

Economic Activities Technical Work Group

Alaska Adaptation Advisory Group

Meeting #1: Conference Call Summary

June 16, 2008

Participants

TWG Participants

Ed Fogels, AK Dept. of Natural Resources
Stan Foo, Barrick Gold Corp
Richard Glenn, Arctic Slope Regional Corp.
(ASRC)
Karl Hanneman, Teck-Cominco Pogo Mine
John Hellén, Pioneer Natural Resources
Larry Hinzman, Univ. of Alaska-Fairbanks,
Eldon Johnson, Alyeska Pipeline
Tom Krzewinski, Golder & Associates
Peter Larson, The Nature Conservancy
Crawford Patkotak, Arctic Slope Regional
Corp. (ASRC)
Keith Silver, Nana Management Services

Orson Smith, Univ. of Alaska-Anchorage
Brad Thomas, Conoco Phillips

Alaska State Representatives

Jackie Poston, AK Dept. of Commerce,
Community and Economic Development

CCS Staff

Ira Feldman, Greentrack Strategies
Nancy Tosta, Ross & Associates
Amy Wheelless, Ross & Associates

Public Participants

None

Meeting Summary

Meeting Materials

All materials for the Economic Activities Technical Working Group (EA TWG) will be available here: http://www.akclimatechange.us/Economic_Activities.cfm. For this meeting, the following materials were posted:

- Meeting Presentation
- Information on the Adaptation Workgroup Process and Orientation
- Draft Catalog of State Actions

These materials cover the majority of what was discussed at this meeting. The following notes summarize the discussion highlights and identified action items for TWG members.

Structure, Roles and Processes

Nancy Tosta, CCS Facilitator, discussed the background, structure and roles of the TWGs, and the process that the TWGs would be using to develop proposed state actions to address adaptation to climate change. Major points from this presentation are as follows:

- Alaska Administrative Order #238 established the Climate Change Sub-Cabinet (CCSC), which then established a Mitigation Advisory Group (MAG) and an Adaptation Advisory Group (AAG) to make recommendations on policy options for mitigation and adaptation activities to the CCSC.
 - In turn, the AGs receive inputs from Technical Working Groups (TWGS).
 - The AAG is made up of four TWGs: Public Infrastructure, Health and Culture, Natural Systems and Other Economic Activities.
- The Adaptation TWGs will review the vulnerabilities, impacts and opportunities of climate change; review possible actions; develop initial proposals on activities; and provide input to the AAG.
- The EA TWG will focus on climate change impacts on aspects of the economy that are not directly dependent on living ecosystems, including oil and gas, mining, ocean transportation, tourism and recreation.
- The Adaptation TWGs will include in their scope all conceivable adaptation responses; all potential implementation measures; and short- and long- actions.
- Members of the TWGs are expected to attend meetings, be supportive of the process, remain up-to-date on TWG information, and make objective contributions.

Action Item: To facilitate the EA TWG meeting process, members of the EA TWG should email Amy Wheelless at amy.wheelless@ross-assoc.com with:

- The best or worst days for scheduling a regular recurring meeting for the EA TWG. These meetings will take place roughly every 3 weeks through March 2009 for 2 hours each.
- Up-to-date contact information, and if a TWG member does not want to share their information with other TWG members.

Climate Change Effects, Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Opportunities in Alaska

Nancy Tosta reviewed Alaska's impacts and vulnerabilities to climate change. Major discussion points of this presentation are as follows:

- The State of Alaska developed a comprehensive list of impacts from climate change based on letters from state agencies, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, scientific studies, and other sources.
 - Examples of impacts include: shorter winters, thawing permafrost, warmer summers, increased forest fires, and coastal erosion.
 - Associated with these impacts are vulnerabilities and opportunities, such as pipeline damage from permafrost thaw or new tourism opportunities due to longer summers.
- The EA group will develop consensus around these impacts, vulnerabilities and opportunities over the coming weeks.
- With knowledge of these impacts, vulnerabilities and opportunities, the Adaptation TWGs will review potential state actions that could address those effects.
- Resources that would be helpful for the EA TWG to review include the information available from the Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning (SNAP: <http://www.snap.uaf.edu/>), the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP). In addition, Orson Smith and Pete

Larson have worked on a report associated with SNAP that discusses impacts for Alaska. This paper is currently available on the EA TWG website mentioned above.

Action Item: Nancy Tosta and Ira Feldman will follow-up with the AAG on how the Adaptation TWGs can best build a common framework for considering the impacts of climate change.

Catalog of State Adaptation Activities and Policies

Ira Feldman, CCS Facilitator, discussed the draft catalog of state adaptation activities and polices that the EA TWG will review, analyze and develop more fully over the coming months. Major discussion points of this presentation are as follows:

- An initial list of potential state actions has been developed for this TWG to review. This list has been informed by a list developed by NCEP, as well as from other states that have followed the CCS process and addressed adaptation, such as Florida and Maryland.
- For Alaska, specifically, the list of impacts from climate change will also help inform potential policy options. The draft catalog is broken down by the major areas of the EA TWG and includes vulnerabilities and opportunities, as well as options.
- While this process does not want to “reinvent the wheel,” Alaska is unique in many respects, and some focus areas will require additional attention.
- The EA TWG will review, expand and add to this draft catalog, and present to the AAG with relevant criteria for each option, including benefits, costs, feasibility, and system vulnerability, as well as a degree of transparency by giving an idea of group support.

Action Item: All group members will review the draft catalog of actions, and add, change or notate options, as needed.

- TWG members will focus on assembling a complete list of options first, and then later consider the decision criteria.
- For the present time, additions will be made on a Word or Excel document; once a list of actions is fully compiled, the TWG may use another format that is conducive for reviewing and ranking.
- TWG members should email their completed options catalogs to Amy Wheelless at amy.wheelless@ross-assoc.com by COB Wednesday, June 25 so that a compilation of changes and additions can be posted on the website.

The next meeting of the EA TWG will be Friday, June 27 from 8am to 10am (Alaska Time). Members of the public can call 1-800-704-9804, passcode: 538628.