



State of Alaska
Governor's Climate Change Sub-Cabinet

Adaptation Advisory Group Meeting
Meeting #7

Overarching Options

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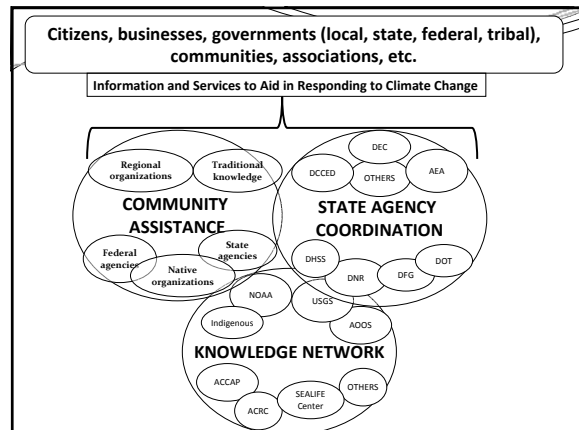



Overarching Options

- Overview: Several individual TWGs identified ideas and options relevant across all TWGs. These are being described as “overarching options” or “common themes” or “coordination needs.” Three are tied up for AAG discussion.

Overarching Options

- **Establish an Alaska Climate Change Knowledge Network** (Natural systems and Economic Activities TWGs) - data and information coordination
- **Coordinate Implementation of Alaska's Efforts to Address Climate Change** (Cross-Cutting TWG - mitigation) – state agency coordination
- **Establish a High-level, Permanent, State Entity to Coordinate Community Climate Impact Assistance** (Health & Culture TWG) – assistance to communities coordination



#1 - Establish an Alaska Climate Change Knowledge Network

- Overview: Finding, integrating, and analyzing climate change data and information is very challenging given the number of entities and agencies collecting and organizing data. The ability to integrate and use data is limited. And understanding who else is addressing issues of common interest, their views, and decisions on specific topics is difficult given the lack of common repositories of knowledge.

Functions of the Knowledge Network

- Provide means to inventory, organize, and archive climate change data
- Provide online access to data
- Support community needs for data
- Provide means to share data on specific geographic areas of concern such as the Arctic.
- Provide means to incorporate community knowledge about climate change
- Provide tools and means to integrate and analyze data
- Provide a point of coordination with federal data efforts (e.g., NOAA and USGS) in Alaska

Staff Responsibilities within the Knowledge Network

- Maintain a comprehensive inventory of organizations and programs collecting data
- Provide/encourage access to information about climate change, research papers, successful adaptation efforts
- Provide forums for sharing and integrating knowledge
- Identify gaps
- Provide means to organize and integrate citizen-community data
- Be responsive to questions and inquiries about climate change effects

Steps for the Knowledge Network

- Develop a comprehensive inventory of existing data collection efforts
- Develop a plan for organizing the existing efforts
- Establish dedicated staffing for the ACCKN and commitments from existing centers and data repositories
- Develop a prototype of a portal/network
- Establish a portal/network for accessing climate change and Arctic data and research
- Use the portal to provide technical assistance and strategies to improve the ability to respond to a changing climate
- Establish clear measures of performance to ensure on-going adaptation to potentially changing needs

#1 Knowledge Network Recommendation

- Recommendation: Promote development of an Alaska Climate Change Knowledge Network by leveraging existing efforts and providing minimal funding (for a few staff) to support coordination of the numerous efforts collecting and organizing scientific data related to climate change and to ensure access to and use of those data by communities and other interested users.

#2: Coordinate Implementation of Alaska's Efforts to Address Climate Change (CC TWG #6)

- **Overview:** Coordination is needed to continue the efforts of the Subcabinet. This could be accomplished through a senior advisor in the Governor's Office, by an Alaska Climate Change Coordinating Committee under the Subcabinet, or a designated lead agency or Task Force to coordinate state agency climate change response efforts.

#2: Coordinate Implementation of Alaska's Efforts to Address Climate Change

Need: Many recommendations for actions are proposed by the Advisory Groups for reducing GHG emissions and for responding to the effects of climate change. An approach to coordinating these actions is needed. An Alaska climate change coordinating "program" will help state agencies support ongoing efforts of the Subcabinet.

#2 Coordinate Implementation of Alaska's Efforts to Address Climate Change

- Better coordination can promote efficiencies and effectiveness in the following areas:
 - Tracking climate change efforts across State agencies in Alaska;
 - Communicating between State of Alaska and other efforts (e.g. Federal activities);
 - Responding to expected Federal initiatives on climate change;
 - Providing access to information and education resources; and
 - Improving outreach to citizens and businesses on climate change.

#2 Coordinate Implementation of Alaska's Efforts to Address Climate Change

- **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Subcabinet ensure continuation and coordination of the work already started through the Advisory Committee processes. This could be an advisor to the Governor, a Coordinating Committee under the Subcabinet, or a designated person or office that coordinates representatives of State agencies. If a committee or lead office is not identified, the Subcabinet should at a minimum authorize a Task Force to continue to identify ways to ensure coordination among state agencies, especially on policy and strategy coordination and responses to Federal inquiries and reporting requirements.

#3 Coordinating Entity for Community Climate Impact Assistance (Health & Culture TWG #1)

- **Need:** Many aspects of the traditional and subsistence way of life are being made more difficult by climate change and means to address these are made more complex by overlapping, unclear, and time consuming processes to gain assistance
- **Objective:** Facilitate approaches and processes to provide effective relief to communities
- **Structure:** A permanent, high-level state coordinating body within Alaska

Note: This option is intended to work together with the options proposed by the Immediate Action Work Group

#3 Coordinating Entity for Community Climate Impact Assistance

- **Recommendation:** Establish a permanent, high-level state coordinating body to serve 4 primary functions:
 1. Develop a process for prioritizing and addressing climate challenged communities
 2. Help communities adapt to flooding and erosion either by relocation or protection-in-place
 3. Develop a community-based, flexible and responsive process to regulate subsistence access under changing climatic conditions
 4. Develop principles to guide community climate impact assistance activities

Function 1: Process for prioritizing

- A. Develop future climate scenarios and analyze to identify communities at risk
- B. Conduct meetings with leaders in at-risk communities to understand the risks and challenges from climate change
- C. Prioritize at risk communities and the risks within each community, using clear and transparent criteria
- D. Recommend communities in need of state and federal assistance to address specific risks and reduce vulnerability
- E. Create strategies and measures tailored to the needs of communities
- F. Work with communities to obtain funding for adaptation

Function 2: Help communities adapt to flooding and erosion

- A. Create a mandate for climate impact assistance (especially migration and relocation) within state and Federal agencies
- B. Designate lead agencies at the Federal and state levels and outline an overall strategy for relocation process
- C. Create a dedicated funding source for community climate impact assistance
- D. Create a liquid funding source to provide immediate assistance
- E. Provide assistance in complying with the NEPA process

Function 3: Develop a community-based process to regulate subsistence access

- The coordinating entity should work to facilitate interaction between subsistence users and regulatory bodies (such as the Federal subsistence Board, the Marine Mammal commission, and the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game)
- Create a citizen-based reporting and surveillance system to identify and document changes in water bodies, changes in range, density, and health of subsistence food species, and monitoring for pathogens

Function 4: Develop principles to guide community impact assistance activities

- A. Provide resources to ensure cross-cultural communication and understand within traditional languages
- B. Reduce community burden during sensitive times
- C. Provide for local input and community involvement

#3 Coordinating Entity for Community Climate Impact Assistance Recommendation

- Create a high-level permanent government entity to coordinate community climate impact assistance

