



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

2020 Newsletter



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Happy 50th Earth Day!

Message From The President, Roberta Highland



Life was already pretty weird, then a sub-microscopic virus shows us who's the Boss. Life as we know it has been cancelled. Now we will all try to figure out how to do the best we can.

As expected, our annual Earth Day membership meeting has been cancelled along with Johnny B's musical extravaganza. We are going to attempt to continue business with this newsletter. The nominating committee forwarded the following people for the 2020 election:

- Bjorn Olsen
- Penelope Haas
- Roberta Highland
- Madeleine Lee

See article in this newsletter for the biographies.

PLEASE RETURN THE MEMBERSHIP & BALLOT FORM TO KBCS.

Goodbye to these board members:

We want to give recognition and appreciation to our board members who have resigned for various reasons.

• **Alisa Mooy** served for many years. She was instrumental in formatting and constructing past newsletters—no easy task. She also had a knack for feeding large groups and started our annual Earth Day meals. Thank you, Alisa.

• **Susan Kaplan** was an all-around help and willing to assist in any way she could at any of our meetings and events. She was definitely there when you needed her. Thank you, Susan.

• **Pat Cue** had been a past board member years ago, and when she returned to Homer, she joined our board again. Pat had good ideas and was very interested in some of our political problems of the day. She also was a big help during membership meetings, helping with the food and drinks. She is now very involved in efforts to recall Governor Dunleavy. She also could be counted on whenever needed. Thank you, Pat.

• **Elisa Russ** was our board biologist and scientific expert. Elisa had unbelievable energy to get things done. She was working full-time and still managed to do the work of two people. She was the leader in the elimination of single-use plastic bags in the City of Homer. She also was the KBCS liaison with students in the Homer Alaska Youth for Environmental Action organization. One of her pet projects was the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, and she was also a huge help in memberships, annual Earth Day Meetings and auctions, tabling at events and all around help. She was a superstar. Thank you, Elisa.

You will all be missed on the board.

Welcome to these new board members

Now I have the privilege of welcoming our three new board members. (Their biographies can be found in the newsletter.)

• **Anna Liljedahl** is originally from Sweden and very new to Homer after living many years in Fairbanks. She is an Arctic hydrologist and a dynamo. She loves meeting a wide variety of new people, and she is taking on the secretary position on the board and is organizing the newsletter.

• **Maddy Lee** and her partner now own Kachemak Geospatial. She will bring a wealth of experience to our efforts, including working on the evolving Eklutna project.

• **Katie Gavenus** is our newest board member but not new to Homer. She is an environmental educator and program director for the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. She believes education, science, and conservation should all be collaborative efforts.

Ongoing Activities

We want to thank the Alaska Conservation Foundation for our latest \$2000 grant. ACF has been one of our strongest supporters over the years, and we so appreciate this outstanding organization. This grant will help support KBCS's efforts to promote borough wide resilience. KBCS relies on the generosity of donors and members to continue its essential work.

We want to thank the Homer Foundation for a \$1000 grant from the Willow Fund for the Yes to Better Bags. This is also a wonderful organization which supports many local causes.

KBCS wants to give Jim Stearns and Salmonfest special recognition for their continued financial support.

Bjorn Olson has continued to do incredible work with Alaskans Know Climate Change. He continues to be an inspiration to us all.

KBCS has been working on many environmental fronts for the past year, including issues involving jet skis, DEC regulation changes, RCA/Hilcorp actions, salmon hatcheries, and more. Special recognition to Penelope Haas who has been our principal comment writer on these issues. (See articles in the newsletter.)

In these tumultuous times, we must remember how lucky we are to live in the Kachemak Bay Area. As always, we hope you continue to assist us in our ongoing efforts to protect the beautiful environment on and around Kachemak Bay and greater Alaska. Together we can and do make a difference.

*Thank you,
Roberta Highland, President*

Kenai Peninsula Resilience & Security Commission

By Penelope Haas

The heat of last summer warmed salmon streams to the mid-70s °F, caused widespread drought and water shortages, and helped fuel enormous fires. It was wake up call for many people who realized that we are far from prepared for the profound climate changes underway. The summer of 2019 isn't such a shock when you consider that annual air temperatures on the Kenai Peninsula have risen by 3.4 °F since 1969, and that over the past half-century, annual available water on the western peninsula has declined a staggering 62%, according to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Ignoring these trends will not make them go away, and local solutions need our support and engagement. Last fall, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly approved a Borough Comprehensive Plan full of commitments for sustainable development and climate action planning, and *the assembly is now considering establishing a Resilience and Security Commission* to make good on those commitments. We need to get serious about clean energy, and we need to respond to the enormous threats to our ways of life, and the KPB Resiliency and Security Commission would be tasked with exactly that.

The commission needs your support. The Public Hearing at the Assembly will be in June 2020.

Please visit <http://kenaichange.org/resilience-and-security/> to learn more about it and then write, call and even nag our Borough Assembly to approve the ordinance establishing the Resilience and Security Commission this June 2020. If we come together and push, we can take this important step. Then our work will really start. Please get in touch if you are interested in volunteering kbayconservation@gmail.com.



By bringing locals & experts into borough decisions, the Kenai Peninsula Resilience & Security Commission can make policy for our generation and the next to —

- Ensure that life-cycle cost analyses are used to price out investment in borough buildings.
- Create tax incentives for heat pumps, solar panels, & building efficiency.
- Manage borough lands to shade and protect salmon streams and buffer towns from brush fires.
- Invest in local agriculture through education, internship programs, & leasing of borough lands.
- Improve public transportation & develop more electric vehicle charging stations.
- Develop strategic water reservoirs to protect drinking water & farms.
- Ensure that hazard-mitigation planning accounts for climate data.

Yes To Better Bags

By Elisa Russ

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) partnered with several local non-profit organizations on a successful Yes To Better Bags (YTBB) campaign to support a Yes vote October 1, 2019 on the Homer City ordinance to prohibit retailers from providing thin (single use) plastic bags to customers. Non-profit partners included Cook Inletkeeper (CIK), Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACs), Homer Chapter of Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (HAYEA), Kachemak Advocates for Recycling (KARe), Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), and Citizens AKtion Network (CAN).

Initially, Homer was on the forefront in addressing the plastic bag issue in Alaska. In 2012, the Homer City Council passed a ban on single-use plastic bags and was one of the first Alaskan communities to do so. Unfortunately, less than a year later Homer residents voted to overturn the ban through a citizen initiative.

Most plastic is made of polyethylene, a non-renewable material manufactured from petroleum and natural gas; greenhouse gases are created through their extraction and production, which further contributes to global climate change. These single-use bags are lightweight, scatter easily, and contribute to land and water pollution, including devastating effects to marine animals that ingest and become entangled in them. Plastic bags never degrade completely and, as production continues, the amount of plastic pollution in the environment increases.

Living in a coastal community, many Homer residents are concerned about the health and welfare of Kachemak Bay and potential plastic pollution. The bay provides vital financial, recreational, and cultural resources for a host of users including residents, tourists, and indigenous peoples.

In 2018, knowing that this would need to be voted on the second time around instead of just enacted by Council action, a measure was introduced by Council member Caroline Venuti to place an ordinance on the 2019 ballot asking voters if they wanted to prohibit Homer retailers from providing carry-out single use plastic bags less than 2.5 mil thick; the Homer City Council approved.

Residents of the City of Homer voted with a resounding YES on October 1 with 65% of voters in support. The ordinance took effect Jan. 1, 2020 although businesses had the option to continue to use existing stocks of bags until Feb. 14.

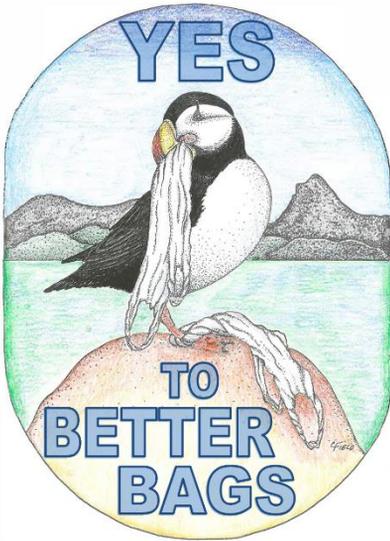
The Yes vote on the ballot measure will help keep the land and waters surrounding Kachemak Bay pristine. Homer became the 20th community in Alaska to prohibit retailers from supplying single use plastic bags. Stores in these Alaskan communities have adapted easily; positive effects include lower costs and increased revenue from selling reusable bags; the biggest benefit is less plastic pollution.

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The YTBB campaign really kicked off on July 4 with a parade entry featuring prominent community members and YTBB volunteers holding a fishing net that read Yes To Better Bags with single-use plastic bags woven into it, illustrating the issue of plastic pollution in the marine environment and the potential impact on Alaskan fisheries.

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KBCS initiated the collaboration with the help of CIK to form a united front on the single use plastic bag issue and bring all potential partners together to have the most impact on this important vote. Meetings began in spring of 2019 and CAN member Lynn Spence proposed the Yes To Better Bags name to have a positive message of “Yes” for better alternatives such as reusable bags instead of focusing on a negative “ban”. Henry Reiske from CACS supplied locally made bags from recycled cloth materials, given away for free at local businesses, and he organized local sewing bees, as part of the effort through the Boomerang Bag project. These bags were circulating in Homer for more than a year before voters went to the polls, and were intended to help people to shift behavior and overcome the idea that not being given a plastic bag would be burdensome for consumers.

Outreach was a critical component of the campaign. The first event the new YTBB partnership participated in was the Homer Chamber of Commerce Clean-Up Day on May 4, 2019, spearheaded by former Rep. Paul Seaton. YTBB was awarded top prize after collecting the most trash from the land adjacent to the landfill, an area where disposed plastic bags were plentiful and flying around loose with the potential to blow into Kachemak Bay.

Over the past two years, with support from KBCS and CIK, HAYEA has again become an active group and were working with the statewide AYEА on a campaign for a statewide plastic bag ban. HAYEA collected signatures in support of this effort and helped with YTBB outreach in Homer and at Salmonfest in early August.

The YTBB logo came together collaboratively and Conrad Field produced the final artwork. KBCS received a grant from the Willow Fund through the Homer Foundation. CACS secured an education grant through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Education for the project thanks to executive director Beth Trowbridge. Direct donations from KBCS, CIK, KARE, and anonymous donors provided the remaining funds needed to pay for outreach materials. The YTBB artwork and partner logos were imprinted on 1,000 reusable bags made from 100% recycled plastic and the logo was also printed on 1,000 compostable stickers which were received in Homer in late August.

To convince some voters and allay concerns about the cost of purchasing reusable bags, YTBB hosted outreach events at local businesses in September 2019 as a lead up to the October 1 vote. Along with educational information about single use plastics and environmental impacts, the YTBB bags and stickers were given out to the public. Professor Debbie Tobin and her marine biology class students at Kenai Peninsula College designed community and business surveys on the use of plastics to conduct at outreach events and analyzed the data as part of their class. Volunteers and students put incredible amounts of time and effort into 2 to 4 outreach events every week at local businesses including Safeway, Sav-U-More, Ulmer’s, and also the Homer Food Pantry and Homer Farmer’s Market. HAYEA also participated with other students to organize a Climate Strike in Homer on September 20, where YTBB volunteers hosted a very successful outreach event.

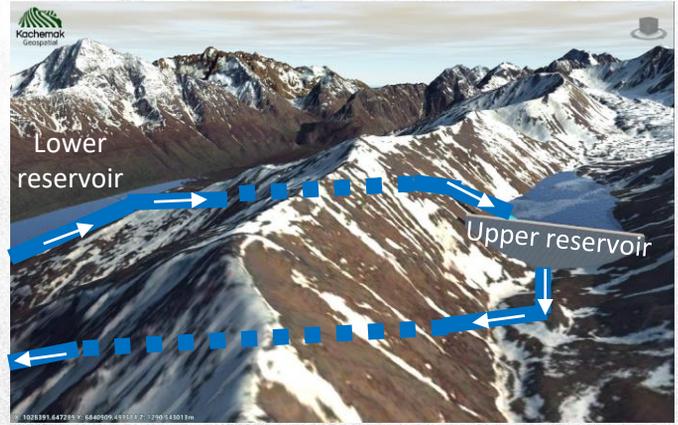
In conjunction with outreach events in September, KBCS Board member Bjørn Olson created ads published in both newspapers with the YTBB logo that included the message to Vote Yes on October 1 and included a factoid about plastic pollution. Also, YTBB volunteers submitted 1 to 2 Letters to the Editor about the issue to local newspapers each week in September and encouraged reasons to support YTBB. The hard work paid off as indicated by the strong Yes vote in the election!

100% Renewable Alaska

By Madeline Lee & Ceal Smith

The New Energy Future team has completed Phase I of its “100% renewable energy plan for Alaska”, which aim to utilize the State’s abundant pumped energy storage (PES) and renewable energy resources. PES is different from conventional hydro, most notably in that it’s a closed-loop system that transfers water back and forth between two or more reservoirs using gravity and intermittent energy sources like solar or wind. In effect, PES is a big “battery” that is recharged when water is pumped to one or more upper reservoirs using solar and wind energy. To generate electricity the water from the upper reservoir is released to the lower reservoir. When energy supply is high, such as during a day with ample sunshine or good winds, the system pumps water to the upper reservoir in order to save that solar and wind energy for future use.

The visionaries behind the plan, Kerry Williams and Ceal Smith with the Alaska Institute for Climate & Energy (ALICE), teamed up with Groundtruth Alaska and Kachemak Geospatial to prepare a white paper which they delivered to Governor Dunleavy in February. The “New Energy Alaska Phase I Plan” proposes converting the existing Eklutna Hydroelectric Powerplant to PES. In addition, the plan proposed two smaller PES systems near Fairbanks and Cooper Landing and integrating wind from several sites along the Railbelt.

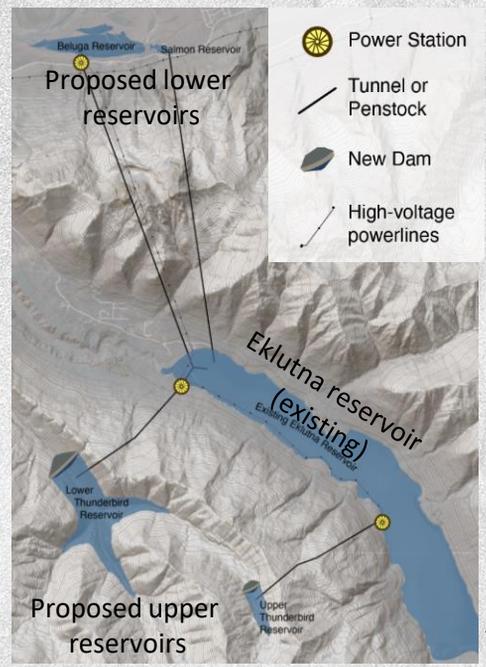


The proposed PES system showing pumping and releasing of water from the Upper Thunderbird Reservoir to the existing Eklutna Lake serving as the lower reservoir.

At the request of the governor, the team compared Eklutna PES/RE to the Susitna Watana Hydroelectric proposal (SWH). SWH would inundate 23,500 acres of wildland habitat compared to Eklutna PES that, in addition to the existing Eklutna Lake, would inundate just 1,200 acres. The Eklutna PES system would meet around 60% of the Railbelt’s energy demand and provide enough energy storage to get us through the winter. A 100% renewable energy future could be realized by combining wind and solar and adding two smaller PES sites, Eureka and Right Mountain.

For Phase II, the team is conducting a site suitability analysis for some of the most energy insecure villages around Alaska to assess where PES can be implemented on a smaller scale to support energy independence. It is remarkable how many experts from various industries are working on this proposal to move it forward with sound figures, analysis, and modeling to prove to Alaskans that we can reduce our energy costs and eliminate carbon emissions by ending our dependency on coal, oil, and natural gas. After reviewing the team’s white paper, Governor Dunleavy directed the Alaska Energy Authority to conduct a formal feasibility study on the Eklutna PES proposal, which is expected to be completed in 6-8 months. You can download the White Paper [here](#).

The New Energy Future team met with the Friends of Chugach State Park. It is never easy weighing the trade offs, such as building infrastructure in wilderness, but the team is open to all suggestions as to how impact can be minimized or even taken advantage of. For example, the new hydrologic system could even bring salmon back to Eklutna.



The Eklutna Pumped Energy Storage systems consists of five reservoirs, two in the Thunderbird watershed, two in the Knik River floodplain, plus Eklutna Lake.

More KBCS activities

By Penelope Haas

Kachemak Bay Overlook Park

KBCS manages the unique and beautiful Overlook Park in collaboration with Kachemak Bay State Park. Spring is a great time to go out there and birdwatch! Last year, visitors with the Shorebird Festival observed fresh moose tracks and scat, magpie nests, squirrel nests, a muskrat den, an active eagle nest, several magpies and crows, and a pheasant. Waterfowl sighted were a pair of swans, approximately five pairs of mallards—one with ducklings, four pairs of American Wigeons and a teal. Hikers sighted several yellowlegs, a Tatler, and a Red phalarope on the banks of the ponds. We encourage you to go out a visit, but please remember to keep your distance from wildlife, as many birds are nesting and the topography of the park makes it difficult for wildlife to move away from visitors easily.

KBCS has helped to temporarily stop the dumping of hatchery carcasses in Tutka Bay and has halt the movement of the net pens out of the lagoon. These wins are so important because of the likelihood that dumped carcasses and hatchery waste stay in the fjord, creating hypereutrophication that could severely damage all life at the bottom. The case is not closed though: Cook Inlet Aquaculture has challenged the Park's decisions, and we are waiting to hear the results for their appeals. For nearly the entire history of the Tutka hatchery, there is no record of water quality reporting to DEC; nor are there any studies on the impacts of millions of hatchery fry on their prey species like crab and shrimp or species who they could compete with, like silver salmon. KBCS is continuing to work to ensure that oxygen and nitrogen levels around net pens and dumping grounds are monitored; we are working to see that impacts of competition and predation are assessed. For more on this issue, [please see our blog](#).

We have been following the developments of the management plans for Kachemak Bay State Park and the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas—both of which are currently being updated. Keep an eye out for opportunities for public participation in the development of these important management plans.



KBCS is taking on some big issues.

Please consider donating to keep this work alive.

Wild Salmon

This winter, we stepped up and got the Marine Stewardship Council to require Alaska's salmon fisheries to demonstrate how they are using the precautionary approach in managing the state's enhancement programs. This requirement is already in policy, but now it is also a part of the sustainability certification, which is tied to the price of salmon, like an organic label; this new requirement give us powerful leverage to make sure Alaska is protecting our unique and irreplaceable wild salmon. If you want to see ADF&G monitor stream temperatures and manage for wild returns, we hope you will participate in this process going forward.

Our screening of the film *Artifishial* helped facilitate a public discussion on the difficulties of managing a fishery with both wild and hatchery salmon. If you missed [the dialogue](#), please check it out. Also, please consider joining management discussions with the [Board of Fisheries Hatchery Committee](#). We hope to be able to continue to facilitate public and expert engagement on these vital and challenging issues.



More KBCS activities

By Penelope Haas & Elisa Russ

No Jet Skis in Kachemak Bay

The Department of Fish and Game is trying to overturn a near 20-year ban on jet skis in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. The whole process surrounding the rule change has lacked transparency and science. Allowing jet skis in the bay goes against the publicly-available analyses and recommendations of the department's biologists. Without any explanation, all local ADF&G biologists were told they could not speak to the public about the rule change, and all the ADF&G staff who had worked on updating the Critical Habitat Area Management Plan—which upheld the prohibition—were gagged. Instead, public communication on jet skis had to go through Rick Green, who was a rightwing radio talkshow host for most of his life until he was recently appointed as Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Fish and Game.

Green's public statements have made it clear that he and the Dunleavy administration are working to take care of the Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska—he has said as much—and that they have little interest in science: the fact that the department has no data to support their position was of no consequence to Green. Rather than cite studies that show that jet ski's impacts are comparable to impacts by other craft, Green said that he felt confident in the legitimacy of the rule change because he personally had never encountered any issues with jet skis when he recreated in Resurrection Bay.

As it turns out, the data show that jet skis are much more disruptive than boats. The patterns of use that typify jet skis and their tendency to exit the water have a much larger impact on fish and wildlife. They pose a particular threat to seal haulouts, shorebird and seabird nesting grounds, and sensitive estuarine and stillwater areas, such as Beluga Slough, Halibut Cove Lagoon, and the Fox River Flats. If you haven't already, please read our comments to the department on this issue. The final decision on jet skis rests with Commissioner Vincent-Lang, and KBCS is collaborating with Cook Inletkeeper to prepare for the possibility of a lawsuit if the ban is reversed. The science is on our side. Please pledge your support if a suit is needed to defend our bay and to keep ADF&G within the bounds of science and the precautionary principle.



Wild & Scenic Film Festival

For the second year in a row, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) hosted the national Wild & Scenic Film Festival (WSFF) with a screening on January 23, 2020 at the Homer Theatre. The WSFF curated show “A Climate of Change” was featured and included 9 films focused on environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from the climate crisis. Also shown was the premiere of Bjørn Olson's short film “The Problem with Pebble” that highlighted ongoing issues with the proposed Pebble Mine and why Alaska must keep up the fight against this dangerous project. In addition to being a successful fundraiser for KBCS, the WSFF event provides an opportunity to outreach to the Homer community about the mission and work of KBCS and the Alaskans Know Climate Change education campaign, increase membership, and share how to get involved both locally and globally.



Alaskans Know Climate Change

By Bjørn Olson, Director of Alaskans Know Climate Change

Climate Change in the Face of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic

There are many things to be both worried and concerned about in this strange and uncharted time we are experiencing. However, there is a lot to be thankful for, too.

Homer and the South Peninsula in general have been considering community resiliency and climate adaptation for some time. This virus presents an opportunity to bolster our ability to weather uncertain times. It is fantastic that we are not starting from scratch. When the threat of Coronavirus passes, we should all look for ways to make ourselves and our communities as vigorous and resilient as possible for future crises'. And, mark my word, as climate disruption gets worse, there will be many more crises to come including more pathogens and other virulent agents.

What we are currently doing and ways for you to join or help:

There are three main ways we are working to help make Homer, the Kenai Peninsula, and the world in general a safer place: advocating for Jim Levine and other pro-renewable energy candidates on the Homer Electric Association's (HEA) Board of Directors, building social and political will for the Kenai Peninsula Borough to adopt a Resiliency and Security Commission, and the Homer Drawdown series.

1) Pro-Renewable Energy Candidates

Fully one third of HEA's overhead costs are paying for fuel – fuel that is subsidized by our financially wounded State. The Coronavirus should cause us all to reflect on how unnecessarily venerable we are regarding our electricity generation. Wouldn't it be nice if and when the next crisis comes knocking, we didn't have to worry about our energy, because we produce it all from local, renewable sources? We can absolutely do that and save a bunch of money at the same time. Make sure you vote in the upcoming HEA BOD's election and be sure to vote for Jim Levine and other pro-renewable energy candidates.

2) Kenai Peninsula Resiliency & Security Commission

Last fall, the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Assembly approved the adoption of a Climate Action Plan into the Comprehensive Plan. Now we need an official ordinance, the social and political will, and the establishment of the directing body that would orchestrate this new commission. Last summer's fires, the extreme heat wave that warmed our salmon streams to the unimaginable mid-70 °F range, and the droughts should be more than enough to help us realize that climate change is on our doorstep. We need to get serious about mitigating global warming as well as learning how to respond to the changes that are already baked into this new World we all created. The KPB Resiliency and Security Commission would be tasked with exactly that. It needs you. Please visit kenaichange.org/sustainability to learn more about this commission and then write, call and even nag our Borough Assembly to approve the ordinance in June.

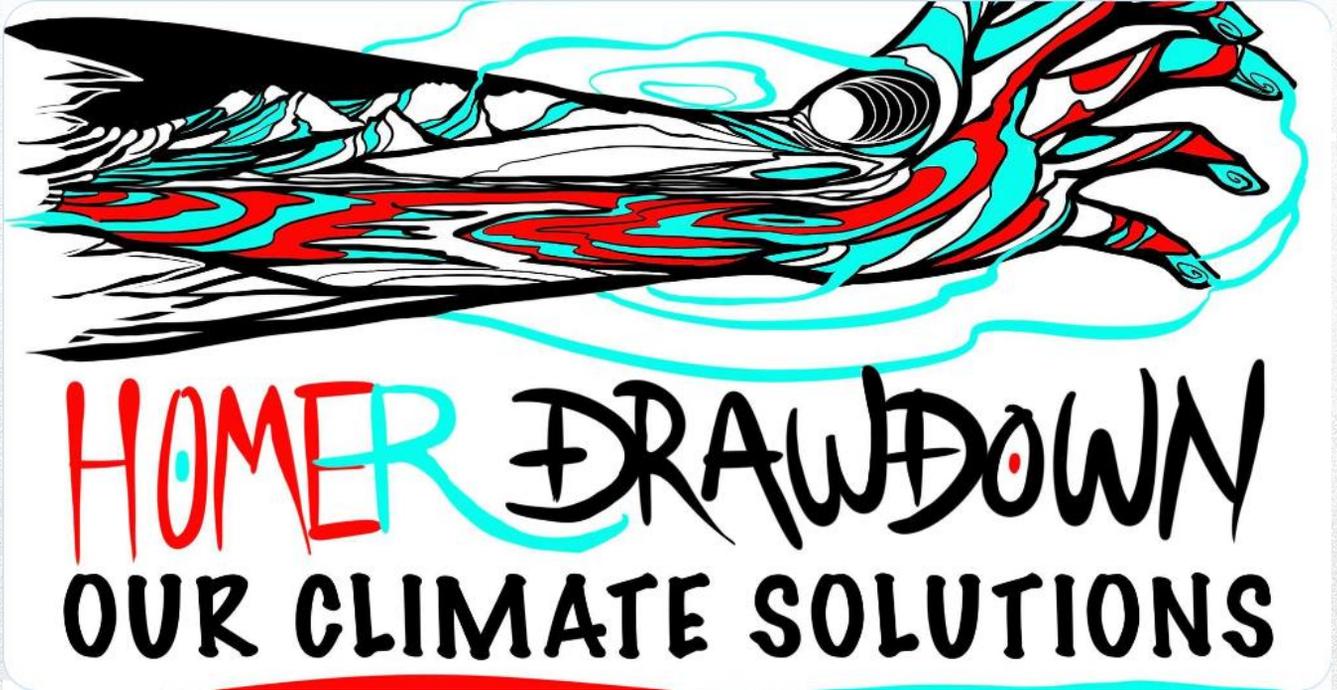


Alaskans Know Climate Change



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Art by Sarah Frary



HOMER DRAWDOWN OUR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

3) Homer Drawdown

The book *Drawdown – The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* –, by Paul Hawkin, contains the top 100 most meaningful solutions to avert anthropogenic climate change. This winter, KBCS, AKCC and Cook Inletkeeper teamed up with others to establish a Homer Drawdown series. Our objective is to read through the 100 solutions and ultimately vote on one meaningful climate mitigation project and implement it. All but one of the solutions in *Drawdown* are called zero regrets solution, which is to say that these interventions aren't just purely altruistic – they actually improve upon our current means and methods.

In the face of social isolation, we are still moving ahead with the Homer Drawdown meetings. However, we are now conducting our meetings on the virtual platform, Zoom. These meetings will occur every third Thursday of the month until we determine which project we plan to undertake. Please join us.

The Coronavirus has exposed a lot of our vulnerabilities, but it has also exposed our strengths. Our biggest assets are one another. Just like sunlight and water for a plant, community, friendships, and resiliency all are greatly improved when they are properly nourished. The three main projects on our agenda would all be greatly improved by your participation. However, these are not the only ways we can address the climate crisis or better prepare ourselves and our communities for the next catastrophe.

Mutual aid and direct action should become reflexive instincts for us all. When you see a neighbor struggling, know that you don't need permission or an order from a superior to give them a hand.

I will close this account with a few lines of dialogue from *Lord of the Rings* between Frodo and Gandalf:

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

KBCS Board Members



Roberta Highland, President, and long time Board Member is now serving on the Issues and Comment Committee with Penelope Haas. Roberta was presented with the prestigious Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions in 2013. She has been involved in conservation since 1986. Roberta has served on many boards since then — the longest being The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society. Roberta has worked on significant issues that have required statewide coordination for success. She believes we can all be a force for the change we want to see in the world. Her indomitable spirit is nourished by the belief that everything is connected and that protecting the earth and the life it sustains is the worthiest of causes.

Martie Krohn, Treasurer, is a resident of Homer since 1984. Martie has been involved in many civic and environmental endeavors through teaching and 4-H. She taught at The Learning Place, a parent's cooperative educational venture prior to starting Smoky Bay School which operated from 1986 to 2006. Martie brings an extensive background in accounting to the position of treasurer through self-employment, working as a bookkeeper for Kachemak Port Services and serving as treasurer for the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board between stints as president. Martie is also a founding member and treasurer of Arts, Recreation, Conservation, Humanities, Education and Science Alaska (ARCHES Alaska), the nonprofit behind Salmonfest Alaska



Penelope Haas, Secretary, has worked in Alaska's commercial salmon fisheries as a deckhand in the Prince William Sound and Bristol Bay and as a technician for ADF&G in Prince William Sound, Haines, and on the Alaska Peninsula. She has also participated in research with ADF&G and the Prince William Sound Science Center, collecting data on straying of hatchery salmon and genetic impacts of hatchery pink salmon to wild stocks. Her work with KBCS is focused on local conservation issues, including local climate change education and promotion of alternative energy solutions; good planning and management of Kenai Peninsula, Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet to ensure protection of fish, wildlife and their habitat.

Jim Stearns, Board Member, is president of the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board, a member of the Homer Little League Board and is the producer of Salmonfest. Prior to moving to Alaska 7 years ago, Jim was involved in producing many fundraisers and brought his restaurant and catering experience to Hurricane Katrina and, with a revolving team, served 75,000 meals to evacuees over 2 months. He was also a founding member and leader of Friends of the River in California, founding member and board president of the Central Sierra Watershed Coalition, and past board president of the Mother Lode Women's Center. Jim also serves as a founding member and president of ARCHES Alaska.



KBCS Board Members



Bjørn Olson, Board Member, is a life-long Alaskan, adventurer, photographer, videographer and storyteller. Bjørn attempts to educate and advocate for leaving Alaska better than when he came into it — a task more formidable than climbing Denali, kayaking to Kodiak or cycling a 1,100-mile snow trail above the Arctic Circle.



Madeline Lee, Board Member, is currently pursuing environmental advocacy with her role at Kachemak Geospatial, a Homer-based firm using cartographic story-telling and geospatial support for environmental monitoring and research. As a KBCS board member, Maddy will educate her community on the urgency of climate change and empower people to take action now.

Anna Liljedahl, Board Member.

Originally from a small farm in northern Sweden, Anna came to Alaska 16 years ago as an exchange student to UAF. After nine years as a Fairbanks research faculty studying the flow and storage of water at the watershed-scale and it's linkages to climate, permafrost, and glaciers, she's now ready to go beyond identifying evidence of climate change to also do something about it.



Katie Aspen Gavenus, Board Member, grew up in Homer, Alaska. She is an environmental educator and program director for the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. Other work over the years has included leading wilderness trips and deckhanding on a salmon tender in Cook Inlet. She recently completed a master's program in science education through IslandWood and the University of Washington and is committed to transforming science education - and education more broadly - to be locally relevant, culturally sustaining, meaningful, and inspiring. She believes education, science, and conservation should all be collaborative efforts.



KBCS is taking on some big issues.

We hope you will tell your friends about the work we are doing and invite them to become members.

Ballot

	YES	NO
Board Member: Roberta Highland		
Board Member: Bjørn Olson		
Board member: Penelope Haas		
Board Member: Madeline Lee		

Membership, www.kbayconservation.org

Yes! I'll support the
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society!

1. Membership

New Member

Renewal

Gift Contribution

2. Support Level:

\$20 Individual

\$35 Couple/Family

\$50 Supporting

\$100 Business

Other

3. Tell Us About Yourself

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(check which items you would like to receive)

Email newsletter

Snail mail newsletter

Email Announcements and Action Alerts

Enclose check or money order. Mail your payment and form to:



**Kachemak Bay
Conservation Society**
3734 Ben Walters Ln
Homer, AK 99603

If you have any questions or for more information email kbayconservation@gmail.com or call 907. 235.8214.