



Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys
Geological Mapping Advisory Board Minutes
Fall Meeting October 19th, 2022, 9am – 11:30pm



Microsoft Teams Meeting and teleconference open to the public.

9:03 am, call to order by Jamey Jones and roll call by Deputy Director Ken Papp.

Jamey Jones - Present
Curt Freeman - Present
Paul McCarthy - Not present
Mitch McDonald - Present
Tom Homza - Not Present
Rob Retherford - Present
Jamie Marunde – Not Present
Nicole Kinsman - Present
Russ Kirkham – Present

Six of nine board members present. Thank you and farewell to Curt Freeman. Welcome to new board member Russ Kirkham with a brief intro.

Approved Agenda – Rob Retherford made a motion to approve, Russ Kirkham seconded the motion.

Approve Meeting Minutes from May 2022 – Curt Freeman motions to approve, Rob Retherford seconded.

Business – DGGS Director Dave LePain gave an overview of recent DGGS news and a summary of the division budget. DGGS had a busy and successful field season for all sections. Engineering has been reorganized now split into two sections, Hydrology & Surficial Geology (Trent Hubbard) and the Geologic Hazard Section (De Anne Stevens).

Jamey Jones read a question regarding future meeting in person. Jamey said good idea, but not sure when. Most members agreed, in-person meetings would be preferred.

2022 Engineering Geology StateMap Project (Haines)

De Anne Stevens presented with the geologic mapping of the Haines area, which would be a benefit for natural hazards monitoring and identifying potential, economic mineral deposits. Additional funds from FEMA came into play after the 2020 landslide. Southeast does not have any new data because of the difficulty in mapping this area, due to the need to fly over with a helicopter (steep terrain and abundant vegetation). The weather is often foggy/rainy which also makes flying difficult.

Nic Kinsman was curious about the work funded by FEMA not having the accessory funding for field work research. It would be a good idea to reach out to FEMA regarding how critical it is to have funding available from the USGS to conduct the field work through the geological mapping program.

De Anne said they have had conversations about this, and data collection is not part of FEMA's mission at this time. Nic Kinsman encouraged DGGS to keep trying, as there will likely be more funding opportunities through FEMA.

2023 Engineering Geology StateMap Project (Seismic hazards mapping)

Barrett Salisbury presented the mapping proposal of West Susitna Basin, South Central Alaska. The project will help Western Susitna access for development along a new route labeled Port Mackenzie. The DGGs team approach will be surficial mapping, bedrock mapping, and mapping to characterize fault activity. Presentation of mapping project includes neotectonics framework of the Yukatat Block to the Alaska Range. The main push for the study is to understand the framework of the Castle Mountain and Bulchitna Lake Faults.

Jamey Jones commented from the bedrock standpoint there has been a lot of work done and a modern framework is already out there. Dave agreed and reiterated that the existing work would be helpful. Dave suggested reaching out to Bob Gillis for this information.

Discussion on dates for project funding and the full proposal is hopeful for December. Jamey said the federal funding program coordinator retired, so cooperative mapping program is in transition.

10:20 to 10:30 – Break

2021/2022 StateMap Supplemental Program

Jen Athey discussed geological mapping projects and increase in the GIC team with two new positions. The focus is the creation of new maps by converting older maps to the GeMS standard and eventually pulling individual maps together.

Mike Hendricks spoke about the database clean-up to edit and revise old, archived information, replicate for public data, and make it more accessible to internal and external viewers. Jen thanked Mike for his help on the clean-up and now 42 maps are available for download.

Question about quality control? What will the Alaska geologic map look like in the end – will it be one purview product or multiple products?

Jen's vision for this is it will end up as one statewide product. Regarding quality control, it is not just one person working on the project, but a team approach and peer review.

2021/2022 National Data Preservation Program Jen Athey and Kurt Johnson

Jen Athey gave overview of data preservation related to maps, core boxes, and an online palynology index. She presented information on where the team is at with new hyperspectral scanner. Funding for the scanner, core boxes, and GMC data upgrade was approved and is coming from grants from the federal government along with state match from a capital improvement project. Now begins the work of finding the right scanner, creating software for our use, and improve online file access. GMC Curator Kurt Johnson said the technology changes so quickly it creates a challenge for the search. The team is looking for scanners in Canada as well as Europe. Kurt mentioned the proposal to National Geologic and Geophysical Data Preservation Program and a breakdown of available funds for additional equipment.

Closed new Business

Dave welcomes Misha Ellanna, from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, to the meeting. Misha would like invites to future meetings. Jamey and Ken discussed scheduling for the upcoming winter meeting.

11:30 am Adjourn – K. Freeman moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Jones. Meeting ends.