

**Alaska Mapping Executive Committee  
Strategy Meeting Minutes and Actions  
August 20, 2015, 9-1 AKDT  
USGS Glenn Olds Hall, Anchorage, AK**

**Meeting Introductory Presentations**

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Jennifer Gimbel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of Interior.

Committee co-chair Mr. Mike Aimone, Director, Business Enterprise Integration, Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense, Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, was unavailable for the meeting but sent his regards.

- Ms. Gimbel expressed her thanks to the group for their active participation, and stressed that Alaska mapping is a priority for the Administration.
- Dr. Suzette Kimball, USGS Acting Director, added that Alaska mapping is a priority for the U.S. Geological Survey, as mapping provides a foundation for significant opportunities in innovative earth science that are present in Alaska. Dr. Kimball also noted that Alaska is a key component of the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), and that partnerships are the key to completing mapping tasks in the State.
- Mr. Kevin Gallagher, USGS Associate Director of Core Science Systems, provided historical AMEC context regarding conception, charter, and membership. Mr. Gallagher also provided background on the data themes currently supported by AMEC including elevation, transportation and hydrography, GRAV-D and coastal shoreline mapping. He also mentioned the importance of completing base data layers in order to support US Topo map production at USGS.
- Dr. Michael Tischler, USGS National Geospatial Program Director, provided an update on the Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Map (Pan-Arctic DEM) project, which is a goal during the U.S. Arctic Council Chairmanship. USGS is working with multiple groups including the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure, the National Science Foundation, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, the Polar Geospatial Center, and the Arctic nations on the project. Upcoming meetings in Norway and Canada will help define requirements and deliverables.
- Dr. Mark Myers, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, expressed that baseline data are needed across all jurisdictions in Alaska. The wildfire situation in Alaska this summer showed the great need for improved data. Dr. Myers expressed that a great opportunity exists for moving Alaska mapping forward, as current Administration and State goals are in alignment. He noted the State's current difficult financial situation, and also noted that the Alaska Geospatial Council is structured to address Alaska mapping issues.
- Alaska State Geologist, Steve Masterman, presented slides showing the status and need for updated mapping across multiple data themes including elevation, shoreline change, geology, storm surge and tsunami vulnerability, avalanche and landslide vulnerability, and volcano and seismic risk.
- Tom Heinrichs and Kacy Krieger reported on imagery and hydrography mapping status.

**Roundtable and Brain Storming Sessions**

Agency representatives suggested many mapping requirements and areas where they are focusing their efforts. Some of the ideas include:

- AMEC should document a strategic transition paper to encourage continued Alaska mapping support across future Administration transitions.
- An urgent need exists to complete base layers, and a need to ensure delivery and access to the data in easily usable formats.
- AMEC should take advantage of the current emphasis on Arctic mapping during the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.
- Elevation data from the Pan-Arctic DEM effort in Alaska from the Polar Geospatial Center (with support from NGA) will support some elevation requirements in Alaska.
- A continued federal commitment to 3DEP will also support Alaska mapping.
- Aviators require precision elevation data to support aviation safety and navigational aids.
- An Alaska-based regional federal executive mapping committee was suggested as a way to continue coordination of strategic investments.
- Completion of the radar elevation (ifsar) layer is a critical component of the overall base mapping requirement, and completion of updated US Topo maps for Alaska is important to many agencies and the public.
- New technologies need to be evaluated to ensure we are innovative and using best options for data collection, especially for repeat coverage.

- GRAV-D is 50% complete for the State, with Juneau being surveyed soon. Improved elevation mapping is critical for flooding and inundation analysis.
- State and Federal Agencies need to communicate with the offices of the various U.S. Alaska Senators regarding mapping requirements and the progress being made.
- Alaska should consider improving distribution of ground control point information to support multiple mapping activities.
- Sustaining Alaska mapping efforts across State and Federal Administration changes should be a priority for the Committee.
- Continued State and Federal funding are keys to completing the base ifsar layer. End-of-Year funding has been helpful to the overall effort, as well as efforts by State and Federal agencies to seek direct appropriation for Alaska mapping.
- Quality geographic information for Alaska will support the upcoming 2020 Census Bureau survey. Improvements to boundary and transportation data will be critical to the Census survey.
- AMEC needs to ensure that the Alaska Mapping effort is institutionalized through tactical and strategic plans, an updated budget cross cut document, and formation of an Alaska Regional Federal Mapping Executive Committee to work with AMEC.
- AMEC leadership should consider attendance at upcoming meetings of various legislative teams in Alaska, as an opportunity to educate across multiple State and Federal committees.

### **Meeting Actions**

Several actions resulted from the meeting:

- US Geological Survey, National Geospatial Program, will develop a background paper describing the Alaska Mapping effort, the results, and the role of collaboration.
- USGS Regional Executive Nancy Lee will focus on development of a Regional Federal leadership team to support the AMEC.
- US Geological Survey, National Geospatial Program, will lead development of a strategic/transition plan for the next 18months
- Mark Myers will distribute a copy of the State's slide to the meeting attendees.
- Cathleen Williamson will investigate additional layers beyond elevation that NGA could potentially support.
- Committee leadership will consider a meeting in November (possibly by phone) to follow up on any issues being worked as a result of this meeting.