

Scope of Duties for Research Needs Work Group

From October 15, 2007 letter chartering the Work group:

“The Workgroup is being tasked with identifying additional areas of research or analysis that might be useful to state policy makers in addressing climate change issues”

“The Workgroup is not expected to perform or oversee any research itself. Rather, it will be making recommendations to the Sub-cabinet on how existing knowledge might be used, what areas of additional research should be pursued, and what measures the state should take to address its research needs”

“Any recommendations the Workgroup has on relative priority of those needs, funding sources and opportunities to leverage the resources of other government and private entities would also be helpful.”

“Recommendations on what agencies or organizations might be able to perform or fund the needed research would be helpful to the Sub-Cabinet.”

“We envision the Workgroup looking at what new research and analysis (including advancements in modeling) might provide the best forecast of the magnitude and timing of climate change in various regions of Alaska. Changes in temperature, precipitation, and storm strength are the primary physical forces affecting erosion, flooding, wildfires and permafrost thawing.”

“The workgroup may wish to expand its membership with concurrence of the Sub-cabinet”

Additional thoughts since October:

The Research Needs Workgroup will also serve as a scientific knowledge resource for the Adaptation and Mitigation Advisory Groups.

The Adaptation and Mitigation Advisory forums are expected to bring pivotal questions to the Research Needs Workgroup in order to obtain a finite review of the existing science as could be attained through a literature review and analysis.

If appropriate, the Research Needs Workgroup may choose to investigate the scope of work necessary including timing and funding for new research that would address any pivotal questions raised by an Advisory group.