

Denali Commission Planning Work Group

Next meeting: 2/18/09

Draft - Notes for the meeting held 1/21/09

Berney Richert, Economic Development Administration – Federal Co- Chair
(presiding)

Tara Jollie, Division of Community & Regional Affairs (DCRA) – State Co-Chair

In attendance: Berney Richert – U.S. Economic Development Administration; Peter McKay, Brigitta Windisch-Cole, Sally Russell Cox, Ruth St. Amour – Division of Community and Regional Affairs; George Cannelos, Tessa Rinner, Karen Johnson – Denali Commission; Janet Hall – RurAL CAP/Denali Commission; Charlene Stern – RurAL CAP; Nils Andreassen – Institute of the North; Gene Kane – USDA Rural Development; Linda Ketchum – UA Center for Economic Development; Crystal Leonetti, Norm Stadem – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Elmer Moonin, Charles Sink – Chugachmiut; Tomas Jensen – Agnew::Beck; Bruce Tiedeman – Alaska Energy Authority; Carl Berger – Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council

Via teleconference: Doreen Lampe – North Slope Borough; Gina Shirey-Potts – Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Ingrid Zaruba, Gregory Williams, Jeff Hadland – Alaska Department of Labor; Deborah Vo – Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association; Kathie Wasserman – Alaska Municipal League; Chris Kowalczewski – Foraker Group

Rural Community Planning and Coordination – Charlene Stern and Janet Hall, RurAL CAP

- RurAL CAP's Village Planning and Development Initiative provides planning assistance to the communities of Chalkyitsik, Chevak, Klukwan, Kotlik, Napakiak, New Stuyahok, Newtok, Pilot Station, Russian Mission, and Toksook Bay.
- With the assistance of Denali Commission summer interns, community plans have been completed for Russian Mission (2006), Chevak (2007), and Toksook Bay (2008).
- The communities of Chevak, Kotlik, Napakiak, New Stuyahok, Russian Mission, and Pilot Station are focusing on updating existing community plans.
- Plan implementation assistance is being provided to Toksook Bay for an early childhood center and to Klukwan for tourism development.
- Planning Work Group participants are invited to contact Charlene (cstern@ruralcap.com) or Janet (jhall@denali.gov) for further discussion or coordination of projects involving the Initiative's ten communities.

Update on Migration Research – Brigitta Windisch-Cole, Division of Community and Regional Affairs

- The components of population growth are natural increase and net migration.
 - o Natural Increase = Births – Deaths
 - o Net Migration = In Migration – Out Migration

- In 2007, more than 79% of Alaska's population lived in urban areas (Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks, and Juneau boroughs) and 21% lived in rural areas.
- Statewide, Alaska's out-migration has decreased, but out-migration from rural Alaska has increased. The Bethel census area has had the greatest number of out-migrants among rural areas, although its population continued to grow due to natural increase.
- The age composition of rural Alaska has changed. From 2000 to 2007, the older population (age 60+) proportionately gained the most, while the work age population (ages 25-60) lost share.
- In urban areas, the ratio of school population (school average daily membership) to total population dropped from 18.1% to 15.8% between 2000 and 2007. In rural Alaska, this population dropped from 27.5% to 26%.
- As of October 2008, school enrollment projections held that the communities of Tenakee Springs, Nikolski, Red Devil, and Akutan may lose school funding because enrollments were at or below the threshold of ten attending students. Twenty communities have school enrollments just above the minimum for receiving state funds.
- The loss of funding for a local school has severe consequences for a community and greatly affects the economy of small rural places.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, at 10 a.m., at the Denali Commission, and is to be chaired by Tara Jollie.