



ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION

Anchorage Meeting Notes

November 17-18, 2014

Sen. Lesil McGuire and Rep. Bob Herron, Co-Chairs
NANA Bldg – 909 West 9th Avenue, Anchorage AK

COMMISSION MEETING | DAY ONE

November 17, 2014

Below is a brief summary of presentations and public testimony heard by the Commission. To see the meeting's agenda and archived video, please visit: www.akarctic.com/anchorage-mtg-nov-17-18.

Following the Call to Order, Co-Chairs McGuire and Herron welcomed the Commission to Anchorage, thanked participants and staff, and oriented members to the next two days' work. The co-chairs outlined three goals for this meeting: 1) to give staff enough direction to finalize the documents, 2) to ensure all Commissioners have the opportunity to contribute, and 3) to come to a consensus on the direction for the Arctic policy bill.

Documents for the meeting include:

- Meeting Agenda
- Agenda Item 2. Director's Report
 - Work Plan
- Agenda Item 3. Final Report
 - Draft Final Report
 - Draft Arctic Policy Bill
- Agenda Item 4. Continue to Support/National/Intl
 - Draft Doc for Continue to Support State Efforts (see Final Report, Section 2 Overview, page 2)
 - Draft Doc for National and International Partners
- Agenda Item 5. Implementation Plan
 - Revised Implementation Plan

PRESENTATIONS FROM EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell mentioned several things to keep in mind from various international meetings he's attended recently. He notes Iceland will host an upcoming conference regarding 'many Arctic ports.' The World Economic Forum is also working on three things that we should be aware of: setting up protocols for Arctic investment, helping people understand that there are billions of dollars in investment opportunities in the Arctic, and geopolitical issues. He recommends we keep doors open with Russia. Finally, he mentions that Singapore recently had a conference regarding the Arctic.

Fran Ulmer remarks she's glad the AAPC has been established. Until recently, we haven't thought of the state as an Arctic entity and this commission has been a very positive benefit to Alaska. She clarifies that she has been appointed special advisor to State Department on Arctic science and policy, but is not an employee of the U.S. State Department. In this role, she can be a bridge between Alaska and the national



ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION

Anchorage Meeting Notes

November 17-18, 2014

government. She says we generally assume people know what the Arctic Council is, yet people may not necessarily understand that and she handed out an 'Arctic Policy 101' pamphlet.

UPDATES: ARCTIC COUNCIL AND THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

The Arctic Economic Council met September 2-3, 2014. We were allowed to appoint Alaskans to sit on the Arctic Economic Council board. Jim Gamble represents the Aleut International Association (AIA) as an Arctic Council Permanent Participant. Jim Gamble gave a presentation of the Arctic Council's last meeting.

Jim Gamble, Aleut International Association (AIA), Arctic Council Permanent Participant – The US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council has three overarching goals: Strengthen the Arctic Council as a forum, introduce long-term priorities, and raise Arctic awareness within the U.S. and globally. The thematic areas of focus are: Climate change in the Arctic, stewardship of the Arctic, and improving economic and living conditions in the Arctic. Jim noted the Arctic Council's structure and noted that this structure will change when the U.S. takes chairmanship. The U.S. chair will be Secretary Kerry -who will start as chair, but someone else will finish as chair due to the upcoming presidential election.

The Arctic Economic Council meeting focused on sectors: Infrastructure and related matters (marine transportation, communication and IT, aviation), energy (oil, gas, renewable resources), mining, tourism, fishing, human resources investments, and capacity building. Its overarching themes are: Market connections, public-private partnerships, regulatory frameworks, knowledge and data exchange between industry and academia, traditional indigenous knowledge. Jim suggests that we work to steer the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council work to be useful to Alaska.

Drue Pearce, Senior policy advisor with Crowell & Moring attended the Arctic Economic Council meeting. She noted that Alaska has the largest delegation at the AEC, yet the U.S. was the only country whose senior-level Arctic official was not in attendance of the meeting. She noted there were many foreign observers of the Arctic Council; Members worried their presence would dilute the Arctic presence and that it puts forth a message of outside countries bringing industry to the Arctic rather than the Arctic developing through its own efforts. The Council has asked for project proposals as well as for nominations to the working groups.

PROGRESS REPORT AND WORK ON DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENTS

Dr. Nikoosh Carlo informed the Commission that new recommendations were compiled into draft documents and all comments from the listening sessions have been integrated into the work plan. She informed the commission that the deadline for sending recommendations is November 24, 2014. She identified which items were flagged for discussion.

Senator McGuire and Representative Herron then led discussions regarding recommended changes to the Final Report. It was suggested that the report serve as a call to action for Alaska in the Arctic. The



ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION

Anchorage Meeting Notes

November 17-18, 2014

Commission also needed to clearly identify the audience of the report – the Legislature – and write toward them. The topic of devolution was raised and examples of Canadian provinces that have successfully undergone this process were cited. Commissioners also noted that Alaska should receive fair treatment by collecting the same benefits that several Gulf oil states have in regard to revenue sharing. Commissioners reiterated the importance of strongly stating Alaska’s Arctic policy in light of conflicting national and international views on Arctic management, particularly in regard to development in Alaska.

The Commission then discussed the revised Arctic Policy Bill. The bill should define the Arctic. They suggested structuring Section 1 (the uncodified section) with a sense of urgency and call to action that requires national cooperation. Some commissioners were concerned that the recommendations in this bill and associated implementation plan would not be completed if a special committee isn’t created in the legislature to follow through. They noted several topics were not mentioned in the bill, including the environment, food security, positive investment, and economic climate.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Commissioners made time for an open public comment period, during which anyone who desired could address the commission. Nine individuals testified during this time. Below is a brief summary of the comments made during the public testimony period.

- **Kathleen Liston, Commissioner with Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas** – Their commission is looking into issues in common with this Commission. They are planning a joint wetlands and access summit. She mentioned the Northwest Territories devolution process that Alaska could use as a model. Finally, she notes the benefit of public lands in Western states.
- **Kate Blair, Projects coordinator with Alaska Oil and Gas Association** –Firstly, she thanks the commission for listening and responding to feedback from the community. She noted the long partnership of the oil and gas industry with the Arctic and the remaining quantities of both on-shore and off-shore oil and gas resources yet to be tapped. AOGA comments have focused on access and predictability. She recommended that 1c also mentions the DNR OPUMP office. She encouraged federal revenue sharing. However, AOGA objects to the wording of strategic recommendation 2e. AOGA wants them to clearly state that the increase to the 470 fund should come from other beneficiaries of the fund –not the current tax structure. She noted the ambiguity regarding food security in strategic recommendation 3e. Also, strategic recommendation 4c implies they are attempting to create another ACMP. Regarding strategic recommendation 4g, they -as well as other Alaskan industries- oppose ocean mapping.
- **Paul Fuhs, President of Marine Exchange of Alaska** gave an update on recent events. The Arctic Waterways Safety Committee was recently formed in Northern Alaska. Arctic research in the area closed to fishing. He supports the concept of fishing quotas in the report. He recommended using the cruise ship passenger head tax (about \$1.3 million is left over each year)



ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION

Anchorage Meeting Notes

November 17-18, 2014

for marine safety. Finally, he noted that Alaska is expendable by setting out examples of the Keystone Pipeline and the U.S. prohibiting partnerships with Russia.

- **Jason Bokenstedt, GCI** –GCI supports economic development as a way to put additional infrastructure in place. He suggests streamlining the permitting process on public lands. Finally, policy should ensure as many Arctic citizens as possible benefit from additional infrastructure.
- **Brian Rogers, Chancellor of University of Alaska Fairbanks** –We share the sense of urgency in the need to communicate Alaska’s importance in its place as an Arctic nation. UAF has had advances in arctic-related programs like the Center for Arctic Policy and the Fulbright Arctic program. He urges continuance of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission beyond its scheduled final meeting.
- **Dennis Young, ILWU Alaska Longshore Division** –Dennis views the Bering Straits region as the next area to develop sea ports. However, the people living there don’t understand the impact that would entail. He emphasizes that the people living in those communities will have to put in the work to make that development happen. Longshoremen have a solidarity even across borders and that gives them the opportunity to bridge regions –for example between Russia and Alaska.
- **Kendra Zamzow, Center for Science in Public Participation** –Kendra mentioned one specific sentence in the international/national interests section: Efforts to mitigate climate change will have a negative impact on citizens. Regarding item 1g, she states that specific project titles shouldn’t be mentioned, as this could be considered promoting individual projects. In item 4c, she states that collective knowledge should be used on a state-wide basis and potentially federally, as well.
- **Mike Sfraga, UAF** –Mike gave a progress report on UAF initiatives. For seven years they have met with the University of the Arctic (partnered with Dartmouth) to inform academic communities about what is going on in the Arctic, in particular in Alaska. They brought the Carnegie National Endowment for International Peace into this conversation. The U.S. State Department, complimentary to its Arctic chairmanship, partnered with Fulbright for an Arctic program. They’ve used the AAPC areas of interest to influence the Fulbright program. Fulbright will focus on four themes in the Arctic: energy, water, infrastructure, and health. The Center for Arctic Policy Studies was recently approved to be created at UAF. The Center will work closely with the recommendations of this commission and will be active in the conversation on Arctic research.
- **Jeannine Jordan, Gana-A’Yoo Limited and Arctic Athabaskan Council** –Jeannine stated that the Arctic Athabaskan Council wholeheartedly agrees with Strategic recommendation 4 regarding food security and traditional knowledge.



ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION

Anchorage Meeting Notes

November 17-18, 2014

WORK ON DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENTS

The Commission broke into two groups to discuss and suggest changes for 1) the Overview statement and 2) the National/International Interests section of the final report. At the end of this session, they came together to report and review suggested changes. For the Overview, they want to emphasize why the Arctic is important in that change in the Arctic means global change and that opening the Arctic increases Alaska's strategic importance to the U.S. They want to structure the Overview to include a call to action, opportunities and challenges faced in the Arctic, and state that the Arctic is changing. They also want to note the social as well as environmental challenges. For the National/International Interests section, commissioners proposed a more stream-lined, easy to read version. The intent of this document was focused to establish a partnership between Alaska and the federal government regarding Arctic issues. Law of the Sea was cited as an example of how a closer partnership with federal government would ensure the unique qualities of Alaska are taken into account regarding federal policy. Additionally, the concept of revenue sharing was highlighted once more.

They then began discussion of flagged items on the Implementation Plan, which they continued the following day. At the end of the day, Commissioners were encouraged to review the three most current versions of the National/International Interests section to propose changes the next day.

(END OF DAY ONE)



ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION

Anchorage Meeting Notes

November 17-18, 2014

COMMISSION MEETING | DAY TWO

November 18, 2014

WORK ON DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENTS

Dr. Nikoosh Carlo reviewed the work that had been accomplished the previous day and outlined the schedule for this day. Commissioners continued reviewing and suggesting changes to the Implementation Plan from where they left off the previous day. The Commission discussed in plenary the following recommendations (explained below): 1a, 1b, 1f, 1g, 1h, 2a, 2h, 3g, 4c, and 4e.

- 1a will be revised to refer to support export and regional development port systems.
- 1g will be a regional focus versus specific mining project.
- 1h will be clarified with a definition of a microgrid being an island grid.
- 2a will be directed at the Administration (versus the Governor).
- 2h will be more general in terms of building the oil spill toolbox of which dispersants is one of the tools used.
- 4c will be made broader to include not only management decisions but also other things like healthcare decisions.
- 4e key ecosystems will be changed to arctic ecosystems.

After all concerns were acknowledged for the Implementation Plan, the Commission reviewed the National/International Interests section with the full group. The full commission reiterated the previous day's discussion of clearly identifying what the partnership between Alaska and the U.S. should look like. Federal government should avoid broad-stroke policies and should Alaskanize policies currently in place. Several commissioners agreed there should be no federal withdrawals from land or sea without approval from the legislature and Alaska. There was discussion of the topic of devolution and how that would affect things like subsistence resources and food security. Representative Herron posed the question of whether the National/International Interests section should be placed in the report or sent as a letter. The Commission consensus was to do both in order to have a complete document and also call attention to it from national and international interests.

The Commission then called their attention back to the Arctic Policy Bill to review changes made the previous day. Bryce Edgmon proposed an alternate version of the bill (version W). To clarify discussion of the Bill, version E was determined to be the proposed bill, with version W considered as amendments to it. Changes from version W that will be incorporated into version E include:

- language on legislature maintaining an official body to address arctic issues.
- language on the federal government collaborating and cooperating with the state and the state to engage other nations and international bodies working on Arctic issues.
- make a direct reference to the Implementation Plan.
- add language on supporting the Arctic Council and its permanent participants.



ALASKA ARCTIC POLICY COMMISSION

Anchorage Meeting Notes

November 17-18, 2014

After discussion, Representative Herron stated the bill would go into subcommittee to be finalized.

The Commission then returned again to the final report. They discussed the role of the Commission in the future to postulate what form would best serve Alaska to ensure a focus on the Arctic. Nils Andreassen recommended placing a worksheet in the Implementation Plan that describes the committee that would continue from here.

FINAL HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Dr. Nikoosh Carlo relayed details regarding wrap-up of the report. The deadline for final changes is December 15, 2014. The final report is due to the Legislature January 30, 2015. They will likely hold a press conference on February 2 or 3, 2015.

CLOSING COMMENTS

As this was the last scheduled meeting of the AAPC, each commissioner shared closing remarks thanking their fellow Commissioners for their work and thinking optimistically for the future of Alaska as an Arctic entity. A few of those remarks are summarized below:

Stephanie Madsen –We have a long way to go, but we couldn't have taken this step without the hard work we've done over the last two years. Bryce Edgmon –Requests that commissioners be part of the legislative process for this bill. Rep. Herron –We want legislators to 'think Arctic.' Chris Hladick –We should focus on educating the new administration on these issues. David Guttenberg –Alaskanizing the Arctic agenda is critical. The cost of inaction is a great deal higher than spending a little bit of money up front. Alice Rogoff –Remember that at a past Arctic Council meeting, Quebec made a presentation –not Canada, but Quebec. Alaska can be like that. Cathy Giessel –Alaska policy is Arctic policy and Arctic policy is Alaska policy.