

Alaska Smart Communities Forum

October 26, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Mat-Su Borough, Assembly Chambers, Palmer
Meeting Notes

Following are meeting notes from this Forum. Slide presentations and links from this Forum are posted on the [Alaska Smart Communities Forum](#) homepage under **10/26/2017 Forum Docs**. For questions and making more connections with participants, please contact Doug Miller, doug.miller@wostmann.com, or Eric Wyatt, eric.wyatt@matsugov.us.

Introductions & Updates (see Intro slides on AKSCF site)

Advisory Group Feedback – Doug Miller

- See slides

Palmer Technology Partnering – Eric Wyatt

- Have drafted technology sharing agreement between Matsu and City of Palmer
- Palmer/MSB working through agreement to share system resources – initially as a trial basis. If it meets needs, discussion on cost share will occur.

Matsu Library Services Agreement – Justin Michaud

- Long-standing agreement between Matsu School District and Matsu Borough
- Also involved with sharing GIS data
- Justin also encouraged organizations to not look for just for large partnerships, but small opportunities as well

State of Alaska Office of Information Technology Path Forward – Jim Steele, deputy CIO, State of Alaska

- See SOA OIT Strategy document on AKSCF site
- Rolled-out new organizational structure based on private structure
 - o Org Charts will be provided to Doug to distribute
 - CTO – Customer Service
 - CTO – Network
 - CTO – Data Center: over 100 across the state – to provide better, more redundant services, more security
 - CTO – P3: Policy/Portfolio/Planning: Identify standards for State for consistency in delivery of tools
 - o Reorganization to this new structure is expected to take 1.5 years throughout the state, rolling-in more than 700 IT employees
- Willing to share contracts that the State has in order to leverage services.

Alaska Labor & Workforce Research & Analytics – Eddie Hunsinger (slides on AKSCF site)

- Desire to share data
 - o Reports: “TRENDS”
 - o Share population data through CSV files
- Website: ***laborstats.alaska.gov***
 - o Population estimates
 - o Historic data – listed on the right
- Emphasized the importance of an accurate 2020 Census for receive federal funding
 - o Welcome any assistance from the AKSCF participants to foster accurate Census Data
 - o Census link on Labor website will be updated as the 2020 Census moves forward
 - o Expecting 100% on the ground Census counting, door to door

Alaska Smart Communities Forum

October 26, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Mat-Su Borough, Assembly Chambers, Palmer
Meeting Notes

- Suggestion made to contact construction companies about new construction
- Places like Matsu are challenges with the lack of land use permitting
- Any concerns can be expressed
 - School Districts – this is handled by the Dept of Education
 - Native Corporations/Regions/Boundaries – shared how these are handled, concern about consistency in language
 - Second/weekend homes are counted as “households”
- Additional Website: National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS)
(<https://www.nhgis.org>)

Regional GIS at Carver County, MN – Chad Riley

- Presentation was via ESRI Storyboard online
- In 2015, created software technical architect role to better use and leverage data across the county
- County is predominantly rural, and 100,000 population
- Have very high support for GIS platform across the county and area cities
- Efficiencies gained by collecting data on everything – signs, guardrails, etc.; and using mobile devices in the field, updating databases in real time and reducing paper documents
- Data is more easily shared with vendors to ensure current, accurate information
- Desire to put intelligence (analysis) to the data so that people are able to use it
- Collaboration with the 7 cities within the county
 - Shared GIS position between county & 4 cities
 - Licensing paid by county, reimbursed by the cities
 - Written contract with each city identify hours needed each week; can provide a copy of the contract for language/allocation
 - Map production, data maintenance, GIS support/training
 - Provides GIS Coordinator role to support county and cities
 - Provides web application development and support needed by cities
 - Manages security for city data use
 - Cities have space on county systems for use by a Shared GIS staffperson
 - Fiber optic ‘ring’ through the country allows cities to connect directly to database & interact with catalog/data as if in their own office
 - Better sharing of data needed by county/cities
 - County data initiatives need city input; allows for better collaboration
 - Question re: sharing with counties
 - Regional/State data aggregation standards
 - Portal for data for parcels, addresses, center lines, stormwater data model;
 - Discussion for shared infrastructure, hosted GIS online for collaboration, but licensing issues.

Alaska Energy Data Gateway – Jen Schmidt, Erin Whitney (slides on AKSCF site)

- Collaboration with various groups on issues with Education, Natural Resource, Subsistence, Commercial Fishing, Invasive Species, Drug/Alcohol

Alaska Smart Communities Forum

October 26, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Mat-Su Borough, Assembly Chambers, Palmer
Meeting Notes

- Data on website is shared through PDFs
- Some Partnerships have been formed via shared office space with other organizations
- Difficult getting data due to sensitivity of information on issues and privacy of individuals

- **AEDG data portal** is going live in a couple weeks; current site is here <https://akenergygateway.alaska.edu/>
- Who are active users? Stakeholders are listed on the website. AEDG hopes that the new website going live will attract more stakeholders and others to share their data when they see what data is listed from other communities.
- Question about the impact from investments in energy to communities? Unsure, check website.
- Easiest way to share data by file type (i.e., JSON). This is something that needs to be discussed for a future iteration to improve the product and data use. Current funding is grant-to-grant, which creates challenges.

What do you want? What do you have?

- Groups were formed to discuss two questions:
 - o Information your citizens, customers could use? (we spent most time on these answers)
 - o Most useful data you have?

- Information we can use; ideas suggested by each of the groups
 - o Parcel and neighborhood information for potential homebuyers: vacant, structure info, variances (i.e., platted ROWs), uses within 600 ft, roads nearby, utilities on/near. Will help give citizens information that they are not even aware they should ask.
 - o Cultural: Getting people to trust the Borough to provide information, into the habit of going to the Borough.
 - Note: What is process internally to figure out what is needed in the Borough?
 - o Private data sources, like Google, to compliment/reinforce address data.
 - o Sharing centralized database of addresses for the state
 - o Leverage utility company address data, but property assessments data more available
 - o Statewide Geospatial Council – missing datasets that has been identified by that group
 - o Better monument data/challenge of accuracy of data
 - o One place for best basemap data/ authoritative data source

- Challenges:
 - o Private companies, utilities are competitors = reluctant/unable to share certain data
 - o Better process for sharing “preliminary” subdivision survey information
 - o Discoverability of current data – have it, but people can’t find it (State DNR)
 - o At DNR, users want to use GIS data, have the software, but don’t have the funds or time for training that is relevant to the users
 - o Question: Who is the authoritative source for land base information (plats, roads, etc.)?
 - The authoritative data source varies: DNR for some (such as leases on state land), DOT&PF for state highways, Boroughs for parcel data, ARR for railroad, etc. That is why data is difficult. Also, records for MSB still in Anchorage due to historical timeline.

Alaska Smart Communities Forum

October 26, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Mat-Su Borough, Assembly Chambers, Palmer
Meeting Notes

- We discussed resources for project assistance:
 - o Student projects through UAA/Geomatics grad students (takes time to set up the project with the school);
 - o Mat-Su high school coding programs, etc.

- Changing data standards to national standards will help with sharing data.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be late January, early February.

This is YOUR group...

... what should be on the next Agenda?

... are the right people in the room/being invited?

... who else needs to be invited?

Eric encouraged feedback on what participants want to see in these meetings and would like attendees to share about their partnerships.

///