

USSD COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

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

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The Committee on the Environment and Sustainability fosters discussion and advocates for continuous improvement in the planning, design and construction of dams and levees to enhance their performance as environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable water resource and hydropower systems.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Environment and Sustainability Committee charter was renewed by the Board of Directors (BOD) of USSD in 2015. The Environment and Sustainability Committee is charged with enhancing recognition that power generation at dams and reservoirs is renewable energy that contributes to a reduction in carbon emissions and climate change issues, and to provide a forum for exchange of information within USSD membership and to persons interested in dams as sustainable water resource systems. The Committee assists in furthering the mission of USSD to champion the role of dam and levee systems in society, be the premier source for technical information about dam and levee systems, build networks and relationships to strengthen the community of practice, and nurture the growth of the community of practice. Further, the committee supports interaction with ICOLD on environmental issues of dam engineering. These are to enhance awareness of the great importance of the environmental and social aspects of dams and reservoirs; to cooperate conscientiously with nature's inherent fragility as well as its dynamism without ever overtaxing its powers of regeneration; and, to be guided by the concept of sustainable development. The Committee keeps the general membership informed of significant environmental and sustainability issues 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

In 2010 the committee organized a Workshop on Impoundments and Tailings Dams with the assistance of the Tailings Dam Committee. The workshop served to highlight the importance of applying dam safety concepts to these structures, the need to better understand the properties of the materials contained in these structures, and identify specific end of service issues.

RESPONSIBILITIES

As of this writing, the BOD has not established any specific responsibilities of the committee. The committee chair is working with the USSD President to identify specific responsibilities.

CHAIR, AND VICE CHAIRS AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair: Denise Bunte-Bisnett
Santee Cooper
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Moncks Corner, SC 29464
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Vice Chair: Jim Daly

Vice Chair (Young Professional): Open

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Advocate:

1. Champion the role for dam and levee systems in society to manage water sustainability.
2. Communicate with other committees on relevant outreach information/activities.

Educate:

1. Cultivate technical presentations and speakers for the annual meetings.
2. Publish a relevant article in the newsletter annually.
3. Develop and implement a workshop a minimum of quinquennial or more often depending on pressing issues related to the environment and sustainability.
4. Provide links to on-line resources.

Collaborate:

1. Build networks and relationships to strengthen the community of practice and open dialogue with other organizations seeking to manage water resource systems sustainably.

Cultivate:

1. Nurture interest in issues related to the environment and sustainability and expand committee membership.

MEMBERSHIP

The current membership of the USSD Technical Committee on Environment is provided below.

Daniel Barton
Harry Blohm
Blaine Dwyer
Jessica Raithel
Ken Steele

The committee, with guidance by Blaine Dwyer, is planning a one or two day specialty workshop for 2015 on “*Avoiding the Pitfalls – Strategies in Permitting Water Storage and Dam Modification Projects*”. The purposes of the workshop are to share useful information on permitting dam projects, strengthen and expand the effect of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, and draw in more representation of dam owners, water supply agencies, management and regulatory agencies, and NGO’s to USSD.