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Meeting Summary from SDWG Meeting in Barrow, Alaska, March 11-12, 2016

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Meeting Summary



Meeting Summary
Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
Barrow, Alaska, March 11-12, 2016

Overview:

The second regular meeting of the SDWG under the U.S. Chairmanship occurred at Barrow, Alaska, on March 11-12, 2016. Approximately 56 participants attended this meeting. Please see the attached participants' lists for more detailed information¹.

Decisions of Note:

1. In Barrow delegates formally endorsed two projects:
 - *The Arctic as a Food Producing Region* [Leads: Norway, Canada]
 - *Improving Health in Arctic Communities through Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer: Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)* [Leads: United States, Kingdom of Denmark]
2. SDWG delegates also approved one designated project in Barrow:
 - *Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)* [Lead: United States]The project seeks to identify and map circumpolar sources of renewable energy. An intersessional process will formally endorse this project if another Arctic State decides to co-lead this project.
3. The SDWG welcomed the work by Canada to identify and collate recommendations in a range of SDWG projects completed over the past 8-10 years and charged the SDWG expert groups, *Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG)* and *Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG)*, to prepare a gap analysis to supplement the work being conducted by Canada.
4. SECEG committed to bring a database of Traditional and Local Knowledge holders to the SDWG meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska, in February 2017.
5. The SDWG struck a sub-committee to conduct a strategic process that will examine ways to strengthen the SDWG and develop a strategic plan to guide future work.
6. The SDWG agreed that the SDWG Chair should request that SAOs consider including the theme of "Arctic Communities" in the SAO agenda for their meeting in Portland, Maine.

Anticipated Future Project Proposals:

Notifications were received about intentions to develop and submit formal project proposals for approval at a future SDWG meeting in respect of two matters:

- *Gender Equality in the Arctic* [Iceland]; and
- *Solid Waste Disposal in the Arctic* [Aleut International Association].

¹ Representatives from all Arctic States and Permanent Participants participated in this SDWG meeting. Nine observers participated, including three non-Arctic states (Germany, Netherlands, and South Korea) and six Observer organizations (Association of World Reindeer Herders, Circumpolar Conservation Union, IASC, Northern Forum, University of the Arctic and WWF).

SDWG Chair's Summary

Ongoing Projects and Activities:

In Barrow the SDWG heard progress updates on 8 projects:

- *Economy of the North* (ECONOR III) [Leads: Norway, United States, Canada, Saami Council]
- *Reducing Suicide in Arctic Communities* (RISING SUN) [Leads: United States, Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, ICC]
- *Operationalizing One Health in the Arctic* [Leads: United States, Canada]
- *EALLU – Arctic Indigenous Youth, Climate Change and Food Culture* [Leads: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, Russia, United States, AIA (tbc), Saami Council]
- *Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal* [Leads: Canada, United States, AIA, GCI]
- *Arctic Energy Summit* [Leads: Iceland, USA]
- *Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy* (ARENA) [Leads: Canada, United States, Finland, Iceland, GCI]
- *Improving Health in Arctic Communities through Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer: Water, Sanitation and Health* (WASH) [Leads: United States, Kingdom of Denmark].

Follow-up Activities from the Barrow Meeting:

- The SDWG will communicate with AMAP regarding the progress of the *Arctic Water Resource Vulnerability Index* (AWRVI).
- The SDWG will prepare a non-paper to clarify and discuss procedures for classifying and approving project proposals in the working group.
- The SDWG Chair and Executive Secretary will prepare a working draft of a SDWG Work Plan 2017-2019, based on guidance provided in Barrow, for discussion at the next SDWG regular meeting in September 2016.
- A SDWG Strategic Planning Committee will convene by the end of March 2016 to begin work on development of a strategic plan for the SDWG. A working document will be prepared for discussion at the next SDWG regular meeting in September 2016.

Cross-Cutting Issues:

The SDWG discussed cross-cutting issues and identified SDWG projects that potentially require input from other working groups. This list will be shared with the other working groups and the SAO Chair. In addition, the SDWG approved SECEG's plan to contribute to the PAME project on *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples in Arctic Marine Activities* (MEMA). The SDWG will contribute to PAME's implementation of the *Arctic Marine Strategic Plan*, as appropriate.

The SDWG is continuing consideration of an invitation from CAFF to collaborate on the preparation of a booklet regarding "Life Linked to Traditional Ways of Life" for the CAFF educational series.

Upcoming Meetings:

The SDWG will meet inter-sessionally, as required, prior the next SDWG regular meeting scheduled for 29-30 September 2016 in Unalaska, Alaska. The SDWG Chair will share with

SDWG Chair's Summary

SDWG heads of delegation a draft program of community activities in Unalaska by mid-April 2016.