

Research Needs Work Group Meeting Summary: Meeting #1

Monday, January 5, 2009 10:00 AM – 2:00 Atwood Building, 550 W 7th, Suite 240, Anchorage

Welcome, Approval of Agenda & Self-Introductions of Members. Co-Chair Doug Vincent-Lang, Co-Chair Clint Adler, facilitators Indra Arriaga and Brenda Holden, Bob Pawlowski, Bob Winfree, Joe Zufelt, Jackie Holzman, Craig Fleener, Bob Swenson, Dan White, Buck Sharpton, Peter Crimp, Katharine Heumann, Amy Holman

Introduction of the mandate, goals, timeline and definition of 'research' Co-chairs reviewed the memorandum from Commissioner Hartig that outlines the background and scope of work for this work group.

Discussion: This work group will take cues from other work groups, and makes recommendations to the subcabinet regarding research and monitoring needs necessary to assess and implement policy recommendations. The Subcabinet is ultimately responsible to finalize the plan and priorities. The Research Needs Work Group should be expanded to be comprehensive, including incorporating Native knowledge. Current membership recognizes they may have limited knowledge, resulting in some grey areas as we recommend priorities to the Sub-Cabinet.

Consensus was reached that this group will look at a higher level of needs and gaps and shaping the questions and needs. Vision should drive research planning. We can be bold in our recommendations. Consideration of funding sources is outside of our scope; however, we can be attentive to collaborative opportunities that present themselves. Some of the existing research shows climate change but doesn't help people learn to adapt to change. Identifying the problem can keep the group focused.

The matrix used to request information assists in gathering information. More discussion is needed on how best to use or share the information, including whether a database would be useful.

A decision-making matrix may help as we balance the change/needs/risks (risk tolerance). Key variables include: applicability, availability, feasibility, practical, useable, the order that things need to be done, the time scale (long term vs. short term, what is priority), and whether information is needed to make a decision or sequence. New opportunities may revise priorities.

There are several ways to approach the information. We may eventually want to organize around biological, social, physical, cultural, geophysical and economic. Consideration of cross over or the benefits of merging lists can be given later in the process.

Workplan and timeline for Research Needs Work Group (RNWG) After consideration of whether to divide the RNWG into subgroups of adaptation and mitigation, or smaller groups around the same themes as Technical Work Groups, the decision was made to have RNWG research information coordinators gather and summarize information to present to the RNWG as a whole.

By January 28th Research information coordinators gather a list of one-sentence recommendations (the problem/gap/information inadequacy) from the appropriate TWG, the Executive Committee Round Table, legislative information and other source of knowledge of potential research needs. The Co-Chairs and facilitators will look at the lists to identify duplication or similar recommendations and inform the research information coordinators to avoid duplication of effort. The lists should be sent to indra@iialaska.com and are understood to be brainstormed lists that are not prioritized or vetted.

February 5th Research Coordination Workshop attached to the Forum for the Environment offers an opportunity to get public input on additional information or needs to be considered. After a morning of presentations coordinated by Jackie Poston, the afternoon will focus on gathering public input on additional information or needs to be considered. The co-chairs will kick off the afternoon with an overview, followed by round table discussions around the nine topics. Attendees will be encouraged to offer their suggestions to the appropriate round table topic.

By February 26 & 27th The RNWG research information coordinators will work with the information received and identified and prepare a draft summary to distribute to the RNWG in preparation for the two day meeting. Mitigation topics will be discussed on February 26, adaptation topics will be discussed on February 27th. The agenda for each day will include time allotments per topic presentation and discussion.

By March 19 Research Information Coordinators should send a summary of the recommendations, process, players to indra@iialaska.com who will compile and distribute back to RNWG in prep for the March 26, 27 meetings. Indra will incorporate comments and prepare draft report for RNWG review, which will be done in April.

March 30th The RNWG will meet to review and discuss draft reports. Summaries of prioritized research needs will follow a one-page template format that includes:

- 1) Statement of problem or research question (link to policy)
- 2) Why is information needed
- 3) Describe the scope/narrative (following the matrix)
- 4) What research is being done
- 5) Gaps in current knowledge
- 6) Urgency/sequence (is other info needed first)
- 7) Research products
- 8) Who would implement (recommend the leader)

April Editing and document review will be done electronically. A face-to-face meeting may be necessary, but is not scheduled at this time.

May Recommendations will be made to the subcabinet.

RNWG research information coordinators and those offering to help:

Mitigation Topics

- Forestry, Agriculture & Waste: Bob Swenson will ask Chris Maisch
- Cross-cutting issues: Buck Sharpton
- Energy Supply & Demand: Dan White, according to Buck Sharpton. (Bob Swenson, Peter Crimp and Jon Zufelt will help)
- Oil & Gas: Bob Swenson (Doug Vincent-Lang will help)
- Transportation & Land Use: Jackie Holzman (Bob Swenson will help)

Adaptation Topics

- Public Infrastructure: Clint Adler (Jackie Holzman and Jon Zufelt will help)
- Health and Culture: Bob Pawlowski (Craig Fleener will help)
- Natural Systems: Bob Winfree (Amy Holman, Molly McCammon, Craig Fleener will help)
- Economic: Doug Vincent-Lang (Bob Pawlowski and Jackie Holzman will help)

Next Steps

Doug Vincent-Lang will update Commissioner Hartig and ask for support in having all TWGs appoint a research liaison as soon as possible.

Information Insights will submit a meeting summary report, invite RNWG members not at the meeting to the research information coordinators with their tasks, share contact information on TWG research liaisons with RNWG research information coordinators and plan logistics for upcoming meetings.

Information Insights will coordinate the February 5 details including finalizing the agenda with the co-chairs, and plan meeting room logistics, supplies and documentation.

Buck Sharpton will talk to Dan White about serving as the research information coordinator for Energy Supply and Demand.

All RNWG members able to attend the February 5th Research Coordination Workshop are invited and encouraged to do so. However attendance is not required. The Forum on the Environment will have an entire track on climate change, which may be of use to RNWG members.