



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ADVISORY GROUP

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND ASSOCIATED ECONOMIES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Call # 1-800-704-9804, June 18, 2008, 1:00 – 3:00 pm (Alaska time)

Attendance:

Facilitators:

Colleen Donovan, Michael Fraidenburg

Technical Working Group members:

Ken McHugh, Chris Maisch, Tony Nakazawa, Trish Wurtz, Scott Rupp, Kurt Parkan, Gerd Wendler, Jeff Short, Stephanie Madsen

Non-member Participants:

Eric Volk, Amy Holman

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation:

Susan McNeil, Jackie Poston

Background documents: (all posted at: http://akclimatechange.us/Natural_Systems.cfm)

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. PowerPoint® for Teleconference
3. Impacts and Adaptation List
4. Orientation to AK Adaptation Process

Discussion items and key issues:

This was the first conference call of the Natural Systems and Associated Economies Technical Working Group (NS&AE TWG). The call helped orient TWG members to the process that will be followed for assessing the adaptation needs for natural systems and associated human economic activities. The main topics discussed are outlined the PowerPoint presentation. TWG members raised the following issues:

1. Alaska and several other states have just started moving through the process of developing adaptation measures (responses) to deal with the potential impacts from climate change. Florida and Maryland have already initiated this process. TWG members raised this issue because they

wanted to know where Alaska is in the process of developing adaptation (response) measures in relation to other states.

2. TWG members raised the issue of whether they are expected to do or not do an economic analysis of the potential impacts from climate change on commercial fisheries or other associated economies. The TWG members' concern is how the AAG will articulate this. Answer: The TWG can decide the level of focus (broad or narrow) that makes them comfortable.
3. The facilitators will be sure to coordinate future TWG meetings with other mitigation advisory group (MAG) meetings since some of the TWG members participate in both groups.
4. The next Adaptation Advisory Group (AAG) meeting will be on July 16, 2008 in Fairbanks, Alaska.
5. TWG members will address all impacts related to natural systems and associated economies and will not debate the causal effects of climate change. The TWG is not expected to justify the causes of climate change. The point was raised that there is a difference between natural and human-induced changes in weather and climate and how the TWG should deal with these. Answer: There needs to be a logical connection between events and climate change based on the TWG's best knowledge.
6. TWG members were concerned about the absence of citations in the "*Impacts and Adaptation List*" document posted on the website. They requested to see a copy of this document with citations included.
7. One aspect of adaptation is policy implications of coping with declining access to carbon-based fuels. For example, if the US places a carbon tax on fuels, Alaskans will obviously have to adapt to higher energy costs, which could lead to negative economic impacts. There is a need to clarify how these issues of policy implementation causing spin-off impacts will be addressed in the overall Alaska climate management planning effort.

Next steps and agreements:

1. The next TWG meeting will be held on June 30, 2008, from start 2:00 – 4:00 pm (Alaska time).
2. TWG members should review the impacts and add any omitted impacts. They should also provide additional adaptation measures (responses) using. They are asked to make these changes using the 'Track Changes' feature in Microsoft Word[®]. The deadline for comments is the close of business on June 25, 2008. Comments should be e-mailed to Mike and Colleen who will compile the results for the next conference call.
3. Mike and Colleen will locate the citations for the "*Impacts and Adaptation List*" document that is posted on the NS&AE site.

Public Input

Input from the public was solicited. No members of the public were present on the call.