

Denali Commission Planning Work Group

Next meeting: 4/24/08

Draft - Notes for the meeting held 3/27/08

Tara Jollie, Division of Community & Regional Affairs – State Co-Chair (presiding)
Berney Richert, Economic Development Administration – Federal Co- Chair

In attendance: Tara Jollie, Ruth St. Amour – Division of Community & Regional Affairs;
Berney Richert, Shirley Kelly – U.S. Economic Development Administration; Mike Black –
Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development; Bob Swenson – Department
of Natural Resources; Clarke Hemphill – Corps of Engineers; George Canelos, Sharon Lind,
Jamilia George – Denali Commission; Janet Hall – RurAL CAP/Denali Commission; Steven
Haagenson, Chris Mello – Alaska Energy Authority; Rhonda McBride – Governor Palin’s
Office; Roy Agloingta – Municipality of Anchorage

Via teleconference: Joy Shockley – Interior Regional Housing Authority; Peter McKay –
Division of Community & Regional Affairs; Dorothy Shockley – Senator Kookesh’s Office

What’s New at Denali Commission – George Canelos, Denali Commission

- U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez recently visited Alaska. George Canelos had the opportunity to illustrate the links from infrastructure projects for improved quality of life, to the opportunity for jobs at Red Dog mine, to the contribution to the U.S. economy of the export of zinc from the mine.
- A new Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted. A meeting of state commissioners and the heads of federal agencies will be scheduled to obtain signatures. There’s a focus on comparing and coordinating capital projects.

State Initiatives on Energy and Natural Resource Development – Bob Swenson, Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

- DGGGS mapping focuses on the potential for fossil energy, solid minerals, potential for tsunami inundation, volcanoes being monitored, and known surface ruptures from earthquakes.
- Of the 40 million acres of State land with mineral potential, only 6.5 million acres has been mapped at 1” = 1 mile, and only 2.1 million of the 22 million acres of State land with energy potential has been mapped. The mapping and geologic assessment is a collaborative effort of more than ten agencies.
- Ongoing projects of DGGGS include MapTEACH: Field-Geoscience Outreach and Education in Rural Alaska and the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission.
- The Alaska Coastal Management Program promotes the policy, “Development in a natural hazard area may not be found consistent unless the applicant has taken appropriate measures in the siting, design, construction, and operation of the proposed activity to protect public safety, services, and the environment from potential damage caused by known natural hazards.”
- The state is undertaking an Energy Inventory to consolidate data on energy resources and make it available on the internet.

Governor's Rural Initiatives – Rhonda McBride, Office of the Governor

- The Alaska Press Club's 2008 conference will take place April 17-19 at the Anchorage Senior Center (see www.alaskapressclub.com) and will have a featured speaker on rural journalism.
- There's a need for improved cross-cultural communications in state and federal agencies, especially with respect to subsistence.

Immediate Action Workgroup – Mike Black, Dept. of Commerce

- The Immediate Action Workgroup's report is due to be released in early May, and will focus on state-federal coordination and on imminent-threat communities.
- The Governor's supplemental budget includes \$1.1 million for community planning with respect to impacts of climate change.
- Please see updates at www.climatechange.alaska.gov/iaw.htm

Alaska Energy Plan – Steve Haagenson, State Energy Coordinator

- The goal of the plan is to reduce the cost of energy.
- The plan's focus will be to rapidly identify and deploy solutions, to get people involved, and to identify solutions that are vertically integrated, economic, and long-term.
- The current estimate is that rural Alaska uses 35-53 million gallons of fuel per year.
- The complete analysis is expected by December 2008.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at 9 a.m., at the Denali Commission, and is to be chaired by Berney Richert.