

Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

Geologic Mapping Advisory Board – Winter Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, from 10 am – 2 pm
3354 College Road, Fairbanks, AK – Basement Conference Room
3651 Penland Parkway, Anchorage, AK – GMC Large Conference Room
Microsoft Teams Meeting Option*

- Call to order, logistics, roll call.
 - 10:04 - congrats to Melanie Werdon on her new position as the Director of DGGGS and Alaska's State Geologist Chair; Matt Hanson - Present
 - James Jones – Present
 - Kyle Brennan – Present
 - Tom Homza – Present – Leaving at 11:30
 - Russ Kirkham – Present
 - Rob Retherford - Present
 - Paul McCarthy – Not Present
 - Mischa Ellanna – Present
 - Nic Kinsman – Present
- Review and approve agenda, approve minutes from last meeting (October 19, 2023)
 - 10:06 Melanie Werdon Spoke about Managing transitions, Federal Funding, Thank you for feed backs.
NCGMP Decreased 2.2M
Earth MRI Increased 256K
NGGDPP stayed at a base line 1.32M
Supplement disaster relief 40M
 - 10:12 Earth MRI – Funding the IISA
 - 10:14 NGGDPP – Total Bill Funding 23.668M
 - 10:15 DGGGS Budget – Waiting for a consideration back.
 - 10:19 Questions for Melanie:
New OMB Director interested in visiting GMC and/or FAI in the near future?
A: As far as right now, no, waiting for things to settle with the new position.
- 10:26 Marwan Wartes spoke about the Energy Resource section and to get high quality data in the public domain.
 - 10:38 Questions for Marwan:
Where you able to take samples from the Ray River area?
A: Yes 50-60 samples
 - 10:41 Are you seeing any trends or shifts in information/ information delivery?
A: Some, most consumers are new entrance to the basin, it comes and goes with the price of oil and any state incentives.
 - 10:45 Are you going to work in the East a little more on outcrop?
A: Agree, is in our long-range plans but with the accelerated drilling will be moved to the front burner.
- 10:50 Cheryl Cameron DGGGS Volcanology Section
 - Cheryl Spoke about AVO Provides timely and accurate warning volcanic activity in Alaska.
 - No questions for Cheryl
- Break 11:06-11:15
- 11:16 Mike Hendricks – Geo Info Center
 - Spoke about Publication Support, GIS Support, IT Support
 - No questions for Mike

- 11:31 Kurt Johnson Curator GMC

11:33 Kurt Johnson Spoke about

3,272 Energy Wells

228 Mineral Prospects

785,000 Inventoried items

1,141 Visitors

Collections are vetted both geologically and financially.

11:43: Questions for Kurt Johnson:

With the warehouse at 75% full how long will it take to get too 100% full?

Last year we were at 80% full, will need to expand that will take a few years, the expansion would give 25% more room.

- 11:48 Trent Hubbard Hydrology and Surficial Geology Section

Talked about: Hydrogeology, Lidar, Geologic Mapping construction, Materials and placer resource studies

12:02 Questions for Trent

Have you worked with ASRC?

A: Yes, we have a contract they help with a lot of permitting efforts, meet regularly with them.

- Lunch 12:07-12:40

- 12:41Evan Twelker DGGs Mineral Resource Section

Be globally competitive in attracting exploration investment to Alaska by providing essential information about Alaska's mineral resource potential.

12:53 Questions for Evan

At the end of the Kuskokwim geo physical 3-year plan there's one more bill 2023 left.

Bill funding, 5-years bill funding plan, starts in 2023 with 2 years of funding left. 2022 money spent for 2023.

- 1:04 Jen Athey Geologic Hazards Section

1:14 Questions for Jen

Is there broadband in this area?

Unfortunately, did not have a lot of time putting the state map proposal together, it was mentioned in the proposal that we would be working on it, something that does need to be looked into more.

1:25 Kenn Papp Spoke about getting feedback from various board members and setting up more meetings for getting that feedback.

The major topic is the Wrangell Landslide, we sent a number of staff to help with the efforts, some of the things that was mentioned that was challenging was getting communication/information to them and handling certain situation that they were not trained for. Currently there is no statute providing guidance for our role in responding to natural hazard events, how do we proceed in then, manage expectations when responding to these types of things, there is not a dedicated amount of funding for these things, what do we do about pertinent training and the liability issues. We were asked to respond to public views and the media.

1:31 Jen Athey Emergency Response Discussion Slide

Clarity is needed on DGGs Expected roles (and sideboards on those roles) when DGGs responds to geologic Hazards. The Landslide occurred 11/20/2023 middle of night the state emergency center contacted to Mort Larsen and Jen Athey, Unfortunate Mort was traveling out of town and could not respond, there is a group within DOT who can go in and certify the scene for search and rescue.

Q: Does DOT have formalized training that they take and a certification of some sorts?

A: I have no idea; I believe there is a number of people who are identified as "go too" but it also depends on the situation/ regions where the hazards too place.

Q: Is the timeline you experienced with the Wrangell Landslide similar to the Hanes landslide that happened a few years ago?

A: Hanes was a bigger incident in terms of the area they were covering and the infrastructure that was brought, they had more to work with and they had more direction from the emergency response, whereas Wrangell was like a tent, they did what they could when they could, it was a different kind of operation.

1:46 Q: What are the expectations for DGGGS to respond to these types of Hazards, as far as a final say so on if the scene is "safe" for search and rescue and the liability that may accrue?

A: can this go to the board vote.

1:51 USGS would be a good contact for guidance as they respond to many types of natural disasters, they are not declaring the science as safe or not safe to enter, it should not be up to a science agency to deem the scene as safe or not safe to enter as they do not have the proper training as a first responder.

2:00 A board vote on should DGGGS have role in emergency responses and the scene safety.

Should DGGGS respond to emergencies where these exist on impact on infrastructure and residence?

Whether DGGGS should play a role in emergency response?

As it is a team effort and DGGGS is not the lead role for certification of safety.

The board to develop a position statement outlining what we believe appropriate response to be and workshop to the point there is mutual agreement on the board and vote on that and then share with DGGGS.

Maybe we could provide this slide to the board and then Matt as chair, help coordinate drafting a statement.

A: Ok I think that is a good idea

End chat Statements:

A position statement makes sense.

I agree; a position statement that can spell out basic information on DGGGS' responsibilities as a responding agency could be useful in guiding deployments after natural disasters.

- Board end statement:

We're excited to see what 2024 brings.

To the boards specific roll, seeing the state map of all, move in so many different directions is pretty cool.

Diversifying that state map portfolio on the side of relevance of geologic mapping its only going to make compelling arguments to build capacity in some of these areas where we might be able to respond.

I'm completely amazed the work DGGGS is doing and amazed by the state map, spend good consideration on how to respond in the future for the future natural disasters.