

ACTION LEARNING SCENARIO #2

Mold Mark Meyers



Champions:

Barbara Wainman and Amy Holley

Team Leader:

Bill Sneed

Coach:

Nancy Driver

Leadership 201
July 17-21, 2006



Mold Mark Meyers

Champions: Barbara Wainman (Chief, Office of Communications) and Amy Holley (Chief of Staff)

Mission: Mold Mark Myers

USGS has a proud legacy of science in service to the Nation and the world. Since its creation, USGS has provided critical science to inform society's decision makers. The mission that has guided USGS, the people and traditions that have shaped the agency and the science and technology that have been our standard-bearer are unique assets which have served the nation well.

The President has recently nominated Mark Myers to become only the 14th Director of the USGS in its 126 year history. As Dr. Myers assumes the lofty position of Director of this premier science agency, what should he know, what must he know about USGS?

- That John Wesley Powell occupied the desk that will now be his?
- That the agency's greatest asset is the 9,000 biologists, geologists, hydrologists, geographers, information scientists and support staff that are USGS?
- That the annual budget is approximately \$1.3 billion of which about \$1 billion is appropriated and the remainder is reimbursed by about 2,000 Federal, State and Local customer agencies?
- That as Director he is now the proprietor of some unique resources including: a Global Seismic Network of approximately 1700 seismic stations; the National Earthquake Information Center which provides 24/7 earthquake monitoring and information; more than 7000 streamgages, some of which are more than 100 years old; two remote sensing satellites that contribute to the 30 years of continuous coverage of the earth's surface; state of the art labs including the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, and the Water Quality Lab in Lakewood, Colorado; and world class information and data sets, many in real time, for biological, hydrological, geological and geographic resources?
- That streamgage is not spelled with a "U"?

In the coming weeks and months the new Director will be bombarded with these and many other important USGS facts about our employees, our science, our culture, and our mission to name a few. He will be plied with briefing books and fact sheets, loaded up with logo wear and coffee mugs. He will be immersed in all things USGS as he becomes one of us. But what do we most want him to remember and know about his new home? His new family? Where do we suggest he lead us? If you had five minutes with the new Director, to influence his answer to these critical questions, what would you tell him and how would you persuade him?

It is human nature to complain about what is being done to you, but not so easy to describe your vision of where we should go, what science we should pursue and how to position our agency to succeed in the future. Use this as an opportunity to shape your future. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team I anticipate that I will have an opportunity to meet face to face with

the Director. Through this exercise, you can influence what I and other members of the ELT share with him as being of importance to you and your colleagues.

You have a number of resources at your disposal, the most valuable of which are your own unique USGS experiences. But to get started you might want to consult the 125th anniversary publication “Celebrating 125 Years of the U.S. Geological Survey” (Circular 1274) which can be found on-line through the Publications Warehouse <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2004/1274/> and a few copies are provided. The press release announcing Mark Myers nomination also provides some background on our new Director http://www.doi.gov/news/06_News_Releases/060503 (Attachment 1).

Use the creativity tools you will learn in class to think outside the box and outside your specific USGS discipline. Your mission should you choose to accept it is to shape the future of USGS, one director at a time. Good luck and we look forward to working with you!



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