AK Forum on the Environment 2010
DRAFT Agenda - Climate Change Track

8 – 12 February 2010

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (MON – WED) WILL BE HELD IN TIKAHTNU E AT THE DENA'INA CONVENTION CENTER
PLEASE NOTE ALTERNATE LOCATIONS FOR EVENTS ON WED EVENING & THUR AS SPECIFIED BELOW

Session 1: (10:30 – 11:45am) Climate Change in Alaska: What's Hot…

This session highlights the most recent developments relating to changing climate in Alaska. Hear the "Arctic Report Card" update from 2009 on sea ice, permafrost, and ecosystem changes in response to climate change and learn about the potential of climate change to destabilize methane hydrate deposits on the North Slope.

Jackie Richter-Menge, US Army Corps of Engineers, Cold Regions Research & Engineering Laboratory (State of the Arctic – Science Review 2009)
Carolyn Ruppel, U.S. Geological Survey & Visiting Scientist Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Methane Hydrates)
Moderator: Jackie Poston, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Session 2a & 2b: (2:00 – 4:45pm) Climate Change in Alaska & Beyond

Hear reports from an Alaskan perspective on worldwide and domestic efforts to confront climate change. Events and activities which have occurred or are in the planning stages include COP-15, State of Alaska initiatives, NOAA's climate centers, US Geological Survey's Climate Response Centers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Landscape Conservation Collaboratives, Oceans Policy Task Force outcomes, and North Slope Science Initiative plans.

Larry Hartig, Chair of Governor's Climate Change Sub-Cabinet (COP-15 - State Perspective)
Patricia Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission (COP-15 – Indigenous Peoples Perspective)
Philip Martin, US Geological Survey (USGS Global Climate Change-Major Activities)
LaVerne Smith, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative)
Amy Holman, National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA's Climate Initiatives)
Molly McCammon, Alaska Ocean Observing System (Arctic Observing Network, Ocean Observing Systems, & Ocean Policy Task Force)
John Payne, Bureau of Land Management (North Slope Science Initiative)
Moderator: Michael Tubman, Pew Center on Global Climate Change

Tuesday, February 9th

Session 3a & 3b: (9:00 – 11:45am) Healthy Humans - Living in Rural Alaska: Making informed choices in light of climate change & contaminant impacts on our way of life

This session focuses on the public health implications of climate change and environmental contaminants. What are the potential health risks from climate change, and what are the potential benefits? How does global warming affect mobilization and exposure to environmental contaminants? How can we better understand public health effects, and what can we do about it? Presenters from the State of Alaska, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and the University of Alaska will discuss the connections between climate change and public health, from the perspective of food and water security, impacts on public infrastructure, and changes to plants and wildlife.

Mike Brubaker, AK Native Tribal Health Consortium (Climate Impacts on Community Health)
Lori Verbrugge, Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services (Food Resources, Safety and Security)
Dan White, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Northern Engineering (Water Resource Safety & Security)
Craig Fleener, AK Department of Fish & Game Wildlife (Vulnerability and Impacts)
Carl Hild, Alaska Pacific University (Psychological Impacts of Climate Change)
Moderator: Kirstin Ryan, ADEC

Session 4a & 4b: (2:00 – 4:45am) Healthy Oceans: Climate Change & the Marine World

Climate change results in more than just higher air temperatures. Hear the most recent information on Increased Potential for Maritime Traffic & the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment, Glaciers, Ocean Acidification, Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning,.

Mike Sfraga, Vice Chancellor of Students, University of Alaska Fairbanks (Recommendations from the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment)
Denise Michels, Mayor of Nome (Perspectives on AMSA & increased maritime activity in the Arctic)
Jeff Short, Oceana (Ocean Acidification)
Bruce Molnia, US Geological Survey (Glacial melt and impacts to oceans)
Amy Holman, National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning)
Molly McCammon, Alaska Ocean Observing System (Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning)
Co-Moderators: Amy Holman, National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration, and Molly McCammon, Alaska Ocean Observing System

Wednesday, February 10th

Session 5a & 5b: (9:00 – 11:45am) Ins & Outs of Climate Change Legislation & What it means to Alaska

Come witness a spirited panel talk about the ramifications of potential federal legislation from a variety of perspectives. Participate in the dialogue and let your voice be heard.

Michael Tubman, Pew Center on Global Climate Change
Matt Berman, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage
Debbie Greenberg, Alliance for Fair and Effective Climate Policy
Susanne Fleek, Senator Mark Begich's Office
McKie Campbell, Senator Lisa Murkowski's Office
Moderator: Pat Lavin, National Wildlife Federation

Session 6a and 6b: (2:00 – 4:45pm) Climate Change in Alaska: Emerging Energy Technology: New options for Alaska in the global energy economy

Alaska uses more energy per capita than any other state, in a nation which uses more energy than any other country in the world. Our state's high energy use is complicated by high energy prices, isolated electric grid systems, and dependence on external supply. By developing more local energy resources – both fossil and renewable – we can stabilize prices and reduce our vulnerability while positioning Alaska as an energy leader. Experts from around the state will discuss emerging technology solutions on the horizon to meet Alaska's current and future energy demand.

Brian Hirsch, Alaska, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Brent Sheets, National Energy Technology Laboratory
Ross Coen, Alaska Center for Energy and Power
Katherine Keith, Alaska Center for Energy and Power
Laurel McFadden, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Monty Worthington, Ocean Renewable Power Company
Moderator: Jason Meyer, Emerging Technology, Alaska Center for Energy and Power, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Wednesday evening, February 10th

(5:00 – 7:30PM)

CLIMATE CONNECTIONS RESEARCH RECEPTION (AT MARRIOTT – Anchorage/Fairbanks Room)

>>**Pre-registration for this required. Contact claire.fishwick@alaska.gov <<**

This event is designed to facilitate discussion and information exchange amongst individuals with diverse backgrounds in various disciplines focused on the study and improved understanding of change in the north. As an opening address, Dr. Cheryl Rosa will present a summary of the US Arctic Research Commission's goals for research in the Arctic in a framework of both national and international arctic issues. She will also provide a brief background of the USARC, its purpose, composition and future plans including recommendations on how local residents of the Arctic and researchers can get involved and get in touch with the USARC.

Elaine Abraham, Alaska Native Elder
Patricia Cochran, Alaska Native Science Commission
Larry Merculieff, Seven Generations Consulting
Cheryl Rosa, US Arctic Research Commission
Emcee: Commissioner Larry Hartig, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
[Sponsored by the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy; the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; Alaska Ocean Observing System; Consulate of Canada, Anchorage; NOAA; and the Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning]

Thursday, February 11th

(9:00 – 11:45AM)

IMMEDIATE ACTION WORK GROUP - ALASKA COMMUNITIES AT RISK SCIENCE PANEL (AT MARRIOTT - Marriott, Kenai/Denali Room)

This session will provide an interactive discussion between communities at risk from the effects of climate change and scientists. Community representatives will provide local and traditional knowledge about impacts they are receiving and actions they have taken to adapt to a changing environment. The panel of scientists will provide information about their area of expertise related to community impacts from climate change and potential future changes that may affect the communities.

Orson Smith, Civil Engineering Department, School of Engineering, University of Alaska Anchorage
Greg Magee, Division of Water, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Gabriel Wolken, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Jack Hebert, Cold Climate Housing Research Center
Michael Brubaker, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Mike Coffey, AK Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
Bruce Molnia, US Geological Survey
Moderator: Mike Black, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development

(1:30 – 4:30PM)

IMMEDIATE ACTION WORK GROUP MTG (AT MARRIOTT - Marriott, Kenai/Denali Room)

Agenda sent directly to Work Group members & communities & will be made available to observers at the meeting