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**Meeting Summary**  
**R&D Cluster Working Group Meeting 1**  
February 21, 2013

This document is a summary of the first R&D CWG meeting held February 21, 2013, at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Auke Bay Laboratory, Juneau. The R&D Cluster Working Group (CWG) is organized primarily with resources under a contract with the US Forest Service as well as some additional resources provided by the City and Borough of Juneau, executed by the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC). A list of meeting attendees is included.

**Background**

In 2012, JEDC was invited to facilitate two scoping meetings, on 4/16/12 and on 5/22/12, to gauge interest in aligning research interests among federal and state laboratories, the university and private industry in Southeast Alaska. Defining the region as spanning from Ketchikan to Icy Bay, north of Yakutat, the group affirmed the following goals for a establishing a research collaboration framework:

1. Identifying and aligning research interests with priorities that support key industries located in our region (Tourism, Seafood, Timber, Mining, Marine Trades, Energy....) that can be addressed by the research community.
2. Identifying and aligning research interests with local priorities related to the region.
3. Identifying global issues that can be addressed locally by the research community.
4. Creating a coordination mechanism to:
  - a. Identify major research themes as key nodes of integration among research projects.
  - b. Share information amongst researchers working in the region.
  - c. Seek input from research clients (including industry groups) within the region and beyond.

In 2013, JEDC convened a steering committee to continue to move the research collaboration framework forward. The steering committee was composed of Dave D'Amore, Pacific Northwest Research Station, USFS; Shannon Atkinson, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, UAF; Marsha Sousa, School of Arts and Sciences, UAS; Allison Bidlack, Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center; Brian Holst, Zach Wilkinson and Eva Bornstein, JEDC. The steering committee felt that a Cluster Working Group model of collaboration could serve as a platform for developing specific action initiatives to align research interests. The committee met several times to lay the foundation for establishing an R&D Cluster Working Group (CWG). Dave D'Amore and Shannon Atkinson volunteered to serve as co-chairs for the CWG.

**Goals**

The goals of the first R&D CWG meeting were to provide participants with an overview of the CWG process and work to date in establishing an R&D Cluster Working Group; to review two Possible

Action Initiatives (PAI) developed by the steering committee; and to identify 5-10 more PAI for more detailed consideration by small initiative development teams.

### **Process**

Brian Holst, Executive Director of JEDC, welcomed all to the first R&D Cluster Working Group (CWG) meeting. Brian then presented the agenda and goals for the meeting and a brief overview of the concept of economic clusters. Co-chair Dave D'Amore welcomed the group and identified the strengths of research in Southeast as being the spectrum of research conducted, the tremendous community support shown in the investment in new labs, and the newly formed Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center as a coordinating entity. The rest of the meeting focused on identifying areas of opportunity for collaboration, cooperation and expansion of research capability. The discussion resulted in nine areas identified. Volunteers were solicited to further develop the ideas into actionable initiatives. Eight teams formed, and a champion was identified to lead each development team.

### **Possible Action Initiatives**

The following list captures the ideas for possible action initiatives generated by the group. The initiative development champion and team members are listed.

1. **Develop integrated funding proposals around key themes in SE AK**
  - Funding is becoming more complex and tighter. A new collaborative approach among research organizations is required to compete for resources from funding sources. Creating teams around key themes will put the region in a better position for developing proposals and will illuminate skill gaps that need to be addressed. This group is also tasked with looking at opportunities to align themes with national research initiatives, to the degree possible.
  - Champion: David D'Amore ; Team: Allison Bidlack, Debbie Hart, Jim Powell, Jonathan Kamler, Lyman Thorsteinson, Shannon Atkinson
2. **Link research needs of industries and firms with local researchers to bring funding resources to SE AK**
  - There are currently few mechanisms for research/industry collaboration in the region.
  - Champion: Debbie Hart; Team: Brain Vander Naald, Darcie Neff ,Dave D'Amore, Kurt Fredriksson, Shannon Atkinson
3. **Connect research to communities**
  - How can we connect research applications to the needs of local communities?
  - Champion: Jim Powell; Team: Jonathan Kamler, Kirk Hardcastle, Lyman Thorsteinson, Shelly Wright, Tom Ainsworth
4. **Market unique geographic, natural and infrastructure features of our region**
  - What questions can be handled here that cannot be replicated elsewhere, but addresses global issues? How do we communicate the unique features of the region to the global research community in order to draw research dollars here?
  - Champion: Allison Bidlack; Team: Keith Criddle, Kirk Hardcastle, Lyman Thorsteinson
5. **Promote STEM education in our region**
  - How can we better link education to research?
  - Champion: Darcie Neff; Team: Bob Vieth, Dave D'Amore, Marsha Sousa
6. **Become Alaska SCoR (State Committee on Research) area of excellence**
  - Champion: Shannon Atkinson; Team: Allison Bidlack, Kurt Fredriksson

**7. Support existing research**

- Are there opportunities to expand the research that is already going on here? How can we better nurture what we have?
- Champion: Allen Butner; Team: Debbie Hart, Keith Criddle, Marsha Sousa

**8. Identify gaps in research**

- Are there gaps in research in SE?
- Champion: Jim Powell; Team: Allison Bidlack.

**Next Steps for Initiative Development Teams**

Each team of volunteers will meet during the month of March to develop an action plan. A Cluster Working Group meeting will be held in April to review each draft action plan, provide feedback and endorse for readiness to launch.

**R&D Cluster Working Group Meeting #1 List of Attendees:**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Company</b>
Allen	Butner	National Marine Fisheries Service
Allison	Bidlack	Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center
Bob	Deering	
Brian	Vander Naald	University of Alaska Southeast
Darcie	Neff	Alaska Biomap
David	D'Amore	USFS PNW
Deborah	Hart	SE AK Fish Habitat Partnership
Gary	Freitag	
Jim	Powell	UAF/SNAP
Jonathan	Kamler	Juneau Biofuels Research
Keith	Criddle	School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences, UAF
Kirk	Hardcastle	
Kurt	Fredriksson	Juneau Economic Development Council
Larry	Edwards	Greenpeace
Lindsey	Doctorman	University of Alaska Southeast
Lyman	Thorsteinson	USGS Alaska Area
Marsha	Sousa	University of Alaska Southeast
Paul	Hennon	USFS, FSL
Shannon	Atkinson	School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences, UAF
Shelly	Wright	Southeast Conference
Susan	Alexander	USFS
Tom	Ainsworth	NOAA, NWS Forecast Office
Brian	Holst	Juneau Economic Development Council
Eva	Bornstein	Juneau Economic Development Council
Zach	Wilkinson	Juneau Economic Development Council