

# Alaska Geoportal

## Technical Working Group

### 1 BACKGROUND

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Geospatial information enables responsible development and land management decisions, emergency preparedness and response, modeling and prediction of environmental changes and mitigation efforts. Its applications are limitless and extend to all sectors including health services, public safety, resource conservation, and commercial enterprise. In Alaska, valuable information is often impossible to locate – and even if its location is known, information about quality and intended use is frequently lacking.

Many agencies and organizations publish geospatial information online or have other means of providing data but there currently exists no central way to discover available data and geospatial resources. Geospatial information, although becoming plentiful, remains elusive except to those with specific knowledge of the data and how to access it. The capability to provide access to geospatial information varies widely causing discrepancies in available formats and accessibility. The inability to discover whether a dataset exists or not, and what its limitations may be if it does in fact exist, leads to tremendous waste, duplication of effort, and underutilization of available tools and data. A geoportal sponsored at the state level will reduce the impact of these issues.

### 2 PURPOSE

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The Geoportal Technical Working Group provides guidance on the development and maintenance of an Alaska geoportal to the executive-level Alaska Geospatial Council (Council) and the supporting Technical Advisory and Policy Groups.

### 3 ACTIONS

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- ❖ Advise the Council on recommendations pertaining to functionality requirements for creating and maintaining a geoportal e.g., platform.
- ❖ Develop metadata standards, policy, and procedure recommendations. Develop a comprehensive data catalog that identifies and categorizes data sources for inclusion into the geoportal.
- ❖ Coordinate Technical Working Group activity that is inclusive of data providers and data users and utilizes lessons learned from other states that have implemented state-level geoportals.

## 4 MEMBERSHIP

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Membership is voluntary and is open to all including all levels of government, utilities, academia, and the private sector. The chair(s) will maintain membership lists and make these lists publically available on the Council website at [agc.dnr.alaska.gov](http://agc.dnr.alaska.gov).

Participation in the Technical Working Group does not preclude participation in Council-related geospatial procurement as the Technical Working Group does not vote on Council matters or have fiduciary responsibilities. Procurement matters are separate from this group and will be decided by State government representatives on the Council and conducted through established state procurement procedures.

## 5 LEADERSHIP

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The Technical Working Group chair(s) and this Charter will be ratified by the Council. The responsibilities of the Chair shall include:

- ❖ Preparation and distribution of an agenda, including location and time
- ❖ Chair meetings (as defined below) and preside over decisions
- ❖ Provide executive oversight and leadership for working group activities
- ❖ Report recommendations and provide status updates to the Council
- ❖ Ensure that minutes are accurate and publicly available

In the event the chair fails to perform these duties [over a period of 6 months], the working group can recommend a new chair for Council consideration and approval, or the Council can appoint one.

## 6 MEETINGS

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A minimum of four (4) meetings shall be convened each calendar year. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair.

## 7 COMMUNICATION

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Written communications will take place via e-mail. A working group page will be maintained on the <http://agc.dnr.alaska.gov> website by the Department of Natural Resources Geographic Information Officer. Website postings will include:

1. Charter
2. Meeting Minutes
3. Other information as determined by the Council. The working group will review and update website information quarterly, or more frequently as needed.

## 8 DECISION MAKING

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Meetings shall be guided by consensus rule of those attending the meeting. Decisions that do not have a consensus may be tabled until the next meeting.

A call for consensus may be issued via email; if no objections are raised within 10 working days consensus will be considered achieved.

Recommendations to the Technical Advisory Group, and thereby the Council, will reflect the majority vote with any dissenting opinions and reasons noted in the final recommendation.

The Chair is the final arbiter if consensus cannot be reached in an appropriate amount of time.

## 9 AMENDMENTS

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Amendments to this charter can be made at any regular meeting if the amendments are listed in the meeting's agenda and the amendment has consensus.

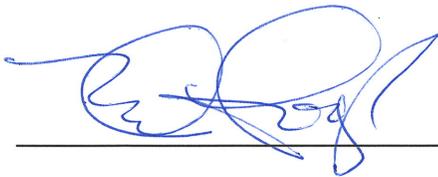
## 10 DISSOLUTION

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The Technical Working Group will continue to function as long as it is required by the Council. The Council may dissolve the group at any time if it is determined to be no longer necessary.

## 11 COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE GEOPORTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP CHARTER

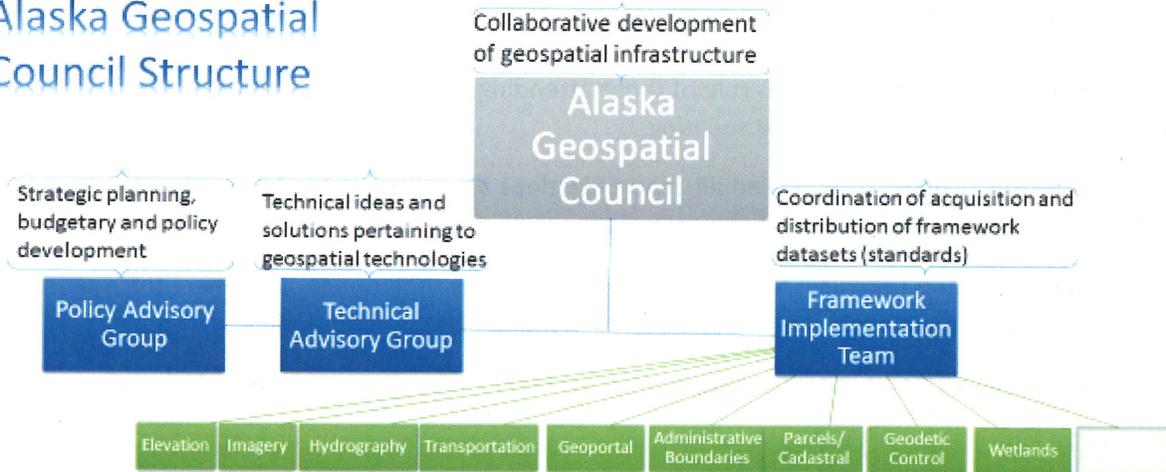
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**ED FOGELS, Chair**  
Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

Date: 12/22/16

# Alaska Geospatial Council Structure



Working Groups: develop strategic plans and implementation plans for data acquisition, maintenance and distribution, set data standards, and define data models. Additional working groups and subgroups can be deployed as needed.

Note that the Policy Advisory Group, Technical Advisory Group and Framework Implementation Team are shown as separate groups, but duties are functionally handled within the Technical Advisory Group until such a time as the Council deems a separation of the groups would better serve its needs (2016).