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MEETING SUMMARY

ALASKA CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ADVISORY GROUP

Health and Culture Technical Working Group (HC TWG)

Meeting #12, 7 January 2009, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Attendance:

Technical Working Group members: Jeff Demain, Bob Gerlach, Erin Harman, Jeff Smith, Joe McLaughlin, Don Callaway, Jason Vogel

Public Attendees: Sally Schlichting, David McMahan

Background documents:

Meeting Notice and Agenda

Summary of Meeting #11

Policy Options

Adaptation Option Template Guidance

Procedural items:

1. Jason Vogel called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and reviewed the agenda and plans for the call.
2. The summary for meeting #11 was approved.

Discussion items, key issues, and agreements:

1. Introductions
 - a. Jason Vogel introduced David McMahan as the Alaska State Archaeologist and a volunteer to work on the Archaeology and Gravesites adaptation option. He also mentioned that Alan Borass, an anthropologist with UAA-Kenai had volunteered to help with this option, although Dr. Borass was unable to make this phone call.
 - b. Introductions were made all around to let David know the other people he was working with, their relevant areas of expertise, and which adaptation options they were working on.
2. Adaptation option template guidance
 - a. A brief discussion occurred on the adaptation option template guidance.

The Surveillance and Control subcommittee had already used the document and commented that the guidance was very useful in helping them move forward.

- b. Other TWG members asked for the draft of the Surveillance and Control subcommittee to date.
3. Report from the Archaeology and Gravesites subcommittee
 - a. This subcommittee just formed over the last week, so no action had yet been taken.
 - b. Subcommittee members exchanged contact information and planned to touch base later in the day to map out how to begin work.
 4. Report from the Surveillance and Control subcommittee
 - a. Subcommittee members explained the history of their work to date, including their first attempt at a one-page write up that was deemed a good start for the AAG and the Governor's Subcabinet. They then used the template guidance document when meeting with Kristie Ebi in Anchorage on January 6 to begin a more thorough write up. To date, the subcommittee completed the "Option description" and "Option design" sections of the template along with some draft language in other sections.
 - b. The subcommittee suggested that other subcommittees create a succinct outline, such as their one page write-up, to assist with thinking systematically about their respective adaptation option. The guidance document was useful for determining what kind of information belonged where, and elements from the outline could be extracted and elaborated as necessary to fill in the template.
 - c. The subcommittee agreed to share their work to assist other subcommittees with the caveat that the option is still in early draft form.
 5. Report from Ombudsman subcommittee
 - a. The subcommittee described their work to date, including contact with Sally Cox who is working on the Newtok relocation effort. They have written up a lot of material but have not yet used the template guidance document.
 - b. The subcommittee expressed some interest in speaking with the agency representatives that would ultimately interact with the proposed ombudsman.
 - c. Some significant overlap with the surveillance and control adaptation option was identified and discussed. This overlap was determined to be mutually reinforcing and not duplicative.
 - d. The subcommittee is still exploring how to deal with the issue of subsistence, but want to focus initially on the ombudsman section.
 - e. Other TWG members suggested that this subcommittee might gain insight

from the Immediate Action Work Group and their work with several Native villages.

- f. One member of the subcommittee met with Kristie Ebi in Anchorage to discuss how to use the template guidance.
 - g. Linguistic barriers were mentioned as a significant issue that might be a research need.
6. Report from Sanitation Infrastructure subcommittee
- a. This subcommittee met with Kris Ebi in Anchorage and developed a plan for moving forward with drafting their adaptation option. During this meeting they had a chance to interact with a representative from the Ombudsman adaptation option.
 - b. They plan on using the Surveillance and Control adaptation option as a precedent to accelerate their work.
7. Report from the Health Assessments subcommittee
- a. Representatives from this subcommittee had to leave the call before they could provide an update.
8. Schedule and meeting
- a. Jason Vogel described the timeline for producing the adaptation options, including drafts for the AAG meeting on 2/6 as well as final drafts in March.
 - b. Due to the amount of work required by the subcommittees, it was decided that full TWG phone conferences should be held only once a month for the time being to free up more time for the subcommittees to get work done. Jason Vogel offered both himself and Kristie Ebi to help facilitate teleconferencing, attend subcommittee meetings by phone, or any other assistance needed by the subcommittees to adhere to the timeline.
 - c. One TWG member asked what would happen to the adaptation options after they were selected or not by the AAG or Subcabinet. Would the TWG members that helped develop them also help to flesh them out? What level of continuing participation could be expected from TWG members? Jason Vogel agreed to pass this question along to the State and forward their answer.

Next steps:

- 1. The next conference call will be Wednesday, February 4 at 8:30-10:00 am Alaska time.
- 2. In the interim, subcommittees will continue their work to flesh out their policy options.