

Economic Activities Technical Work Group Alaska Adaptation Advisory Group Meeting #2: Conference Call Summary June 27, 2008

Participants

TWG Participants

Ed Fogels, AK Dept. of Natural Resources
Stan Foo, Barrick Gold Corp
John Hellén, Pioneer Natural Resources
Larry Hinzman, Univ. of Alaska-Fairbanks
Eldon Johnson, Alyeska Pipeline
Dale Summerlin, ConocoPhillips
Brad Thomas, ConocoPhillips

CCS Staff

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

Public Participants

None

Alaska State Representatives

None

Meeting Summary

1. Roll Call and Review of Agenda

2. Review and approval of Meeting #1 Summary

- The TWG approved the notes from the June 16 meeting.

3. Discussion of Draft Catalog of Actions

General Comments

- Facilitators emphasized that this is not the last opportunity for TWG members to comment on catalog.
- Several TWG members had focused on reviewing vulnerabilities rather than policies or actions.
- Facilitators encouraged TWG members to be inclusive now and refine later.
- Ultimately, TWG will focus on 10-15 adaptation actions to prioritize.
- The catalog links vulnerability to adaptation, but this linkage may not always be present.

- A suggestion was made to increase knowledge about climate change effects through data collection and mapping and consideration of a statewide geographic information system infrastructure (to also include digital elevation models)
- The discussion explored the assumptions that should be made for rate of climate change:
 - Should projections, actions be for 20/50/100 years?
 - Is there (should there be) one accepted model or set of assumptions about impacts?
- Facilitators emphasized the “draft” nature of catalog, and the need for continuing input from TWG members

Action Item: Members of the TWG who are on the AAG will ask AAG for guidance about accepted assumptions and models.

Oil and Gas

TWG members offered several comments on the catalog that were captured in the catalog during the call. Specific comments to be followed up on include:

- “Coastal community” – why is this included in Oil and Gas?

p.2

- Decision to drop “logging” – it is not an Oil and Gas topic
- Re: “gravel pads” – suggestion that we should expect “no change”
- Suggestion to combine with “contaminants” on p.3

p.3

- “Who pays?” – suggestion that this question be considered here and throughout catalog
- Suggestion that “good information management” is needed re: change in permafrost
- Suggestion that “GIS mapping” would be more inclusive than “ED mapping”

p.4

2.2

- TWG member noted that “placer regulatory requirements” already exist
- Opinion stated that “plans and criteria” should be operator driven, not state imposed
- One TWG member (LH) suggested that throughout catalog we consider “future operating conditions”
- TWG member suggested that reference to “animal behavior” was incomplete; suggestion that this should include “perceived changes to subsistence existence”

2.5

- One TWG member suggested that re: “tailings,” the staffing of agencies is an issue

2.6

- Re: “seasonal aspects,” consider the need to change designs, develop new techniques for road construction
- Suggestion to insert phrase “adaptive action by operators to achieve compliance”

2.7

- Re: “mining access,” suggestion by one TWG member (EJ) to recognize access to exploration caused by glacier melt
- Another TWG member suggested that this effect is already triggering new mining claims

Ocean Transportation

Action item: Larry Hinzman to follow up on Ocean Transportation options.

Rural and Non-Road Ground Transportation

Action item: Richard Glenn volunteered at Meeting #1 to develop some potential options for this area.

Other

- Re: “wildfire control”, it was noted that prescribed fire can be viewed as a positive

Energy Supply

- Have we identified the appropriate “correlations”?
- Re: “regulation,” the suggestion was made that “criteria” would/should remain constant even under new climate conditions
- Ira Feldman suggested that our “actions” column should be broad enough to include the continuum “policies/regulations/management”
- It was suggested by TWG members that an overarching goal for the project should be developing a “clear set of assumptions”

Tourism and Recreation

- Suggestion to identify activities affected by changes in snowfall/snow cover

Boundaries and Ownership

Action item: Facilitators to determine what would be advocated re: Law of the Sea and note in the revised catalog.

Energy demand

- Suggestion that “costs to local communities” should be taken into account in considering this topic
- Other considerations: Cost of doing business; Cost of living in rural communities

Jobs and Economy

- Suggestion that the key question is “What is the adaptation “price tag”?”
- Suggestion that this topic is heavily linked to natural resources development
- Suggestion that “hydroelectric” be included as a new category

4. Discussion of TWG Process for Soliciting Feedback on Actions

5. Next steps for the EA TWG

6. Time and Date of Next Meeting

- Facilitators will distribute a new spreadsheet of options by next Tuesday, July 1.
- Facilitators suggest that we extend comment period on catalog for TWG members until Monday, July 7 [Note: Actual deadline was changed to noon, Tuesday July 8]
- The next meeting time will be decided based on responses to forthcoming email from Amy Wheelless.

Action item: All group members will continue to review the draft catalog of actions, and add, change or notate options, as needed. TWG members should email their completed options catalogs to Amy Wheelless at amy.wheelless@ross-assoc.com so that a compilation of changes and additions can be posted on the website.

7. Public input and announcements

- None