



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ADVISORY GROUP
HEALTH AND CULTURE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #1, June 11, 2008 8:30am-10:30am

Participants in the meeting included:

- Kristie Ebi – CCS Facilitator
- Jason Vogel – CCS Facilitator
- Nancy Costa – CCS Facilitator for another TWG
- Jackie Poston – State of Alaska
- Susan McNeil – State of Alaska
- Erin Harman (sitting in for Jerry Issac – TWG member)
- Mike Bradley – TWG member
- Don Calloway – TWG member
- Henry Huntington – TWG member
- Jeff Demain – TWG member, AAG member
- Father Thomas Weise – TWG member, AAG member
- Bob Gerlach – TWG member
- Jeff Smith – TWG member
- Harry Brower – TWG member
- Joel Shiraga – member of the public

The conference call focused on orienting members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) to the process that will be followed for assessing the adaptation needs for health and culture in Alaska. The key points covered are outlined in a PowerPoint presentation that is posted under meeting #1 of the Health and Culture TWG at http://www.akclimatechange.us/Health_Culture.cfm. TWG members raised several issues, including:

- 1) Several members suggested the Alaska Forum on the Environment as a natural date for TWG members to meet, in conjunction with an AAG meeting that will be held at that time, and for TWG members to meet one or both of their facilitators.
- 2) It was agreed that if a TWG member cannot participate in a call that they have the option to designate an alternate to ensure the group benefits from the specific area of expertise that each person brings.

- 3) There are many feedbacks and interrelationships among impacts in different TWGs; these can act in ways that could affect health and culture. The importance of raising cross-disciplinary issues with other TWGs and with the AAG was emphasized.
- 4) It was suggested that the TWG focus not on the impacts of climate change on weather patterns (i.e. more extreme weather events), but on the consequent effects on health and culture of a changing climate. It is these effects that may need to be addressed by policy makers.
- 5) Waterborne and vector borne diseases will be considered separately in the catalog of policy options.
- 6) The goals for each meeting will be identified to allow people with limited availability to participate to choose the meetings where their expertise would be most useful.
- 7) The group generally agreed that Wednesday mornings were a good time to set up conference calls, with a regular schedule, established in advance, preferably. The facilitators will circulate a proposed list of dates for the remainder of 2008.
- 8) Any member of the TWG who would prefer receiving documents by other than email, such as mailing or faxing, will let the facilitators know.
- 9) The facilitators would be delighted to talk with anyone with questions, comments, concerns, etc.
- 10) **Action Item for TWG members:** It was agreed that before the next call, TWG members would look at the list of health and culture impacts to familiarize themselves with the issues under consideration and to determine that all impacts have been identified.
- 11) **Action Item for Facilitators:** It was agreed that Kris and Jason would compile a preliminary list of potential adaptation options for the identified impacts. This list will be distributed to the TWG as soon as it is compiled and will be discussed on the next conference call.