

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

Geological Mapping Advisory Board Minutes
February 2, 2011 Meeting

The Alaska Geological Mapping Advisory Board held its winter meeting on Wednesday, February 2nd, 2010 from 8:30 am until 4:15 pm. This teleconference was held in Fairbanks in the DGGs Conference Room, lower floor at 3354 College Road and at the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas offices in the Atwood Building in Anchorage.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Members:

Present were Board Chairman David Stanley, Curtis Freeman, Paul Layer and Peter Haeussler. Board member Tom Homza was absent.

DGGs Staff: Robert “Bob” Swenson, Rod Combellick, Melanie Werdon, De Anne Stevens, Ken Papp, Dave LePain, Paula Davis, Seth Snedigar, Janet Schaefer, Cheryl Cameron, Jim Clough, Ken Woods, Bob Gillis, Larry Freeman, Trystan Herriott, David Mauel, Gabriel Wolken, Marwan Wartes, David Szumigala, Trent Hubbard, Nicole Kinsman, Rich Koehler, Patricia Gallagher, Rebecca-Ellen Farrell, and April Woolery in Fairbanks and Jean Riordan and Kurt Johnson via teleconference from the Geologic Materials Center in Eagle River.

Guests: Paul Decker of the Alaska Division of Oil & Gas via teleconference.

Agenda: Approved as written.

Minutes (October 14, 2010 Meeting): Approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of FY-2011 StateMap Proposal and Program Funding – Bob Swenson: The USGS might not know until May 11, 2011 what the state of their funding is. DGGs will move ahead on our 2011 StateMap project, but will not be able to commit to funding until the USGS gets back to us. Meanwhile, the Association of American State Geologists will push two items to be funded by congress: the StateMap program and data preservation. These programs will return the most benefit, nationwide.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Membership Issues: Moved to Board Comments section, below.

DGGs Program Overview of non-StateMap Issues:

Introduction and DGGs Overview – Bob Swenson and Rod Combellick: DGGs Annual Report, field safety and training, resource development chain, GMC facility improvements sought, budget.

Minerals Section – Melanie Werdon: Minerals staff are working on AGGMI and StateMap projects. DGGs is hiring a long-term non-permanent Geologist I position to help with completion of mapping projects and alleviate the bottleneck created by lack of staff. Minerals Section geologist Dave Szumigala is responsible for doing the annual Alaska’s Mineral Industry Report. The Geologic Communications Section will work to complete MDIRA projects with funds from the USGS.

Airborne Geophysics – Laurel Burns: Overview of Moran, Ladue and Iditarod areas. Larry Freeman will cover the proposed Moran StateMap project in depth during the afternoon session.

Energy Section – Dave LePain: This section's three main programs are the Coleville Basin on the North Slope, the Cook Inlet area, and the Susitna Basin (new this year). The Energy Section's goal is to provide high-quality, publicly available geologic data to stimulate exploration.

Coal, CO₂ Sequestration and Geothermal Data – Jim Clough: Overview of the National Coal Resource Data System (NCRDS), the National Geothermal Data System (NGDS), and the Westcarb project, which seeks ways of sequestering CO₂.

Engineering Geology Section – De Anne Stevens: Overviews by Engineering Geology staff: Climate Change Hazards (Gabriel Wolken), Coastal Hazards (Nicole Kinsman), Gas Pipeline Corridor Studies (Trent Hubbard and Patricia Gallagher), Geologic Mapping (De Anne Stevens), and Neotectonics & Active Faulting (Rich Koehler and Rebecca-Ellen Farrell). Current goals are mapping and assessment, information management and dissemination, monitoring, and public awareness. Future goals include a climate change web portal and archive as well as tsunami inundation mapping for Alaskan coastal communities. Potential coastal hazards 2011 field sites are Shaktoolik and Unalakleet.

Alaska Volcano Observatory – Janet Schaefer: Overview of programs, funding and website.

Geologic Communications – Paula Davis: Current projects include a digital geologic database, web development, publications and outreach, the National Geological & Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP- a geologic data preservation program), building information technology infrastructure, the Alaska Mineral Industry Data Index (AKMIDI), and the Alaska Paleontological Database Migration (akgeology.info) which is 60% complete..

Geologic Materials Center – Ken Papp: Presentation showing the great need for a modern facility to safeguard and make accessible irreplaceable geologic data that is used to stimulate development of resources in Alaska.

LUNCH BREAK – Staff discussion/lunch brought in

Geologic Review of FY-10 StateMap Projects

Kivalina Project (Wolken/Kinsman): The StateMap deliverable is a surficial geology map. They will also look at bedrock geology, mapping of hazards, and the engineering properties of the surrounding area. The field crew collected baseline data, which had been scant or absent before. The resulting products will allow residents of Kivalina to make informed choices about whether to move, and possible relocation sites.

Tyonek-Capps Glacier Project (Gillis/Stevens): Because the weather did not cooperate during the field season, they used supplemental information including USGS low and high frequency filtered aeromagnetic data, well logs from the area, and petroleum unit boundaries in addition to the new surficial mapping by the field crew.

Geologic Overview of FY-11 StateMap Project

East Moran Project (Freeman): Different stakeholders include the state and federal governments and the Doyon Corporation. Known mineral occurrences in the area include gold and tin, among others. Engineering Geology staff will look for evidence of prior glaciation.

Review of Future StateMap Proposal Areas

Minerals Section (Werdon): Candidate areas include Moran part 2, Ladue, and Iditarod. Curt Freeman felt that the Ladue area showed great promise, both for its geology and for the fact that there is a gold rush occurring right across the international border in Canada.

Energy Section (LePain): The favored candidate area is Umiat-Gubik on the north slope of the Brooks Range foothills.

Engineering Geology Section (Stevens): Candidates include the northern foothills fold and thrust belt, the central railbelt from Cantwell to Willow, and the Susitna Hydroelectric Project.

Board Comments

Peter Haeussler said that both the Moran and Umiat-Gubik areas looked good. He was glad to see the cohesiveness of the DGGs staff. Curt Freeman commented that the information released by DGGs finds a worldwide audience. His reservation about the Ladue area was that it may be staked by just a few big companies, and that any work that DGGs does there might therefore only benefit those companies, not the general public. Paul Layer also favored the Umiat-Gubik and Moran areas. He was impressed with what the GMC has been able to accomplish.

General Comments:

Bob Swenson of DGGs would like collaboration between DGGs and DOT if there are suitable projects.

Board Membership Issues: There are currently three Board vacancies. The Board will strive for diversity of interest and location in searching for new members. Possible candidates were discussed. Bob Swenson will contact them and forward the names of interested candidates to Board Chair Dave Stanley.

Public Comments: None

Next Meeting Schedule: The next GMAB meeting will be in May, 2011.

Adjournment: David Stanley adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.