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Visit us at:

www.uspermafrost.org

February 18, 2005

Dear Colleagues,

This letter has been prepared to inform you of the state of the US Permafrost Association as of the end of 2004 and to thank you for helping to build a viable organization.

As a reminder, the purpose of the USPA is to encourage scientific and engineering investigations in permafrost related topics and to disseminate results related to permafrost research. The position of the USPA will be to encourage sharing of knowledge and data in permafrost science. The USPA specifically promotes awareness of permafrost among the public and training of new generations of scientists and engineers to work in fields related to permafrost science and engineering. The USPA cooperates in sponsoring an International Conferences on Permafrost and co-sponsoring other types of meetings.

We are a broad group, generally divided (united) as scientists and engineers, but a quick perusal of our members reveals civil, structural, and mechanical engineers, geophysicists, climatologists, botanists, biologists, soil scientists, glaciologists, hydrologists, a very large number of State and Federal agency types, and even a few pure permafrost scientists. We have field researchers, modelers, regulators, planners, and designers. We are a broad group, with a common interest.

We have had active growth since our inception in December 2001. Our membership is approaching 200, have more than a dozen corporate sponsors as well as about 10 institutional members and about 10 agency representatives.

We are now a well-established organization with many active members, agency recognition, a well-used and informative web page. We are a resource for people looking for more information. The USPA is becoming a focal point for securing information, but also for distributing pertinent announcements.

Some benefits of establishing USPA are greater networking among colleagues with similar interests. We also now have an organized group with the ability to lobby for more funding and attention for permafrost related activities. Membership in the USPA also enables subscription to Permafrost and Periglacial Processes of only \$95/year.

2004 Accomplishments of the USPA

At the Fall AGU in 2004, we had two sessions and numerous posters.

We have been working diligently on the planning for the 2008 International Conference on Permafrost. National and local planning and organizing committees are being formed. A first edition of the Conference Planning Document has been prepared. This work is ongoing and we solicit help from all of those interested in assisting on the planning and implementation of the 9th ICOP in Fairbanks.

US Permafrost Association
PO Box 750141
Fairbanks, AK 99775-0141

During our December annual meeting in San Francisco, we made some minor changes to our by-laws. The most significant was to allow membership in the USPA for people from any country, but restrict board members to those with US citizenship or permanent residency. The reason for this restriction is that the USPA is the U.S.A. representative entity to the International Permafrost Association and as such, we cannot represent other nations. The reason for this restriction is that the USPA is the U.S.A. representative entity to the International Permafrost Association and as such, we cannot represent other nations.

It has been a pleasure to work with our Board of Directors. We all owe a special thanks to Larry Hinzman (Past-President) for his continuing to be the key focus person for the organization and for always pushing things to completion. Thanks also to Vladimir Romanovsky (President-Elect), Michael Lilly (Treasurer), Lynn Everett (Secretary), Alexandre Tsapin (Board Member at Large) and Frederick 'Fritz' Nelson (Board Member at Large). They have been involved and active throughout the year. We have a strong Board of Directors again for the next year with a good President (Vladimir Romanovsky) and President-elect (Fritz Nelson) so I feel pleased and comfortable in handing over the imaginary gavel to Valodya and Fritz.

On December 13, 2004, at the Annual Business Meeting during AGU, Michael R. Lilly presented the Treasurer's Report.

Current Bank Balance (12/13/04)	\$4382.14	
Upcoming Bills:		
San Francisco Marriot, 2004 Mtg.	\$813.75	
IPA 2005 Annual Dues	\$2000.00	
AGI Membership Fee	\$300.00	
Committed Contributions		
Campbell Scientific	\$1500.00	(for Frozen Ground mailing)
Meeting Cost Contributions		
GW Scientific	\$250	
Golder Associates Inc.	\$250	
Arctic Foundations Inc.	\$250	
Peratrovich, Nottingham, Drage	\$250	
Other Institutional Support		
International Arctic Research Center	\$1500	

Our major expenses each year are the annual dues to the International Permafrost Association (\$2000) and mailing of the annual Frozen Ground news bulletin (about \$1000).

So, with this summary, I thank you for your support and wish you all a terrific 2005.

Respectfully,



Rupert G. Tart, Jr.
Past President USPA