

USSD COMMITTEE ON DAM SAFETY CHARTER

Approved by the Board of Directors on 7/22/15

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The broad mission of USSD's Committee on Dam Safety (CODS) is to provide the dam safety community collaborated guidance on dams on dam safety and public safety. Included in this broad mission is to facilitate outreach to the public on the importance of dam safety and public safety. The technical expertise maintained within CODS to achieve this mission is in the areas of dam safety engineering, risk assessment, and public safety planning and awareness. The diverse background of CODS members and their participation in local, regional, and national dam safety workgroups/programs insures the strength of CODS to provide only dam safety industry vetted guidance which is relevant and far reaching.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CODS has tasked itself with promoting the improvement of dam and levee safety, and public safety in the United States by establishing and accomplishing programs which develop, gather and disseminate information, and coordinate activities with other organizations. The CODS assists USSD in developing programs and tools which gather and disseminate dam safety and security and public safety information and coordinating training for USSD members and dam safety and security professionals. Furthermore, the CODS provides USSD guidance on the country's national dam safety, public safety, and dam security programs to assist in forming International guidance and information sharing through the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD). The CODS keeps the general USSD membership informed of its progress through timely publication of reports and white papers, announcements in the Newsletter, input to the committees section of the USSD website, and in the organization and execution of periodic workshops. The Committee shall also collaborate and/or assist with other committees in developing and promoting education and training activities under the four imperatives of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, Advocate, Educate, Collaborate, and Cultivate.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The CODSS has three active Subcommittees, Subcommittee on Risk (CODS SOR), Subcommittee on Best Practices (CODS SOBP), and Subcommittee on Incidents (CODS SOI). The CODS Subcommittees will assist CODS in supporting the goals and objectives of USSD. Further, the subcommittees assist in supporting the goals and objectives of ICOLD's committees on Dam Safety and Public Safety on Dams. USSD CODS keeps the general membership informed on related issues on dams through timely publication of reports and white papers, announcements in the Newsletter, and in the organization and execution of periodic workshops.

The subcommittees will collaborate and cooperate with Federal, State and International associations and Agencies who are supporting and improving dam safety in the world. The

subcommittees shall also collaborate and assist all USSD committees in developing and promoting education and training activities under the four imperatives of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, Advocate, Educate, Collaborate, and Cultivate.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RISK (CODS-SOR)

CODS-SOR is a technical workgroup designed to identify and provide state-of-the-practice knowledge on assessing dam safety risks. The Subcommittee's audience is the USSD members' dam safety community with a focus on today's managers who are forced to maintain aging dams with a shrinking budget.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BEST PRACTICES (CODS-SBP)

CODS-SOBP is a technical workgroup designed to identify and provide the most up to date on best practices in dam safety engineering. CODSS-SBP's mission is to provide best practice resources to USSD members, the US dam safety community, International agencies and dam owners.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INCIDENTS (CODS-SOI)

CODSS-SOI is a technical workgroup designed to identify and provide state-of-the-practice knowledge on the understanding and cause and consequences of dam safety incidents and failures. The current state of the practice in dam safety engineering in the US is that lessons learned from dam safety incidents and failures will improve the safety of existing dams. CODSS-SOI's mission is to provide resources such as Incident Investigation Reports and dam failure root cause analyses to USSD members, the US dam safety community, International agencies and dam owners.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Presently CODS and its subcommittees do not have any specific tasks assigned by the USSD Board of Directors. However, CODS strives to maintain current with national dam/levee safety, public safety and best practices in order to provide guidance on any issue that arises.

CHAIR, AND VICE CHAIRS AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair: Brain Becker

Vice Chair: Dan Mahoney

Vice Chair (Young Professional): Justin Smith

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals are provided to help focus the CODSS and its subcommittee's efforts. In addition to increasing active participation on technical and policy issues for dams and levees within the CODSS, the CODSS will also assist USSD in meeting its Strategic Plan of 2014-2018.

1. Develop concise summary white papers on state-of-practice technical issues (e.g. risk assessment) that will provide USSD members the ability to understand issues outside their expertise.
2. Develop 1-page fact sheets on specific dam/levee safety and security issues to promote and educate the public and decision makers.
3. Make all CORDS created documents available in the public section of the USSD website. Utilize the diverse membership of the CODSS by distributing the website location to gain recognition. This information should spark increased interest in USSD and its other Committees and their products.
4. Leverage CORDS leadership and their extensive professional network to engage new federal, state, or local agencies in CODSS activities and/or work products.
5. Establish and maintain a spreadsheet of CORDS members including employer, job location, contact information, civil engineering specialty, and notable roles (i.e. Director of Dam Safety, design engineer for a large dam, etc...). This list should be made available to the USSD BOD within 2 months of the Annual Meeting so that if a public outreach or mentoring opportunity arises, a candidate can be matched.

Advocate:

1. Provide technical information to support Advocacy Goals.
2. Communicate with committee members relevant outreach information/activities.

Educate:

1. Publish technical papers and presentation.
2. Develop and implement conferences and workshops.

3. Provide on-line resources.

Collaborate:

1. Collaboration within USSD.
2. Strategically collaborate with targeted US organizations.
3. Strategically collaborate with targeted international organizations.

Cultivate:

1. Improve committee operations.

USSD COMMITTEE ON DAM SAFETY			
Chair	Brian Becker		
Meetings/Conference calls			
Goals and Objectives			
Imperative	Goal and Objective	Action	Measurement
Advocate			
Educate	Develop concise summary white papers on state-of-the-practice technical issues (e.g. risk assessment) that will provide USSD members the ability to understand issues outside their expertise.	Publish these to the "members" section of the USSD webpage.	Ask Webmaster to add a counter to the document to determine how many times it had been viewed/downloaded. At this point, any views of the document would make this metric successful.

	Develop 1-page fact sheets on specific dam/levee safety and security issues to promote and educate the public and decision makers.	Publish in appropriate "members" or "non-members" section of the USSD webpage.	Ask Webmaster to add a counter to the document to determine how many times it had been viewed/downloaded. At this point, any views of the document would make this metric successful.
Collaborate	Leverage CODSS leadership and their extensive professional network to engage new federal, state, or local agencies in CODSS activities and/or work products	Task at least 5 senior CODSS members with talking with at least 4 people in the dam community between annual USSD conferences.	Report at the annual CODSS face-to-face meeting who the people were and their organization. Include whether if the person knew USSD existed and if they showed interest in becoming a member or attending the annual conference. If at least 20 people are approached, the metric is successful if 1 person joins USSD or attends the conference.
Cultivate	Establish and maintain a spreadsheet of CODSS members including employer, job location, contact information, civil engineering specialty, and notable roles (i.e. Director of Dam Safety, design engineer for a large dam, etc...).	This list should be made available to the USSD Board of Directors 2 months prior to the Annual Conference.	At the annual CODSS face-to-face meeting, determine if a public outreach/mentoring opportunity/USSD YP event benefited from this list. If not, the metric is unsuccessful and should be discontinued.
	Increase committee membership to include involvement of young professionals	Develop a small "want ad" for the USSD newsletter and seek the Board of Directors' approval.	At the annual CODSS face-to-face meeting, ask who was attracted by the "want ad". If no one, then the metric wasn't successful, it should be discontinued, and another avenue devised.

		<p>During Committee status reports at the USSD Annual Meeting, make an appeal towards joining the CODSS. Tout the fact that current and former Directors of National Dam Safety Programs are members and there's no better networking opportunity!</p>	<p>If this is actually done (it would interject some humorous rivalry between Committees and add some "life" to the annual reporting) then the metric is considered successful.</p>
		<p>Any new document will be developed by the team of a younger and more seasoned member before being released for comment to the larger group.</p>	<p>If the white paper/fact sheet/etc. was provided to the USSD Board within 1 year of the idea, then the metric was successful.</p>
		<p>At the end of each CODS meeting held during the USSD Annual Conference, the last 10 minutes will be reserved for younger members to be personally introduced to a more recognized member (e.g. dam safety celebrities). To be successful, the "celebrities" must have at least 5 prepared questions to ask the younger engineers.</p>	<p>Tally how many "pairs" where connected at the conclusion of the meeting. If time is taken to do this and at least 2 pairs are made, then the metric is considered successful.</p>
		<p>During the USSD Annual Conference, CODS members should approach at least 2 younger members (with the YP banner) at the breaks, provide them a business card, and inquire as to what they are finding most beneficial and see where their interests are.</p>	<p>Members should email the CODS chair within 1 week of the annual conference reporting on who was able to do this and what the feedback was. If at least 5 young professionals were approached then the metric is considered successful.</p>

	<p>Make all CODSS created documents available in the appropriate sections of the USSD website. Utilize the diverse membership of the CODSS by distributing the website location to gain recognition. This information should spark increased interest in USSD and its other Committees and their products.</p>	<p>Distribute a 1-page advertisement in the USSD Annual Meeting literature as to what issues the CODSS is working on/will be discussed (bullet form) and what work products are available to members and non-members on the website.</p>	<p>Use same measure as the "Educate" imperative. However, it will be difficult to determine the successful of this metric on it's on (and vice-versa).</p>
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In order to promote membership in CODS, the following activities are being undertaken:

1. Distribute a 1-page advertisement in the USSD Annual Meeting literature as to what issues the CODSS works on and list the CODS work product website to find out more.
2. Develop a small "want ad" for the USSD newsletter and seek the Board of Directors' approval.
3. During Committee status reports at the USSD Annual Meeting, make an appeal towards joining the CODS. Tout the fact that current and former Directors of National Dam Safety Programs are members and there's no better networking opportunity!

In order to foster development of younger members, CODS is implementing the following:

1. Any new document will be developed by the team of a younger and more seasoned member before being released for comment to the larger group.
2. At the end of each CODS meeting held during the USSD Annual Meeting, the last 10 minutes will be reserved for younger members to be introduced to a few of the more recognized members (e.g. dam safety celebrities).

3. During the USSD Annual Conference, CODS members should stop and ask younger members what they are finding most beneficial and see where their interests are.

MEMBERSHIP

Brian Becker, Chair
Daniel J. Mahoney,
Vice Chair
Scott Airato
Donald E. Bowes
David S. Bowles
Douglas D. Boyer
William Brown
Jack G. Byers
Kathleen Clarkson
Brett Cochran
Justin Darling
Walter L. Davis
James L. Doane
Dean B. Durkee
R. Craig Findlay
William F. Foos
Brian Greene
Gregory G. Hammer
Al Hancock
Gregory J. Hanson
Douglas L. Johnson
Richard Lech Kulesza
Dwayne E. Lillard
David W. Lord
John C. Lyon, Jr.
Martin W. McCann, Jr.
Dave Moore
Bruce C. Muller, Jr.
Justin Nettle
Patrick J. Regan
Barbara Schuelke
Constantine G. Tjoumas