

Alaska Geospatial Council Charter

Background

Alaska is one fifth the size of the entire United States, is the only state with land area north of the Arctic Circle and despite its resource potential and global impact, has the poorest geospatial data of all the states in the nation. Accurate, detailed geospatial information that meets national standards is lacking for much of the state, inhibiting responsible development and resource conservation, delaying or preventing adequate response to natural disasters and emergencies, and preventing effective measurement and monitoring of ecological processes.

The Alaska Geospatial Council is a continuation of the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI), an interagency statewide effort endorsed by the Governor to produce high-resolution, digital base maps for the state. Six State Government agencies and the University participated on the SDMI executive committee. Those participants are continued as the signers of a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Governor in August 2015 establishing the Alaska Geospatial Council (AGC).

As a result of the SDMI's efforts, the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee (AMEC) was formed as a Federal inter-agency executive committee chaired by the Department of the Interior to address the mapping shortcomings in Alaska. The AGC is the local and regional voice to the AMEC.

Purpose

The purpose of the AGC is to streamline geospatial activity in Alaska by: eliminating redundant taxpayer expenditures and governmental staff activity; increase efficacy, and eliminate uninformed or misaligned spending decisions across all government business units through the coordination of efforts. The outcome will be uniform, statewide digital base maps of the state that are compatible with the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a robust and cost effective geospatial platform that can be shared multi-laterally to include the private, not-for-profit and tribal business sectors. Activities will be guided by the Alaska Geospatial Strategic Plan and Alaska Geospatial Business Plan, which may be updated as determined necessary by the Council.

Vision: *Alaska will create a sustainable statewide geospatial framework to provide technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to help improve the sustainability, quality, and availability of geospatial information to all Alaskans.*

Mission: *Create a spatial infrastructure that will be supported by a participatory environment to facilitate collaboration and communication between all public and private stakeholders based on a philosophy of shared responsibilities, shared benefits, and shared control.*

Actions

Advise the Governor's Office on geospatial matters;

Follow the guidance provided in the Alaska Geospatial Strategic and Business plans to advance geospatial activity in Alaska;

Formulate collaborative funding strategies that support the overall interest and need to support implementation of the Alaska geospatial strategic and business plan;

Collaborate with and seek assistance from interested Federal agencies, local agencies and others where cost sharing opportunities and other alignments of interest exist;

Collaborate with all interested stakeholders in an open, transparent and inclusive manner; and

Mentor the decision process to develop and adopt statewide geospatial policies and best practices.

Membership

The Alaska Geospatial Council is not to exceed twelve (12) members, and shall be organized such that it consists of:

1. Six board officials from State Cabinet positions or their designees from the Parties, and have voting privileges;
2. One official from the University of Alaska, having voting privileges on all matters excluding state budget concerns;
3. Three board officials will be AK resident Federal representatives, to include a US Geological Survey position. These board members will also have voting privileges on all matters excluding State budgetary concerns;
4. One Alaska local government official, municipal or borough representative or the equivalent, having geospatial expertise and having voting privileges on all matters excluding State budgetary concerns;
5. One official representing Alaska Native Corporations interests and having voting privileges on all matters excluding State budgetary concerns.

Membership is voluntary and uncompensated, and is comprised of individuals with expertise and experience representing their affiliated institutions or professional associations. The Council will have the authority to increase or decrease the number of constituencies.

Leadership

The Council will be chaired by the Department of Natural Resources. The chair will be responsible for scheduling Council meetings, presiding over the Council, and representing the Council in public meetings.

Each Council member will appoint a representative from their agency to serve on the Technical Advisory Group. The Technical Advisory Group will be chaired by the Department of Natural Resources GIO, who will be responsible for scheduling meetings and reporting Technical Advisory Group recommendations and findings to the Council.

The Council votes on business matters such as agendas for Technical Advisory Group meetings, responding to requests, policy advocacy and recommendations for collaborative projects. The Council does not manage funds, therefore services and goods will be funded by partnerships independent of the Council.

Workgroups

The Council will vote to ratify technical working groups recommended by the Technical Advisory Group to accomplish objectives required to realize the Council's goals.

Working groups will be comprised of stakeholders who have demonstrated a working knowledge and expertise in specific matters related to geospatial topics concerning Alaska's geospatial advancement and coordination efforts. Members of the Council or Advisory Group can volunteer for workgroups. Each workgroup will have a chair, recommended by the Technical Advisory Group and ratified by the Council. The Chair will have the authority to increase or decrease the membership of the workgroup under the Advisory Group's discretion.

Workgroups will draft reports and recommendations used by the Council for review, endorsement or other action. Workgroups shall have clear plans for accomplishing their objectives, with clearly defined deliverables and timeframes for delivery.

Meetings

The Council will meet 4-6 times per year or more often as deemed appropriate by the Council membership. Meetings will be accessible in person or via remote meeting technology to maximize member involvement.

The agenda will be created by the Chair and distributed to Council members at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date for review and comment.

Communication

Written communications will take place via e-mail. A website (<http://agc.dnr.alaska.gov>) will be maintained by the Department of Natural Resources GIO. Website postings will include:

1. Agendas
2. Meeting minutes
3. Council membership
4. Workgroup projects
5. Other information as determined by the Council.

Decision Making

The Department of Natural Resources GIO will present Technical Advisory Group and workgroup recommendations and findings to the Council for review and action.

For Council votes, the Council will strive to reach consensus regarding decisions. Consensus is a simple majority of members present with no one objecting. If objections are presented, the Chair will table the issue and will work to ensure that all objections are addressed to ensure a consensus before vote. If a consensus is not reached, a vote will take place and a two-thirds majority of all votes cast will affirm the decision.

Each Council member will have one vote to cast. A member may specify a designated alternate to cast a vote on his or her behalf. Voting activity will require a quorum of seven Council members and two thirds majority to affirm a vote.

Council members may recuse themselves where there is a clear conflict of interest or agency guidelines that prohibit their involvement on specific matters.

Decisions regarding resource allocation outside of the Council's auspices ultimately reside with the individual member's department or organization.

Amendments

Amendments to this charter can be made at any regular meeting if the amendments are listed in the meeting's agenda and the amendment receives a two-thirds vote of all votes cast.

Dissolution

The Council will continue to function as long as it has the confidence of its members. The Council will automatically dissolve should any period of twelve (12) months elapse between meetings of the Council.