

Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys Geologic Mapping Advisory Board – Spring Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023, from 9 am – 12 pm

Fairbanks: DGGGS Main Office, 3354 College Rd

Anchorage: Geologic Materials Center, 3651 Penland Pkwy

Call to Order (Chair)

9:00 am

Roll Call (Admin)

Present: Jamie Jones, Mischa Ellanna, Kyle Brennan, Matthew Hanson, Rob Retherford, Russ Kirkham, Nicole Kinsman, and Tom Homza (attended after initial roll call).

Absent: Paul McCarthy

Approval of Agenda: R. Retherford, seconded M. Ellanna

Approval of January Minutes: K. Brennan, seconded R. Kirkham

Old Business

Status of STATEMAP program funding and other DGGGS news (LePain)

9:10 am

DGGGS Director Dave LePain gave an overview of the FY24 budget requests and the plans for two major grants. He concluded with significant news for each of the DGGGS sections including projects, new hires, and upcoming retirements.

Discussions moved to the Directors retirement at the end of June and how to support DGGGS while a new Director is sought after.

New Business

FY23 StateMap Funding and Projects

North-central Tyonek Quad Surficial & bedrock Mapping Plans (Hubbard)

10:00 am

The focus for this plan is to help locate and assess quality and quantity of construction materials, to identify unstable slopes, potentially active faults and to fill in a critical gap in bedrock geologic mapping between two prospective hydrocarbon basins. The team and mapping strategies were reviewed along with the schedule and deliverables.

Question and discussion moved to whether more study was to be done on fault lines in this area and Anchorage Bowl area. Ronnie Daanen announced he had some instruments available to deploy over the faults for measuring sound. J. Jones mentioned Paul Bedrosians work and possibly some USGS data available for this area.

GeMS Compilation, Geochronology Plans (Athey/Hendricks)

10:25 am

M. Hendricks gave an overview of the Geologic Mapping Systems accomplishments, the Digital Mapping Techniques workshop, GeMS deliverables, funding, and upcoming goals.

Question and discussion over DMT workshop and funding for GeMS. Would it be possible for DGGGS to have access to the UAF land study work to consolidate some of their information?

BREAK

10:40 am

Haines-Takshanuk Mountains-Chilkat Peninsula Mapping Update (Gillis)

11:00 am

This is a two-year project to map surficial and bedrock geology in the rugged area surrounding the Haines community. The goal is to provide critical geotechnical data regarding natural hazards in support of informed planning, mitigation, and emergency response. Also, to answer several outstanding questions in the Northern Cordillera coastline. Bob Gillis gave an overview of funding, mapping strategies and the schedule of deliverables. There are many difficulties in mapping this area as most of the work will have to be done by helicopter or boat and the weather is often prohibiting.

Three proposed StateMap Projects 2024 for the boards consideration (Athey)

11:10 am

The new Coastal Hazards program manager Nora Nieminski presented two ideas for mapping hazards along Barter Island and the Lower Kuskokwim River. First the Lower Kuskokwim River with its vulnerable communities would benefit from geologic mapping to show who is at risk for flooding and erosion as the landscape changes. Second the Barter Island mapping project would study coastal bluff geology and stability. The motivation behind this project is to address geological questions as they relate to coastal change and those communities at risk.

The Landslide Programs proposed project presented by Jen Athey is the Valdez Surficial Geology and Mass Wasting mapping. There is continued growth in the Valdez area, and many people visit for summer and winter recreation. The project would focus on assessing potential flooding impacts to the community, investigate unstable slopes and landslide potential.

Questions and Discussion Session: Timeline for a decision on the proposals would be in the fall. Online feedback and questions forum will be coordinated by J. Jones. J. Athey suggested contacting the communities and finding out how excited they are about the potential for these projects because that might also propel the decision.

Marwan presented a fourth option since map funding is now allowed for software, training, and development of 3D modeling, which will give StateMap support for energy subsurface projects.

Public Comments None

Board member vacancies and the format of board meetings

J. Jones may need to step down from the position of GMAB chair. Suggestions are needed to fill the board's vacancies. DGGs asked that the board also consider the structure of board meetings and any changes they would like to make.

The board may need an impromptu meeting soon to discuss ideas.

Motion to Adjourn: J. Jones, seconded R. Retherford

12:00 pm