

**Immediate Action Workgroup**  
Executive Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change  
ADEC – Lab - 5252 Hinkle Road  
Anchorage, Alaska  
January 27, 2009  
10:00 – 4:30 pm

**Call – in 1-800-315-6338 – code 4294 #**

**10:00 Open/Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review**

- Discussion – Alaska Forum on the Environment – Coordinating IAWG Presentations
- ADOT – Coastal Erosion Efforts and Techniques
- Flowchart Exercise
- Finalizing IAWG 2009 Report
- O&M Policy Recommendations
- IAWG Presentation at Sub-Cabinet
- Improvements to IAWG meetings/process

**10:15 am      Coordinating IAWG Presentations at AFE**

**10:30 am      ADOT – Coastal Erosion Efforts and Techniques**

- Ryan Anderson and Mike Coffey, ADOT

**11:15 am      Public Comment**

**11:30 am      FLOWCHART EXERCISE: Draw/Design IAWG Strategic Process**

**Note – this will be done off- line at Anchorage meeting site**

**2:15 pm      RECONVENE CONFERENCE CALL**

- Review/Describe Outcome of Flowchart Exercise and Discussion

**3:00 pm      Finalizing IAWG 2009 Report**

- Review Bullet Outline
- Identify Timeline and Review Process to Conclude

**3:20 pm      IAWG Recommendation to Advance O&M Policy**

**3:40 pm      IAWG Sub Cabinet Presentation**

- Identify items to present

**4:00 pm      Improving IAWG process: What worked; what needs to be changed**

**4:20 pm      Public Comments**

**4:30 pm      Close**

## For 10:15 am Agenda Item Discussion

Dear Everyone,

In light of a couple of recent speaker changes, I am resending to make sure you all have the most current line-up. We are adding Stanley Tom from Newtok and George Cannelos, Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission. Mike Coffey has had an unavoidable conflict arise and is looking for a replacement. Once we have that finalized, you can expect one more email from me. In the meantime, PLEASE get your contact info, bios and ALL relevant RSVPs in at your very earliest convenience.

Thank you, Jackie \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** Poston, Jacqueline (DEC sponsored)

**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 9:00 PM

**To:** Black, Michael L (CED); 'Opheen, Patricia S POA'; Madden, John W (MVA); 'Mike Coffey'; 'Steve Ivanoff'; 'Jack Hebert'; Magee, Gregory L (DEC); 'Paula Cullenberg'; Cox, Sally A (CED); 'Jamilia George'; 'Jeffery D Malcolm'

**Cc:** "'Barb Sheinberg (E-mail)"; Webb, Carla J (DEC); Heumann, Katharine (DEC); [amy.holman@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.holman@noaa.gov); 'Margaret King'

**Subject:** FW: AFE 2009 - Coastal Communities Climate Change Session [INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS & MODERATORS] Please print & read carefully

Dear All,

Thank you all for graciously agreeing to speak on a panel in the Climate Change Track for the Alaska Forum on the Environment (Feb. 2-6, 2009). This is shaping up to be a very exciting week.

The opening panel will lay the foundation for all of the sessions in our track throughout the week. In it, we will have a few speakers including Commissioner Hartig who will talk about the State's actions, including the stakeholder process. Each subsequent session is designed to include brief overviews of the State of Alaska's Climate Change stakeholder process from the perspective of each of the Technical Work Groups along with speakers who have expertise on related topics.

By way of this email, I am putting all of the session's speakers and moderators in touch with each other and am providing a number of details for your review. Moderators and speakers, please coordinate the content and timing of your presentations with each other. **This session, in particular, will require that we are all extremely sensitive to time limitations. We will have ample time to provide a "take away message" plus 6 slides or less, but not sufficient time to get into any topic in great detail. If logistics allow, we will have all speakers seated at the front and each be given be asked to address the specific topic according to the agenda below. If there are other topics you feel are important, please send them to me and we'll think about how to fit them in. Ideally, we'd like to leave as much time for discussion afterwards as possible. I'll attend the Jan 27<sup>th</sup> IAWG meeting to discuss this, as requested.**

There are 3 key items to note for which a reply is requested: one for bios, one for the Feb. 5th Research Coordination Workshop, and another for the Feb. 5th NOAA dinner & workshop. All details are below.

## **YOUR SESSION:**

**Tuesday, February 3rd**

**Session 6: (2:00 – 4:45pm) Climate Change in Alaska: Building Resiliency into our Future (Coastal Communities Adapting to Change) ~ Double Session ~**

***Moderators: Jackie Poston, AK Department of Environmental Conservation, and Steve Ivanoff, Kawerak***

**Immediate Action Work Group: Protection and/or Relocation –Newtok and Other Lessons Learned - Mike Black, AK Dept of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (DCCED)**

### **What's been done and is underway:**

**Emergency Response Planning & Training - John Madden, AK Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security & Emergency Response (DMVA)**

**Shoreline Protection Projects - Patricia Opheen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Mike Coffey, AK Dept of Transportation & Public Facilities**

**US Navy IRT & other potential partnerships - Mike Black, DCCED**

### **Where do we go from here:**

**Alaska Climate Change Technical Work Group Overview and Recommendations - John Madden, DMVA**

**New Information (CoE Baseline Erosion Study, GAO Report) - Patricia Opheen, Corps of Engineers, and Jeff Malcolm, GAO**

**Buildings for the Future - Jack Hebert, Cold Climate Housing Research Center**

**Water & Sewer for the Future - Greg Magee, AK Dept of Environmental Conservation**

### **Community Perspectives – What's at stake? Working together w/multiple entities & other communities:**

**Unalakleet - Steve Ivanoff, Kawerak**

**Newtok – Stanley Tom, Newtok Traditional Council**

### **Sampling of Available Resources:**

**Community Grant Programs - Sally Cox, DCCED**

**Community Sea Grant Program - Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant**

**Other rural infrastructure needs and support Denali Commission – George Canelos, Denali Commission**

*This extended panel session and discussion will serve as a focal point for discussion centered around key issues facing communities threatened by flooding and erosion. Climate Change is only a part of the picture; rising energy costs and sustainability are also key factors, all of which must be taken into consideration when looking ahead and building*

*resiliency into a healthy future. Presenters will also discuss some grant opportunities designed to help communities adapt to changes in a sustainable manner.*

**By COB Friday, January 16, 2009:**

**(1) Review attached agenda:**

Please read over the attached draft agenda for the Climate Change Track and notify me if any modifications are necessary.

**(2) Contact Information and Bio's - Short:**

Please send your contact info (mailing address, email, and phone) electronic Bios (**SHORT**) for introductory purposes only; limit this to 5 sentences.

Contact info & Bio's should be sent to: [carla.webb@alaska.gov](mailto:carla.webb@alaska.gov) Also, please copy your moderator!

**(3) TWG (Technical Work Group) Representatives:**

If you have agreed to represent your TWG, please coordinate directly with your TWG & Facilitator (copied on this email) to make sure your presentation includes (1) a short overview of your TWG's scope, (2) the general make-up of your TWG, (3) the priority options. You should have no more than one slide for each option and just a couple for the introductory. We will also be preparing one-pagers with all of this information. Please work with me to make sure the layout for all of these is consistent later this week.

**(4) Conference Registration:**

Attendance at the Forum and Roundtable is free on the day you speak or moderate; additional days can be charged or you may pay a weekly rate which allows you to come and go to any sessions throughout the week. The conference promises to host quite a variety of keynote speakers and other environmental tracks that may be of interest to you. If you plan to attend on other days, please complete the online registration at <http://akforum.com/>

**(5) Invitations to 2 Climate Change Workshops:**

**a. Research Coordination Workshop (8am – 4:45pm, Th, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>) – Do you: CONDUCT or SUPPORT Climate Change related research? Do you have input or recommendations regarding such?** If so, please join other researchers and agencies to network, exchange information, create & strengthen partnerships, & provide important input to the State of Alaska. Bob Corell will be kicking off the day which will culminate in an afternoon work session to help the State of Alaska identify research needs. A separate agenda is being developed and will be distributed shortly. For now.... if you intend to participate in the roundtable in which everyone will be given an opportunity to say a few words about their projects/programs, please **RSVP** to KATHARINE HEUMANN at: [katharine.heumann@alaska.gov](mailto:katharine.heumann@alaska.gov) **Provide her w/your name, contact info, affiliation, and title of your project or program by FRIDAY, JAN. 16th.**

Since time is limited, all participants will be asked to provide **copies of a one page summary** with contact information of their projects or programs. Please bring 100 copies with you and send an electronic copy to [katharine.heumann@alaska.gov](mailto:katharine.heumann@alaska.gov) before Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**b. NOAA Stakeholder Forum: Setting the Course for the Next 25 Years (6 – 9pm, Th, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>)** Join NOAA for an opportunity to provide input to the new Administration on the future of oceanic, atmospheric, and climate change programs. We encourage all MAG, AAG, and TWG members to attend this event and provide perspectives on needs in Alaska and the Arctic.

Please RSVP to AMY HOLMAN at: [amy.holman@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.holman@noaa.gov) SPACE IS LIMITED... SIGN UP NOW IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

**By COB Friday, January 23, 2009:**

**(6) Powerpoint Presentations:**

**Powerpoints.** Please bring a copy of your ppt on a flash drive and send me a copy by Jan. 26th. We would like to be able to post presentations online and need to know whether that is acceptable to you.

**TIME.** Time is very constrained so do your best to limit the number of slides to no more than 20. **Each speaker will have about 13 minutes so please adjust accordingly if necessary.**

**PLEASE BEGIN YOUR PRESENTATION WITH CONCLUDING REMARKS. Since we have a limited/finite amount of time allotted to each speaker, I would like to have you begin your presentation with "conclusions" and then continue with background and supporting information. We've found that to be helpful in avoiding the rush to finish when a 3 - 5 minute warning goes up.**

Any other A/V needs, besides a microphone, projector and computer must be specified.

**Content of your presentation. Please be cognizant of the fact that you will be speaking to an extremely diverse audience which may be comprised of community representatives, tribal leaders and elders, academia and research scientists, agency representatives, elected and appointed officials, industry, non-profit organizations, etc. They will be very interested in what you have to say. Please limit the number and complexity of graphs and other such information in your presentations. There are plenty of opportunities to network with each other if anyone has the desire to go into further detail.**

**(7) Location:**

Please read all agendas that I send and that you receive at registration onsite carefully and note that this year there will be events taking place at the new Dena'ina Convention Center and the Egan Convention Center. On Thursday & Friday, the Climate Change Advisory Groups will be meeting at the Atwood Bldg. Agendas and additional information will be posted online at the [State of Alaska Climate Change Website](#)

**(8) Hotel arrangements:**

Out of town guests, if you haven't already done so, please secure a room soon to take advantage of the low conference rate at the Marriott. Although, the Marriott is conveniently located, you may elect to stay at another hotel if you so choose. For more info go to the website for a link to the hotel.  
<http://akforum.com/>

**(9) Handouts:**

If you have handouts, please prepare enough for 60 - 100 people and bring them with you. People appreciate handouts.

**(10) Media:**

Media representatives may be interested in interviewing you and will occasionally attend the conference

**QUESTION: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU PLAN TO RELEASE AT THE FORUM WHICH MAY BE MEDIA-WORTHY? This would be very helpful to include in the press release.**

If you have any questions, please ask.

Thank you for reading to the end and for your attention to all details!

<< File: AFE 2009 Agenda - Climate Change Track.doc >>

*Jackie Poston*

Project Coordinator,

Alaska Climate Change Strategy  
Phone: 907-317-4667 (Mobile)

Email: [jackie.poston@alaska.gov](mailto:jackie.poston@alaska.gov)  
[State of Alaska Climate Change Website](#)

Email sent to Community Representatives on Jan 19, 2009

Brice asked me to find out if there was any "homework" the communities should perhaps do if they are coming in for the Forum on the Environment, talking with the IAWG or have other community meetings such as with the Corps during that week.

Co-Chair Mike Black suggested that it would be good for communities to be able to identify/talk about:

What is the status of:

- Efforts locally to develop projects for protection or emergency planning,
- Involvement with any agencies or organizations in those efforts,
- Local or regional initiatives to deal with the impacts, and
- Pictures, dates or statistics would be of interest too.

## For 3:00 pm Agenda Item Discussion

**DRAFT**

### Bullets/Outline for IAWG 2009 REPORT

#### Followed by Notes from 1/6/09 Discussion on Report

- **Intro/Transmission Letter**
- **Revise Near-Term Focus to include changes to IAWG Mission**
- **Exec Summary –**
  - Revise discussion/text to include:
    - IAWG Successful – identifying integrated process to cost-effective implementation/construction, collaborative working relationship and action
      - Not addressing/deciding if should move or not. That is a much larger issue than what IAWG was authorized to address
      - Not defining what is climate change
      - Identified climate change phenomena from which impacts are most likely resulting from
    - Guiding Principles - Immediate actions should preserve the widest range of options. Immediate action: protect what we have and enhance when cost effective
    - Sunset IAWG, but create permanent working group/committee
      - Identify members (e.g. BIA, DNR, HUD?)
    - New communities identified – necessitating process
      - Other efforts to identify communities – BEA, GAO, DCCED, etc.
    - 4 major recommendations –
      - Formal, standing committee/workgroup to take on IAWG role
      - Strategic process
      - Revised/detailed 2008 Policies 1 & 2 (now become policies 2 & 3)
        - Additions to detail Policies 1&2, O&M and RAPIDS Database as the info source for capital projects/investments, MOU with D Cmsn/Mitigation Fund/Programmatic EIS/Accelerated Land Exchanges/Need to identify other policy and program hurdles –e.g. can't have 2 sites and options to address/DNR permitting issue for projects – esp for DOT projects
  - Add info (maybe table) to identify accomplishments made with 2008/09 Funds
  - Revise Matrices (Simplify – How?)
    - Update 6 communities – Accomplishments and requests for FY 10
- **Community profiles – add \$ Investment in Infrastructure**
  - What about the communities IAWG has heard from: Deering, Pt Hope, Golovin, Teller – add any profiles?
- **Immediate Actions 6 Communities**
  - Update Matrices and simplify to ensure readability
- **Additional/newly identified Communities**
- **Policies**
  - Renumber and add new #1 Sunset IAWG, replace with permanent workgroup, and #2 Strategy recommendation
  - 2008 Policies 1&2 – renumber to 3 & 4 detailed with more information about How to accomplish, identify steps
    - O&M policy
    - Database Policy – RAPIDS – and keep information current
    - MOU - D Cmsn Role – etc.
    - See Exec Summary section above for full list

▪ **Appendices**

- *Should any 2008 appendices be kept; Create separate section for them?*
- For 2009 Report, *which documents should be included in Append?*
  - Definitions
  - Data Collection Policy Coordination with NOAA
    - Tide gauge priorities
    - Support US Coast Guard recommendations (did IAWG provide?)
  - Identify Infrastructure Investment
    - DCCED RAPIDS Database ppt/and handouts
    - \$ Infrastructure Investment in Communities (Bob P. did homework/has spreadsheets)
  - Efforts to identify communities needing immediate action
    - Compiled list of communities from various agencies and criteria descriptions
    - Summary of AK Flood Disasters
    - USACE BEA Exec Summary
      - Erosion community criteria - USACE
    - DCCED (email and response)
      - DCCED Mini Grant criteria
    - GAO 1- Page Summary Report
  - Leveraging Other State Funds
    - Recommendations to Denali Commission's Workplan
    - CIAP presentation
    - Rasmuson
    - Recommended State Mitigation Fund –
      - Projects they've been used for
      - Projects identified in 6 communities
  - IAWG August 2008 – January 2009
    - Meeting Schedule/Agendas
    - Participants
  - Other Agency/Gov't Efforts Identified
    - Presentation from Canadian official at 10/28 in conjunction with Env Mgt Conf?
    - Denali Commission Policy
    - ANTHC Community Planning/Pilot Effort
  - Nuggets/Summary of Public Comments

**Notes:**

"relocation" be careful using – if use

Terms "planning" and "process" are likely viewed as soft and not results/output-oriented

## Notes from Jan 6, 2009 Meeting: IAWG 2009 Report

### Messages/Considerations:

- IAWG continues to exist, provide information to Sub-Cab for short-term actions 12-18 months, recognizing fit into long term strategies. Revise that we will continue to exist since there haven't been any other groups or entity that can take over what we are currently doing.
- Need to identify IAWG is a sunset group and as such make recommendations and handoff to others.
- DCRA database information – usefulness, integration and need to improve/upgrade information. Change and communities, depth, planning process, agree what group has talked about. Research needs, AAG and MAG groups should be covering some of the things we do.
- How do the communities IAWG is working with continue to get attention?
  - Either Sub-Cab or one of the other groups such as the PI or AAG
  - Prevent from becoming an IA community: [The OM policy](#), [Adaptation Advisory Group](#), [PI](#)
  - Need to develop/adopt [criteria](#) trying to prevent IA communities. (recommendation?)
  - Need to [continue projects identified](#) by IAWG
    - This has to continue if we are to consider this is a longer term solution – as other communities will likely also be involved.
    - IAWG has shown the way for those at risk.
    - For those communities not in immediate risk, have created a roadmap for others to follow. E.g. Sub-cabinet—can follow; administration's responsibility.
- Need to identify the [planning process](#):
  - [Assessment \(EM Process\)](#) [Coordinating Current Efforts](#)
  - [Leveraging Funding](#) [Coordinate Planning, \\$'s, and Action](#)
  - [Planning process mini-grant, longer term grants, etc.](#) This should be the process so communities can go to the Sub-Cabinet and state their needs
- Guidelines (recipe): Identify tools (e.g. first report) and models, e.g. Newtok – leveraging, contingent on others: Get enough information to then ask for funding, leveraging funds
- [Part of the success is the collaborative team](#) (state, local and federal) when we leave who will continue this collaborative work? Should IAWG go out of business or have something like this to continue in some form
  - How to put this into action? Recommendations—are just that. How can these be put into action and follow-through? Based on 2008 experience—what will the Sub-Cab do with the recommendations?
  - Need something in writing from Gov and Leg that we need to have something like this group to continue. If we don't get it into a recommendation and action the communities will feel left out again
  - Small mission, agree to walk through Fed level, State level—without this it's just more rhetoric
  - IAWG should develop a blueprint on how to do business in relation to communities. Think back we had very little idea what others were doing. Now we have a collaborative team, working through and with the issues.
  - JOINT PROBLEM—needs coordination. By-in from everyone and a lead/leadership.
  - **Need a tool like a MOU/MOA as an action plan. Has to be a standing working group that meets regularly.**
  - Need to hand over in a complete form. Pressing issues will keep Legislature or Sub-Cabinet members from looking at these problems holistically. It's complex - so easy to ignore. We would fall back to past ways. Need to continue doing something like this.
  - An integrated planning process that really focuses on the budget cycles on a permanent basis: Legislative (State and Congressional) and Budget cycles.
  - Need to address authority issues such as land transfers and EIS process
  - Tool DCRA is the database line and recognized the tools and DCRA has one of the best
  - How we link into private funds; DCRA only has public, private may have something similar
    - Very essential question

**ASSIGNMENT: Each agency needs to write its own update – accomplishments with the funding from FY09. For the report.**

- Tools:
  - Mapping process that Denali Commission has been looking at—could provide information. Provided the maps do exist - another tool.
  - The process of investment and planning, identify success stories.
- Goal of the report should be IAWG has been successful
  - If recommendation is for a successor—then the accomplishments—Committee done good, need Clearing house tool: successor needs to have these characteristics, filled gap by, sell to PI TWG, trying to make a policy decision
- **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Show what IAWG has done, accomplished with funds. AND indicate what has or will be accomplished. Tools needed.
  - Show success and set groundwork – Role of committee has been successful –clearinghouse, coordination, finding additional resources, leveraging funding; Done good – need successor organization – not an interim. Sunset IAWG – new paradigm for protecting and maintaining public infrastructure and reducing risk to life and health. Has led to additional successes with Newtok and Unalakleet....
  - Need summaries/accomplishments from all the agencies, then can address if need matrices
  - **Guiding Principle:** Immediate actions should preserve the widest range of options, protect what we have and enhance (when cost effective).
  - Not addressing/deciding if should move or not. That is a much larger issue than what this group was authorized to address
  - Identified and allowed information/roadmap to get to the next step – served as facilitator
    - IAWG has been able to provide (jointly working with communities and agencies have provided
    - Cindy P— Without this group Koyukuk wouldn't have come as far along as we are. Still trying to identify options and make decisions. Without this group we wouldn't be discussing and moving along on the discussions.
  - Policy Recommendations – Need permanent/long term IAWG - like committee (O&M etc)
  - What has been accomplished with FY09 funds
  - Tools needed (**Recipe**)– e.g. process, maps (D Commission), DCRA Dbase, Gap analysis, handoff actions/recommendations to others
  - Approach to assess and take actions - What is needed, how it's done (**Blueprint/roadmap**)
    - Examples—Bringing IRT into the solution; Strength in numbers (e.g. fed and state agencies communities and others - ANTHC)—focus on.
    - Think about the message—if collaborate and understand and result in more effective and timely response. No one agency—before us could do this. Power, appropriations or solutions without hearing what the others have to say.
    - Things in Newtok probably wouldn't have happened without this group. These meetings have helped facilitate and move the funding/tools/solutions.
- (Recipe) Need to identify who needs to be included in permanent group. DNR needs to be here. Environmental permitting and mapping; BIA; School Districts; Need to list the player/members and characteristics that the successors in a permanent group needs to have
- **Need to identify and clarify strategic options –stay, migrate, relocate – for each a range of options**
- (Facilitator's comments on discussion below: Could be a table: Column 1- Phenomena; Column 2 - Related/Potential Impacts; Column 3- Community examples – probably need to use initial 6 only for this.)
  - Need to list impacts of climate change (different than phenomena). Comments were made about the need to define what is Climate Change: Needs to be some parameters that define climate change, but others indicated not necessary to define, but may be useful to describe impacts

- Forest fires—changes in vegetation—or dead vegetation from new disease—conditions seen as other than natural impacts
- Whether climate change or not these things will happen. As far as immediate action—they still we need. Diff pots of money but state will still need to act
- Build on perma-frost—temp reg.---long term weather—more records, details, data collection can then look at whether climate change or natural
- We don't have the science to determine Climate Change or not – but what we have is the knowledge if there's an imminent or immediate threat. Is it reasonably related to Climate Change? Open water, increasing seas—easy correlation.
- Loss of Perma-frost degradation and sea ice are easy.
- It is the other areas of direness that I am talking about. Another entity needs to define
  - How much is occurring? Impacts from?
  - What about disease - Due to change in environment
  - Do see in some of the communities—i.e. water sitting around, pathogens,
  - Can track the migration north such as ticks, birds, vegetation not seen before
  - Public waste, oil, have immediate, imminent danger
  - Kivalina has mentioned—honey bucket zone is now flooding 2x years now.
  - Wildfires—fires come through—immediate threat—keep list small
  - Thinning forests

Likely too much for report - don't want to have us get any less effective. We should talk about to successor—what agencies are doing things now—mechanism in place and happening, responding to

### **Community Matrices**

- Use last year's info—but different structure and add new information
- Need to capture: what recommended, what resulted, what needs to continue
- Snap shot recipe to address these communities; Reword what we have said
- Instead of new column have a heading and narrative and then have matrices underneath—pull out what accomplished.
- Sell the message—need, done, next step; Show what did, looking at now see.
- Agencies successes/use of FY09 funds - response-write up what has been accomplished 3-5 paragraphs—efforts agency took, leveraged against/with, collaboration, etc IRT folks
- Projects identified by EM's suite of plans

### **Community Profiles**

Review/be sure want to use the term “relocation” probably in other report sections too. (reframe – strategic options to address and mitigate climate change impacts)  
 Developed into discussion about “relocation” and how a planning process could/should work but why it doesn't.