and Lauren also hopes to include Seldovia. NOAA Habitat Conservation group would like to partner on this project. Lauren mentioned the Nearshore Fish Atlas Database is a useful tool. Donna suggested the GulfWatch Alaska data Portal.

Agenda item:	Coastal Training Program Update	Presenter:	Rosie Masui
---------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------	-------------

Discussion:

Kachemak Bay Science Conference - Rosie Masui, Coastal Training Program, is the Chair of the Committee. Reid Brewer and Kris Holdereid are also on the Steering Committee. The whole event will be at Kachemak Bay Campus on March 17-20th. Council member Bretwood Higman is the Keynote Speaker, speaking on geohazards and climate change. Katherine is giving a plenary talk as will Reid Brewer. The poster session is on Tuesday evening. A group of dancers from Port Graham will also be presenting. There are two trainings associated with this event - COASST and Science Communication. Food is provided. Kris said there will an Open House at Kasitsna Bay Lab on Sunday the 17th.

Website: <https://kachemakbayscience.org/>

Community Engagement Project - Rosie is pursuing her Master’s Degree and is doing a Capstone project called “Cultivating and Sustaining Community Engagement at the KBNERR”. Through this project she will be interviewing community members to determine and She will be working to reach a good result. Rosie hopes to be able to provide NERRS with good feedback and guidance and work with the Outreach and Communications committee. She hopes to investigate the stewardship sector and also develop a community coordinator position description for future use.

Agenda item:	Active Committee Reports	Presenter:	Carol Harding; Laurie Daniel; Louise Seguela; Katherine Schake
---------------------	--------------------------	-------------------	--

Discussion:

Lands & Facilities Committee – Carol Harding reported the next meeting will be at 1PM March 11 to organize for the next round of grants. The group will renew priorities and consider the recently proposed Seldovia properties. Kachemak Heritage Land Trust is under contract to assist again this year. Two letters of intent were submitted in the fall of 2023 for Bridge Creek Watershed land, which was not accepted and the Beluga Wetlands proposal which was accepted. Katherine reported she believes the Reserve will hear sometime in March about this proposal.

Port & Harbor Committee – Laurie Daniel reported the Homer Harbor Expansion Committee has not met in the last quarter. The project is on pause, awaiting further funding. HDR presented to the City Council regarding their work on baseline data for the project - meteorological and climatological. On April 11-12th, the Corps of Engineers will hold an Ecological Modeling Workshop in Homer for the Harbor Expansion project. The next meeting of the Port and Harbor Commission will have a presentation on mission creep relative to the new harbor project. Laurie invited Kayla Campbell to attend the Science Symposium this month. Laurie’s report is attached.

Outreach & Communications Committee – Louise Seguela reported the first meeting of this committee was February 8th. They determined the purpose was to connect with the public who would be interested in our work. They discussed ways to better help convey the message of the Reserve - including social media and local media. There was discussion about the role of Administrative Assistant regarding community support . The group has now organized with a chair and will meet again in mid April.

Council Charter Work Group – Paul Allan and Francie Roberts presented the changes the group proposed (The memo was presented to the board as a whole. George opposed the idea of term limits. Carol felt the proposals needed to be postponed for a vote until June for people to think more about it. There was discussion about the inclusion of a half time position in the By-Laws. George made a motion to table the charter changes until the next Community Council meeting in June. Carol seconded. The motion passed. Francie will make a red line document of the current By-Laws so members can see the proposed changes to the document.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Make a Redline Master of proposed changes to ByLaws	Francie Roberts	4/1/24

Agenda item:	Council Business	Presenter:	George Matz
---------------------	------------------	-------------------	-------------

Discussion:

Beginning in February, the KBNERR is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The group brainstormed ways to celebrate and also educate the community about the accomplishments of the Reserve.

Many things could be given away - KBNERR logo stickers, KBNERR pins, t-shirts or hats. Other ideas were having a party at the base of the Kachemak Water Trail. Public lectures about the history of the Reserve were also suggested. Another thought was to remind Hig to include this fact in his Keynote address next month. Carol suggested inviting the 12 people who wrote the original proposal for the Reserve to come to an event to honor them. Donna thought the time was ripe for a presentation at the City Council and the Borough Assembly. The group thought if someone would develop a Powerpoint, then it could be utilized by all to present these facts. Syverine reminded us Rosie could be an asset with her project. Laurie suggested having an anniversary bottle of wine made or utilizing the non-profit Christmas tree project from 10 years ago.

An election with secret ballots was held. Since one regular member of the board was missing, Alternate Louise Seguela voted in his place. The results were as follows:

Chair - George Matz

Vice Chair - Donna Aderhold

There was some discussion about the roles of each of these officers. Some felt these two could organize the meeting and refreshments. This discussion was postponed for the future.

Agenda item:	Council & Public Comment	Presenter:	Enter presenter here
---------------------	--------------------------	-------------------	----------------------

Discussion:

Laurie reiterated she would like to get the redline document of the proposed ByLaw changes.

Carol asked about Nancy Hillstrand’s Fish Hatchery presentation at the last quarterly meeting and wondered what was happening at this time. Lauren said she had this on the agenda for the Research Committee to discuss. There is no need for the council to take any action at this time.

Agenda item:	Closing Remarks	Presenter:	George Matz, or new Chair
---------------------	-----------------	-------------------	---------------------------

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM

Round Robin

Other Information

Special notes:

Recommended Council Charter Updates from Charter Workgroup

(Francie Roberts; Paul Allan; Katherine Schake)

Council Membership: 9-13 voting members, may vary by year, no alternate seats

- A quorum is a simple majority (>50%)
- Roll call votes require a quorum
- Agency members do not vote on anything
- In the case of a tie, the Council will vote to either 1) draw a name out of hat to break the tie, or 2) table the decision for a vote at a later time

- Votes occur in-person at Council Quarterly Meetings. Occasional exceptions may be made to call emergency meetings and/or vote over email.
- Voting may occur in writing ahead of time (for those absent from Quarterly mtgs) and through virtual attendance at Quarterly meetings.
- Officer positions (Chair and Vice Chair) will have a term limit of 3 years, then the officer must take a break from the position
- Term limits for Council Members - [unsure, requires discussion of full Board](#)

Committees

- There are 3 standing committees that meet on an as-need basis in collaboration with associated Reserve program staff: Education Committee, Research Committee, and Legislative Committee.
- Ad hoc Committees may be formed on an as-needed basis throughout the year.
- Committees make recommendations to the Council, who will make decisions and/or vote during quarterly meetings.

- Replace language about Outreach Plan with: *"The Council will contribute to the development of the Reserve's 5-year strategic management plans. The council will contribute to and support the Reserve's public relations, legislative components, and community outreach efforts."*

- Remove clause VII.10. referencing a one, half-time staff position, knowing that in lean-times the Reserve Manager may not have the funding to support an admin specialist. It is still the intention of the Reserve Manager and staff to offer this support when needed and funding allows. - [Point of Discussion for Council](#)

- Merge clauses VII.15 & 16. *"The Council Charter shall be reviewed every 5 years beginning in 2024, in a collaborative process between Council and Reserve staff. Proposed changes will be reviewed and approved by the Council."* **(Strike clause about public review process)**