

## Denali Commission Planning Work Group

Next meeting: 6/26/08

Draft - Notes for the meeting held 5/22/08

Tara Jollie, Division of Community & Regional Affairs – State Co-Chair (presiding)  
Berney Richert, Economic Development Administration – Federal Co-Chair

In attendance: Tara Jollie, Ruth St. Amour – Division of Community & Regional Affairs; Berney Richert, Shirley Kelly – U.S. Economic Development Administration; Janet Hall – RurAL CAP/Denali Commission; Jimmy Smith – DCRA/Denali Commission; Deb Alston – HUD; Charles Parker – Alaska Village Initiatives; Midge Clouse, Betsy Hamm – Chenega Corporation; Deborah Vo – Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association; Mike Catsi, Andy Varner – Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference; Katie Peterson – Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation; Nils Andreassen, Lee Huntoon – RurAL CAP; Indra Arriaga, Tim Nault, Helena Hoffman – First Alaskans Institute; Albertha Nay – Denali Commission; Craig Tornga – Crowley Maritime Corporation; Steve Colt, Stephanie Martin – Institute of Social and Economic Research

Via teleconference: Joy Shockley – Interior Region Housing Authority; Barb Nickels – Kawerak, Inc., Raven Sheldon – City of Selawik; Bill Rolfzen – Division of Community & Regional Affairs

### **Fuel Costs, Migration, and Community Viability** – Steve Colt and Stephanie Martin, Institute of Social and Economic Research

- Data sources used include the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic ([www.arcticlivingconditions.org](http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org)) and First Alaskans Institute's Attitudinal Survey – 2007 Native Communities of the Future ([www.firstalaskans.org/index.cfm?fa=documents\\_overview&doctype=89](http://www.firstalaskans.org/index.cfm?fa=documents_overview&doctype=89))
- Rural Alaska is experiencing a net out-migration, although in some communities the loss of residents is offset by the birth rate.
- Small communities have been disappearing since the time of statehood.
- In the First Alaskans survey, the most common reasons for out-migration were work-related
- First Alaskans is interested in conducting a follow-up survey, which may now reflect the impact of high energy costs.
- The full report is available at [www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov).

### **Project Coordination – Agency Updates on Project Funding**

- Agencies are encouraged to share project lists at upcoming Planning Work Group meetings, to better develop a coordination process.
- Bill Rolfzen, DCRA, provided estimates of the state revenue sharing payments to be distributed starting in July. Revenue sharing is an important element of the local economy in small communities. The payments, which are provided for unincorporated communities as well as cities, can be used for any public purpose. Communities must submit budgets and financial reports in order to receive the payment.

- Tara Jollie shared a list of active and pending CDBG grants.
- Deb Alston suggested using one community as a test case for coordination, bringing agencies together to share information about projects and working together to address the community's needs. One or two communities could be chosen from among those that have expressed interest in alternative energy projects.
- Care must be taken in sharing project lists to be sure that communities are not receiving inaccurate information about their project status. Agencies must "first, do no harm."

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26 at 9 a.m., at the Denali Commission, and is to be chaired by Berney Richert.**