



Devaris, Aimee <adevaris@usgs.gov>

Re: ASWS Meet & Greet with Steve Wackowski

1 message

Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov> Fri, Jun 30, 2017 at 7:24 AM

To: "Lukas, William" <wlukas@usgs.gov>
Cc: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, Aimee Devaris <adevaris@usgs.gov>, Kevin T Gallagher <kgallagher@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, Shawn Komlos <skomlos@usgs.gov>, Donald Cline <dcline@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, William S Leith <wleith@usgs.gov>

Bill,

Many thanks for the download. That sounds very positive -- clearly Aimee and her folks have been doing a great job building bridges with Steve.

Much obliged, Dave

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On Fri, Jun 30, 2017 at 10:27 AM, Lukas, William <wlukas@usgs.gov> wrote:

Good morning...

I wanted to share with you all about our meeting. Yesterday Water & Science had a meet-and-greet with the Secretary's Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs, Steve Wackowski. It was a pretty informal meeting, however Steve seems to be a big fan of the USGS mission and many of the associated programs under our bureau. He passionately supports activities associated with public safety and protection and has background in those areas with his duty in the US Air Force, employment within the energy industry (where he works with UAS/geospatial) and working in Congress, most notably with former Senator Ted Stevens and current Senator Lisa Murkowski. He has been given consent to work directly with the Alaska delegation by the Department so he could be another important channel for communication with them.

Among the USGS activities he brought up include the CAC. He is a strong supporter for this and literally offered to go to bat to defend it in the budget or help find alternate funding sources. He expressed interest to tour the CAC in Reston when he is next in DC. I believe Amy has been helping to coordinate this and I offered to help as well.

He is very interested in the energy resource assessment being pursued in the North Slope under SO 3352 and finding ways to fund that, and discussed options for public-private partnerships with Scott. Of course our Earthquake Early Warning and Volcano Monitoring programs are also high priorities for him. He also mentioned expanding and enhancing the streamgage network in Alaska.

Finally, he supports the Alaska Mapping Initiative and shared experiences where inaccurate geospatial data resulted in loss of life. He asked for status on AMEC progress for collecting IFSAR and timelines for other map and geospatial products.

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