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## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **ALASKA CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ADVISORY GROUP**

#### **Health and Culture Technical Working Group (HC TWG)**

Meeting #7, 1 October 2008, 8:30 – 10:30 AM

#### **Attendance:**

Technical Working Group members: Bob Gerlach, Erin Harman, Joe McLaughlin, Jeff Demain, Mike Bradley, Jim Berner, Jeff Smith, Father Thomas Weise, Elaine Abraham, Kristie Ebi, Jason Vogel

Public Attendees: Lynn Zender, Jake Bell, Mike Brubaker

#### **Background documents:**

Meeting Notice and Agenda

Summary of Meeting #6

Health and Culture Draft Catalog of State Actions

Draft Criteria

#### **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 #6 was approved.

#### **Discussion items and key issues:**

1. Jeff Demain summarized the September 23 Adaptation Advisory Group meeting. The meeting was largely informational in nature as opposed to procedural or strategic. Updates to the adaptation options were considered. There was discussion of the immediate action work group activities and an extensive discussion of the Scenario Network for Alaska Planning (SNAP) by Dr. Scott Rupp. The SNAP discussion seemed to validate the work of the Health and Culture TWG to date by explicitly calling out some issues that the TWG has already decided merit significant attention (e.g. deciduous trees taking over conifer forests is leading to an increase in allergens and respiratory health problems). The SNAP presentations further satisfied the questions of many people who were still skeptical about the changes taking place in Alaska and their connection to climate and greenhouse gases.

2. A short discussion then covered the immediate activities of the HC TWG, including: coming up with policy option descriptions, balloting procedures, and criteria. Some concern was expressed over the narrowing of the list to only 10 policy options. It was commented that the full catalog will remain on public record as a resource for policy makers to refer back to in the future, so narrowing the list is a practical necessity, but it does not remove information from the public sphere. It was also mentioned that any disagreements or dissenting opinions about specific policy options will be captured and presented to the AAG with anonymity guaranteed to the person making such comments. It was discussed that there will likely be a handful of options that nearly everyone agrees merit high priority and then a number of options where consensus is not so obvious. It was decided that the facilitators should bring these less obvious items back to the TWG for discussion and ultimate decision about which to include as recommendations to the AAG.
3. The call discussed Culture options HC-12 (archaeology and history), HC-14 (winter sports and recreation); HC-15 (summer sports and recreation); and HC-16 (energy demand); HC-17 (local food production).
4. Discussion on HC-12:
  - a. Combine 12.1-12.3 as a single option.
  - b. Reword so that the option refers to archeological sites and anthropological values instead of focusing on artifacts.
  - c. Various organizations have tackled some of this work, but there is seemingly little coordination. The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey maintains a database of sites: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/ahrs/ahrs.htm>
  - d. There is a very high potential loss of archeological sites due to coastal erosion, which has been reported recently at 30 meters per year.
  - e. It would be most effective to take a triage approach by focusing on sites that are vulnerable due to proximity to coastlines or rivers (although this probably includes most sites).
  - f. It will be important to bring many agencies together, but even more important to involve tribal entities and native anthropologists and archaeologists in deciding what they want to do about sites at risk.
  - g. In 12.3 correct the language to indicate that protection versus recovery of artifacts from archaeological sites must met with local approval.
  - h. 12.4 should remain separate
  - i. Combine 12.5-12.8
5. Discussion on HC-14:
  - a. This issue may be better addressed by the Economic Activites TWG. Facilitator Jason Vogel agreed to contact Nancy Tosta, the EA TWG facilitator to discuss this issue.

- b. The general sense of the group was that this issue would not end up on the top ten list due to the significance of many of the other health and culture issues, but if it was included in the tourism aspect of EA, it might still get addressed.
  - c. The cultural aspect of sports and recreation was brought up to clarify what EA might not address if they focus on tourism.
6. Discussion on HC-15:
- a. This issue may be better addressed by the Economic Activities TWG. Facilitator Jason Vogel agreed to contact Nancy Tosta, the EA TWG facilitator to discuss this issue.
  - b. The general sense of the group was that this issue would not end up on the top ten list due to the significance of many of the other health and culture issues, but if it was included in the tourism aspect of EA, it might still get addressed.
  - c. The cultural aspect of sports and recreation was brought up to clarify what EA might not address if they focus on tourism.
7. Discussion on HC-16:
- a. 16.2 and 16.2 should be combined. They probably belong under the HC-6 “Thermal Extremes” heading. However, facilitator Jason Vogel agreed to contact Barbara Sheinberg, the Infrastructure TWG facilitator to see how best to handle the cross-cutting aspects of this issue.
  - b. 16.3 belongs under HC-10 “Health Care and Emergency Response Systems”
  - c. 16.4 is repeated in 6.2, so it should be deleted.
  - d. 16.5 is repeated as 6.1, so it should be deleted.
  - e. Some concern was expressed about the definition of an emergency level of fuel and health problems such as respiratory stress that could be exacerbated by switching from current fuels to wood.
8. Discussion on HC-17
- a. There was some discussion about whether this issue should be broadened to agriculture. Upon learning that agriculture was being dealt with by the natural systems TWG, facilitator Jason Vogel agreed to contact Jan Caulfield and discuss the cross cutting nature of these policy options.
  - b. There was some feeling that UA extension was already doing a good job at 17.1 and that further state action might not be required. This would perhaps be an issue for the research needs work group.
  - c. Combine 17.2 and 17.3 and focus them on invasive plant and pest species – with a focus on surveillance, prevention, and control.

**Next steps and agreements:**

1. The next TWG meeting will be held on October 22, from 8:30 - 10:00 am, and will focus on criteria and preparation for balloting.
2. TWG members will be asked to write up short descriptions on the order of several sentences to a couple of paragraphs to describe each option between now and the next phone conference.