

Denali Commission Planning Work Group

Next meeting: 8/19/09

Draft - Notes for the meeting held 5/20/09

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

In attendance: Berney Richert, Shirley Kelly, Donald Richardson – U.S. Economic Development Administration; Ruth St. Amour – Division of Community and Regional Affairs; Tessa Rinner, Bob Pawlowski – Denali Commission; Linda Ketchum, David Rodriguez – UA Center for Economic Development; Deborah Vo – Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association; Clarke Hemphill – Corps of Engineers; Deb Alston – HUD; Martha Barber – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Janet Hall – RurAL CAP/Denali Commission; Nils Andreassen – Institute of the North; Sue Cogswell – Prince William Sound Economic Development District; Dean Westlake – NANA Regional Corporation; Joe Austerman, Mike Hanzuk – Office of Economic Development; Michael Catsi, Andy Varner – Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference; Connie Irrigoo – Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Via teleconference: Ingrid Zaruba, Alyssa Shanks – Alaska Department of Labor; Jordan Marshall – Rasmuson Foundation; Coby Hanson – First Alaskans Institute; Barb Challoner – Copper Valley Development Association

Update on MOU Partners Workgroup – Tessa Rinner, Denali Commission

- Denali Commission's MOU Partners met earlier this week. State demographer Greg Williams presented an update on the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey, and the potential problems for small communities using census data to qualify for federal funding.
- The Workgroup will reconstitute the Sustainable Infrastructure Committee. Larry Hartig, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and Merlaine Kruse, Acting State Director of USDA Rural Development, will serve as co-chairs.
- The Workgroup is seeking opportunities to conduct regional forums in conjunction with existing regional conferences or meetings. Sharon Lind will be gathering information for a calendar of events.
- The next MOU Partners Workgroup meeting is scheduled for November 18-19, 2009.

Recent Activities in the ARDOR Program – Michael Catsi, Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

- The ARDOR (Alaska Regional Development Organization) Program is a strategic partnership of local organizations with the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and the U.S. Economic Development Administration. There are currently twelve ARDORs serving most regions of the state.

- The ARDORs recently formed a 501(c)(3) organization, to improve their ability to leverage the program, increase efficiencies, and foster collaboration.
- The ARDOR 501(c)(3) is involved in two projects: the Alaska SourceLink web portal for small business assistance, and a statewide economic development plan.
- AKSourceLink is expected to be launched by July 1, 2009. Alaska Village Initiatives and Bering Straits Development Council will provide staffing for a toll-free hotline.
- The statewide economic development plan and implementation strategy, funded by the Denali Commission with funding commitments from other entities, is expected to take eighteen months to complete. The first phase will include data collection and analysis, and the second phase will result in an implementation strategy. Development of the plan will be led by a committee that will include representation from the University of Alaska, Alaska Municipal League, Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Legislature, and other key participants.

News and Updates

- UA Center for Economic Development will be hosting two courses from the International Economic Development Council in fall 2009.
- The Alaska Department of Labor will be doing outreach on the upcoming 2010 Census.
- HUD has funding available for economic development projects. There is a need for technical assistance with funding applications, and ARDORs could assist tribes with accessing those funds.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, at 10 a.m., at the Denali Commission, and is to be chaired by Tara Jollie.