

# Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

## Geologic Mapping Advisory Board – Winter Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2021, 10:00 am–2:30 pm

[Webex\\*](#)

### CONVENE morning session (Chair)

10:05 am

- Call to order, logistics, roll call: Jamey Jones calls meeting to order.

GMAB members present:

Jamey Jones (chair)

Mitch McDonald,

Steve Adamczak

Jaime Marunde

Curt Freeman

Rob Retherford

Tom Homza

Greg Wilson

Nicole Kinsman

Excused members:

Margaret Darrow

Paul McCarthy

Nine of eleven Board Members present.

- Review and approve agenda:

Curt Freeman motion to approve,

Steve Adamczak seconds the motion.

Motion to approve agenda passed.

- Review and approve October 14, 2020 meeting minutes:

Curt Freeman, motion to approve,

Steve Adamczak seconds.

All in favor. Motion to approve October 14 meeting minutes passed.

- Introduction of new Board Members: Nicole Kinsman and Mitch McDonald

### New Business

10:15 am

- DGGGS Program Overview of non-STATEMAP projects - Steve Masterman

Introduction of new Board Members: Nicole Kinsman and Mitch McDonald

Selection and appointment of a new State Geologist and Director of DGGGS and the GMAB Board role in the recruitment process.

Advisory board shall assist the Commissioner of DNR in the recruitment.

GMAB may provide a recommendation regarding appointment of State Geologist position.

- PowerPoint presentation by Steve Masterman-NCGMP Budget on Budget status and Grant applications.

Increased budget at DGGGS by 6 million for 2021, 50% of revenue to fund StateMap

Current Grant applications in process: Arsenic Resilience grant, Coastal Resilience grant,

DOE CORE – CM grant with UAF, Alaska Geospatial program, Passage of National Landslides Reduction Act and Cooperative Landslides programs with USGS and UAF.

FY22 State Operating Budget: Capital budget report and information  
Capital Budget Items and updates: GMC scanning equipment, STATEMAP and EarthMRI

Steve Masterman gave an overview of the FY21 NCGMP budget increased at DGGs by 6 million and 50% of the revenue will go to fund the StateMap program, including Geologic Mapping, Database/Palynology, EarthMRI, and GeMs Conversion. Steve Masterman gave an overview description of the new geospatial program within the division and the on boarding of Leslie Jones to oversee the GIS program. Steve gave an overview of the FY21 and funding projections for FY22 division budgets. Gave update of staffing numbers have increased, more permanent positions and enough interns for seasonal fieldwork. Various vacant positions that are being recruited.

Jamey Jones inquired about who is the USGS lead on the landslides stuff. S. Masterman replied so we are going to be working with Johnathan Goth who is the head of the Landslides, in a technical sense we have been working closely with Steve Slaughter and Jeff Cove, so I think one of those two guys is likely to be named the Interim Alaska Landslide coordinator for USGS. J. Jones asked where do they sit? S. Masterman replied Jonathan is in Denver, and I am not sure where Steve and Jeff are located. I think the idea is in conversation with Jonathan, we would have a couple of people here from DGGs, a couple of landslides folks from USGS in Anchorage and there would be a couple of post -ops up at UAF or students up at UAF, and much like AVO. J. Jones, that sounds great, thanks for the information.

Curt Freeman commented Steve it's encouraging to hear that the whole budget has been re-submitted and hopefully it will get approved. What would be the push on the Digital Map that was supposed to be digitally available, and got put on hold, is this one of the things we can put 1<sup>st</sup> for funding if it applies?

S. Masterman certainly the state map and all the digital information needs to be brought forward and made available certainly the information and collecting new information in the thermal field.

Rob Retherford asked – got a couple of questions as I followed your discussion practically in this that the state should place budget emphasis where its most important which is safety has a high level of importance such as avalanches and things of that nature.

1<sup>st</sup> Question: Is there a way to draw out say for instance how the Engineering side relates to the Minerals side, or relates to Oil & Gas, regarding this extensive budget?

2<sup>nd</sup> Questions: Can other parties, such as private industries, or native corporations participate in the matching of state funds, if the matching can't come from the state, can other corporations match?

S. Masterman Your second question - I believe the answer is Yes, non-federal funds are least restrictive, then federal funds funding federal funds.

Answer to your 1<sup>st</sup> question is more extensive, certainly the engineering work we do most directly relates to energy and mineral development is gravel work and corridor work on North Slope and ASTAR, sand & gravel resources etc. The emphasis where we place our resources are is a good conversion to have, the money we get from the state is about 1/3 of our budget. We move the monies around to the division as needed. We have some flexibility, and our state funding is limited.

Rob Retherford comment further discussion should be allocated of how the budget received from the state is distributed internally.

*Presentations by DGGGS Staff*

**10:45 am**

- Geologic Materials Center PowerPoint Presentation by Kurt Johnson  
Current grant opportunities, updates & budget for GMC. Presentation continues with current work on current and future projects, and how increase research capabilities, offset costs, data integration. Research & Education: workshops to promote industry, Increase collaboration and Industry partnerships.

Rob Retherford asked: how this facility looked in comparison to other states do you have a feeling to whether there are similar facilities that have similar capabilities particularly in the Western states where core and mapping. Kurt Johnson responded I have personally visited some of these core depositories, I would consider GMC in the top 5, university of Texas has impressive facilities too. Other facilities look to ours as overall impressive.

Steve Masterman commented the Commission office is obtaining federal funding through the CARES ACT for scanning documents the intent to scan for teleworking and scan all maps to make them all available online.

Rob Retherford asked Will the maps be scanned or digital?

S. Masterman responded this funding will just do scanning not digital.

**11:10 am**

- Engineering Geology – De Anne Stevens  
PowerPoint Presentation, Engineering Geology Programs & descriptions.  
Current accomplishments and projects, objectives, and funding resources  
Future projects focus is on ASTAR, publishing Terrain unit maps, Summer 2021  
fieldwork planning. Compile & evaluate data on projects on previous and active projects.

Tom Homza commented to De Anne great job over the years building that section and has come into being a major part of DGGGS, over the years when you think of DGGGS you think of as minerals and Energy, and you built this single handedly. D. Stevens replied, I want emphasis I had a lot of support from my colleagues, state geologists, and staff. It was a wonderful group effort.

S. Masterman comment there is a need to get geological mapping for landslides.

**11:40 am**

- Geologic Information Center - Ken Papp  
PowerPoint Presentation, presentation focus on new GIC Tasks & responsibilities. Create & maintain online geospatial applications. Implementation and update of digital geospatial data on DGGGS website. Current objectives of GIC is publishing Geologic information, maintain & developing computer resources, distribute & maintain critical safety equipment. Future projects to include Statewide Image Database – creating a state-wide database storage.

No comments due to time shortage

**12:00 pm**

- Energy Resources – Marwan Wartes  
PowerPoint Presentation, overview details of current projects & programs including North Slope & Brook’s range foothills, Cook Inlet Basin analysis, Interior Basin program, Susitna Basin Program, Nenana Basin Program and Coal & Thermal energy.  
Future projects include North Slope Geologic mapping, Cook Inlet Geologic maps and DGGs-USGS North Slope Coring project.

No comments due to time shortage

**LUNCH BREAK**

**12:20 pm**

**CONVENE afternoon session:**

**1:05 pm**

*Presentations by DGGs Staff - continued*

- Mineral Resources – Jennifer Athey

Section Overview & Projects and Program focus – Determine the potential of Alaskan land production of metals & minerals. Details and publication on Alaska mineral industry report. Current Mapping Projects areas in Northeastern Tanacross, Eastern Tanacross, Mosquito Project, Wrangell PGE Assessment – Paxson area, Styx geologist Map & Report and Goldfish Project. Current and ongoing survey’s in EARHT MRI FY2019 & FY2020 Geophysical survey, and EarthMRI Geophysics. Radon project update, data preservation project (FY19 NGGDPP) details.

Jamey Jones asked establishing a list of priorities among the list of other candidates, I presume it’s not towards just state map, it’s being discussed in the Seward Peninsula, that it’s worth assessing the whole list, is that in the planning?

Melaine Werdon in the spring GMAB meeting candidate areas since we have new board members it would be excellent to refresh everybody’s knowledge about the different Mineral belts in the state and happy to do that.

Curt Freeman asked are any of those areas slated for radiometric?

M. Werdon: all the areas are slated for radiometric – many in late May and radio metrics is collected in all conditions, and snow cover does cause difficulties in collecting the data.

Curt Freeman asked are you expecting to see a super slow turnaround in the GEO-chemical labs? M. Werdon: for the EARTHMRI program USGS gives funding to each state, we have used our funding, and might not have the funding for next season, Alaska has over-used our credits.

**1:30pm**

- Alaska Geospatial Information Office – Leslie Jones  
Alaska Geospatial information Office announces new name replacing Geologic Information Center. Collaboration outreach and engagement with State Council and State legislation on current issues, projects, and programs. Increase outreach, training and educational programs, projects, and publications.

AK Geospatial Responsibilities include: Completion of Statewide elevation – 10-year project, Elevation of portal statistics, New statewide Imagery Initiative, and Imagery server & portal: to support the need of Imagery data assets stored in one database location.

Unknown: I just have been surfing the site there and looks really fascinating and there is tentacles everywhere to follow your path of interest.

S. Masterman: It has been remarkable to me how much progress Leslie has made since she has been here.

**1:55pm**

- Volcanology – Janet Schaefer  
PowerPoint Presentation: 2021 – 2022 Projects  
Slides illustrate objectives (monitor & report), funding, current work under grants, mapping Cook Inlet to Aleutian Arc. Details volcano hazards, field work and data management. Field operations for 2021 field season: Continuing Analog to digital monitoring instrument upgrade, ashfall hazards studies, field collections, electron microprobe & geochemical analysis, and community outreach

Curt Freeman asked Is temperature data collected at your seismic sites?

Janet Schaefer - no temperature data is collected.

**Public comments or questions - none**

**2:10 pm**

**Board public comments**

**2:12 pm**

Discussion of Goals for 2021:

- Education outreach for all DGGs sections and programs
- Coordinate information to the public
- Social Media strategy

Curt Freeman commented – Amazing amount of information by DGGs is made available to everyone from any location. COVID plans are commendable at DGGs

Tom Homza commented – phenomenal amounts of data generated by each section at DGGs.

Board discussion, if needed (closed to the public) – no closed Board business

**2:15 pm**

Ad-hoc items – none

Next meeting schedule – TBD

Motion to adjourn moved by C. Freeman and seconded by G. Wilson.

**ADJOURN**

**2:28 pm**