

**Alaska Mapping Executive Committee
Strategy Meeting Minutes and Actions
June 21, 2016, 9:00 am -1:00 pm AKDT
USGS Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, AK**

Welcome and Introductions - Tom Iseman, DOI

Mr. Tom Iseman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, DOI, opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking participants. Mr. Iseman specifically noted the great partnership between Federal agencies and the State of Alaska. He also recognized the tremendous leadership within the State from Mr. Ed Fogels, Ms. Anne Johnson, Mr. Marc Luekin and Mr. Nick Mastrodicasa.

Mr. Iseman highlighted the importance of the Alaska Mapping Initiative. He noted the relevance of the recently completed 18-month Tactical Plan as a means to help in planning for activities related to the transition to a new Administration, and the need for aggressive outreach and communication with those individuals who will support transition planning. He cited a number of important uses of the new mapping data and strongly recommended the creation of a catalog that describes who is using the data, how the data is being used, and the value thereof.

AMEC Objectives, 18-month Tactical plan review, Theme Status Report - Kevin Gallagher, USGS

Mr. Kevin Gallagher, Associate Director, Core Science Systems, USGS, gave a brief history of the AMEC, as well as an overview and status update on the 18-month Tactical Plan. The Alaska Mapping Roundtable discussion from June, 2012 led to the creation of AMEC. The 18-month Tactical Plan represents a strategy developed through collaborative efforts of AMEC members. Key components of the plan include:

- Accelerating IfSAR acquisition and base mapping.
- Hydro improvements and roads data updates.
- Evaluating Aleutian elevation options.
- Evaluating imagery options for the State, realizing the difficulties due to cloud cover.
- Establishing State lidar priority plan.
- Modernizing and maintaining CORS network.
- Creating products and opportunities to improve communications.

USGS Alaska Region Science Activities Involving Mapping – Chris Zimmerman, Paul Flint, Marti Miller, USGS

Marti Miller, Paul Flint and Chris Zimmerman from the USGS Alaska Regional Office presented information on science activities in the Alaska region which are dependent upon current and accurate geospatial data:

- Marti Miller: Minerals assessment - Alaska has world class deposits and Geologic Mapping is very important. Creating an estimate for rare earth elements and GIS is also used as a planning tool for land use decision making.
- Paul Flint: Changes in permafrost will impact environment - There are subsidence issues. New habitats are being created and coastal erosion is occurring. Change is happening inland & at the coasts.
- Chris Zimmerman: Lake studies are critical to understanding surface water connectivity and predicting how future hydro system changes will impact fish species. Redistribution of species is possible based on the water connectivity. NHD improvements needed.

Alaska Federal Executive Coordination Discussion - Aimee Devaris, USGS

Aimee Devaris, Alaska Regional Director, USGS, led a discussion on Federal coordination activities in the State of Alaska. There are many Alaska and Arctic related committees and councils, and there is a need to leverage these existing groups rather than standing up an independent committee. Several existing groups noted include:

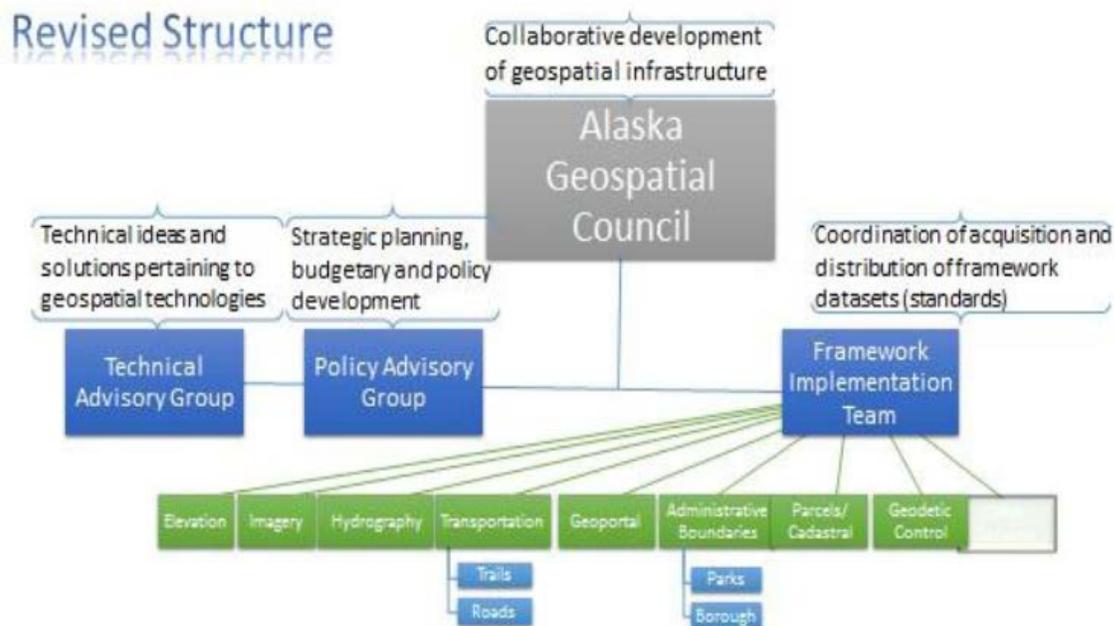
- The Alaska Cooperative Planning Group (ACGP): established in 1980, broadened in 1990. The ACGP is chaired by Michael Johnson, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska, Office of Alaska Affairs, DOI, who sits on the AMEC. The ACGP meets quarterly and can call special meetings, can invite other agencies as needed, and can interface with Arctic Groups.
- The Alaska Geospatial Council is chaired by the State of Alaska and includes three federal representatives.

Additional discussion focused on increasing agency representation in these groups and defining the interactions between the groups. The preferred approach is to leverage an existing coordination mechanism and to address regional AMEC activities as part of an existing structure. Ms. Devaris took the action to draft a charter for regional Alaska Federal coordination and to plan for a kick off meeting to discuss further.

State of Alaska - Alaska Geospatial Council Update - Anne Johnson, Ed Fogels, Alaska DNR

The State of Alaska and Alaska Geospatial Council (AGC) update was provided by Mr. Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Ms. Anne Johnson, Alaska Geospatial Information Officer. Mr. Fogels and Ms. Johnson highlighted the

new organizational structure of the AGC, which includes a Technical Advisory Group, a Policy Advisory Group and a Framework Implementation Team as described below:



Working Groups: develop strategic plans and implementation plans for data acquisition, maintenance and distribution, set data standards, and define data models. Additional working groups and subgroups can be deployed as needed.

The priority activities of the AGC are:

- Completion of IfSAR acquisition
- NHD, wetlands mapping and bathymetry
- A State-wide imagery refresh
- Geodetic control
- Arctic and coastal mapping

Mr. Fogels highlighted the budget challenges faced by the State of Alaska due to declining oil revenues, and that these challenges are expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

IfSAR Collection Status and Goals, IfSAR Image Explorer ESRI Prototype - Mike Tischler, USGS

Dr. Michael Tischler, Director, National Geospatial Program, USGS, provided an update on IfSAR acquisition status for the Alaska Mapping Initiative:

- Currently 69% of Alaska IfSAR is available or in work

- The 2016 goal is to complete remaining two columns of Northeast Alaska one-degree cells with end-of-year contributions; will bring total amount of coverage more than 70% (available and in-work)



Dr. Tischler also highlighted the updated Alaska IfSAR Budget Cross Cut, and reiterated the need for agencies to identify end-of-year funding. This effort has proven successful in past years as a means for acquiring IfSAR data which is ready for purchase from the contractors.

Dr. Tischler provided a demonstration of the prototype IfSAR Explorer developed by ESRI. This viewer allows users to access various IfSAR-derived products and view in an internet browser application. The IfSAR viewer can be accessed at:

- http://imageryworkflows.arcgis.com/Arctic_ifsar/

Aleutian Elevation Alternative, WorldDEM evaluation - Dewberry, Inc

Representatives from Dewberry Corporation provided a briefing on evaluation of the WorldDEM product, and its potential applicability in supporting elevation coverage over the Aleutian Islands. For most areas evaluated, WorldDEM compares relatively favorably with IfSAR-derived DEM's, particularly with respect to digital surface models (DSM). Questions remain as to the cost and license structure for the WorldDEM data, as well as the portion of the Aleutian Islands for which a DSM would provide sufficient coverage.

AK NHD Update and Planning - Kacy Krieger, University of Alaska-Anchorage

Mr. Kacy Krieger, University of Alaska, Anchorage, provided a status on hydrography updates in Alaska. Current efforts focus on importing shoreline data into the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) from NOAA's Continuously Updated Shoreline Product (CUSP), as well as wetlands area updates. 15% of the State is completely updated, with another 30% partially updated. Costs for completing NHD updates statewide are approximately \$30m if funded through a contract acquisition mechanism, and approximately \$10M if funded through joint partnership activities. Beginning in March, 2017, additional funding is required to support the overall program management and infrastructure.

NOAA Update: Geospatial Framework, Shoreline Mapping, GRAV-D - Juliana Blackwell, NOAA

Ms. Juliana Blackwell, Director, National Geodetic Survey, NOAA, provided an update on the following NOAA activities in Alaska:

- Geodetic Control, to include upcoming changes and an overview of existing active control
 - Moving from a system of passive control points based on physical benchmarks to active control using satellite GPS, receivers and transmitters based on the Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) network.
- GRAV-D
 - Redefining the vertical datum through the use of gravimetric measurements
 - 55% complete
- Shoreline Mapping
 - Updated from imagery and other sources
 - 43% complete

Ms. Blackwell also reported to the group on the Alaska Coastal Mapping Summit, which was held on 14-June-2016. More than 75 attendees from over 50 stakeholder groups attended a 4-hour inaugural coordination meeting in Girdwood, Alaska.

Alaska Transportation Update - Brian Wright, USGS

Mr. Brian Wright, National Map Liaison for Alaska, National Geospatial Program, USGS, provided a status update on Alaska transportation data. The primary network of state roads is in good shape, and relatively complete. Local road additions are currently in work. All data will be placed in the public domain once complete. Coordination is on-going between federal and state agencies to provide and or update various data sources which can contribute to an enhanced statewide transportation layer.

Communication Planning - Kevin Gallagher, USGS

Mr. Kevin Gallagher highlighted some of the communication activities that have been completed by the AMEC:

- The AMEC information paper was submitted to Senator Murkowski in the fall of 2015.
- There is a 40 page USGS circular in work.

A number of future communication strategies were discussed including video, use case brochures, stories, and story maps. Mr. Gallagher suggested that making the tactical plan publication ready is also an option.

Open Dialog Strategy Session - Tom Iseman, DOI

Mr. Tom Iseman led an open discussion on the strategies to be employed in addressing issues related to the transition to a new Presidential Administration. AMEC must continue to demonstrate the efforts of the committee by informing/educating decision makers, governmental entities, the public and others about the AMEC purpose, and the role it plays to help ensure foundational data is current, accurate and available. It must highlight the ways in which the datasets contribute to improving people's lives in ways they don't realize, and should create strategies to keep the momentum going through upcoming transitions and beyond.

The State of Alaska can play a key role in helping to inform decision makers of the importance of Alaska Mapping and the activities of the AMEC, particularly during a transition period. The State would like, as practicable, State and local Alaskan agencies to be involved in these communications as they are able to describe the value of the partnership from their own experiences. It was suggested that next summer's AMEC be held in Juneau, Alaska, to coincide with the State's legislative session.

Actions, Next Steps, Schedule Next Meeting - Tom Iseman, DOI

Wrap Up Items

Federal agency support to the State to help inform/educate Alaska legislators is important. State AMEC members will help guide/facilitate the Federal support.

Strong advocates for the AMEC are the State, non-Federal entities and the private sector.

The next AMEC meeting will be in front of the new administration in Washington, DC. The target date is March 15, 2017. Alaska partners and data users will be included in the meeting.

End of year funding is an important next step to get beyond the 70% IfSAR coverage for the State.

Meeting Actions

Action: All AMEC members will seek End Of Year funding to support current mapping efforts.

Action: Need to compile how much lidar and ifsar data is being downloaded, and how the data is being used. Need to capture Use Cases and applications (and value) of the data and map products.

Action: Aimee Devaris will draft a charter for the Alaska Federal Executive Coordination activity, and will establish a date for the first meeting.

Action: Federal members will coordinate with State partners like the Alaska Geospatial Council to help facilitate engagement with the State legislature.

Action: AMEC members should become familiar with the National Geospatial Program Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study, particularly for the Alaska input.

Action: A "Save the Date" will be sent out for the next AMEC meeting. The summer, 2017 AMEC meeting will coincide with the Alaska State Legislative calendar.