

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

DRAFT Geological Mapping Advisory Board Minutes  
May 16, 2022 Spring Meeting

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The Alaska Geological Mapping Advisory Board held its spring meeting on Monday, May 16, 2022 from 9:00am until 12:00pm. This meeting was held as an online teleconference via Microsoft Teams and open to the public.

[9:02] Call to order with roll call. Board members present:

Curt Freeman (FAI)  
Paul McCarthy (FAI)  
Jamey Jones (ANC, Chair)  
Tom Homza (ANC)  
Rob Retherford (ANC)  
Nicole Kinsman (ANC)

Board members not present:

Mitch McDonald (FAI)  
Jamie Marunde (ANC)

Six of eight board members were present.

[9:05] Motion to approve January meeting minutes made by C. Freeman. Seconded by T. Homza.

[9:06] Chair J. Jones introduces Director LePain. Director LePain began his introductory presentation, discussing current COVID office protocols and USGS project summaries.

[9:25] C. Freeman asks, “20% one-time budget increase sounds great, but where are the people going to come from?” Director LePain said, “That’s a huge challenge for DGGs. There’s a good applicant pool for recent

recruitment, so I'm hopeful."

[9:27] D. Stevens started her summary presentation of the 2022 StateMap project, "Geologic Map of the Haines-Takshanuk Mountains-Chilkat Peninsula Area, Southeast Alaska."

[9:40] T. Homza asked, "What is your final product going to be? How is the community going to benefit from this?" D. Stevens stated that the product will include a geologic map and tabular data that includes all of the technical data. Another funding source will provide additional data and slope susceptibility, which could be used by geotechnical contractors and the community.

[9:41] N. Kinsman asked, "What is DGGs's role in a future, large landslide event?" D. Stevens said, "That is absolutely in the picture now and one of our responsibilities and in alignment with what is seen in other geological surveys. Our mission, in response to these hazard events, is to be a scientific advisor."

[9:45] J. Athey began her U.S. GeoFramework Initiative (USGI) presentation.

[10:05] J. Jones wondered how DGGs is dealing with compiling map data when information is scarce. J. Athey responded by saying you end up getting some holes here and there. In some case you could interpret bedrock information, but in other cases you shouldn't.

[10:07] BREAK

[10:20] Meeting resumed. T. Herriott presented on the "Rooftop Ridge and Racetrack Basin, Central North Slope" project. No questions or comments from the board.

[10:41] M. Wartes began his presentation on "Chandler Lake C-3 & D-3, North Slope" as a candidate 2023 StateMap project.

[10:54] C. Freeman asked, "Do you still see significant industry interest in this area?" M. Wartes answered, "Not specifically in this immediate area, partly due to waxing/waning interest in a gas line but, absolutely, when it comes to

this area and how it relates to the understanding of the depositional characteristics of the Nanushuk. We hope that this potential map would help redirect industry interest and increase local exploration.”

[10:58] M. Wartes continued by presenting current staff challenges within the Energy Section. J. Jones commented that, “The board is here to help DGGs make the decisions it needs to make.” Director LePain asked about the possibility of only submitting a GeMS compilation proposal to the USGS. J. Jones responded by stating that’s a question for John Brock and it’s a reasonable question to ask. J. Athey also provided insight, based upon her excellent track record of successfully writing USGS proposals.

[11:09] D. Stevens continued the discussion by reminding the board that the Engineering Geology section is could take on a potential StateMap project, such as study the potential of active faulting in the West Susanna Basin. Director LePain commented that doing a surficial mapping project might be well received by the USGS.

[11:10] J. Jones commented that the board would be happy and willing to review the upcoming proposal prior to the next board meeting, due to the timing relative to the proposal’s due date.

[11:13] J. Jones asked if there are any members of the public who wished to provide comments or ask questions.

[11:14] General meeting ended. Discussion amongst the board continued regarding adding new members to vacant seats. D. LePain asked the board to consider potential members to help guide the survey. N. Kinsman commented that Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers might have suggestions for a potential board member.

[11:18] R. Retherford stated he really appreciated the division summary and the content presented today. He then asked if there was a possibility of a geophysical survey to help uncover more information, should the Susitna Basin project go forward. Director LePain replied that shallow geophysics would be very helpful to learn more about that area.

[11:21] T. Homza complimented Director Lepain by saying he was doing a good job and congratulated him on his new role in the survey. D. LePain thanked T. Homza for his kind words.

[11:23] Meeting ended without a formal motion to adjourn.