

July 9, 2016

Pursuant to § II.4, Article IV, Committees, of the USSD Operating Manual dated April 2009, and pursuant to the USSD strategic plan, Advocacy Initiative, we seek the approval of the USSD Board of Directors to create and operate a standing committee of the Society for the purposes of conducting an advocacy initiative.

Proposed Charter of the USSD Advocacy Committee:

The USSD Advocacy Committee serves as the clearinghouse of and for establishing the position and messaging for USSD for any initiative that:

1. *Supports national , state and local programs related to dams, levees, and water resources*
2. *Supports legislation and funding of local, state and federal programs*
3. *Educates (in collaboration with USSD Education Imperative)– Proactively addressing the full set of dam/levee issues and needs*
 - a. *Colleges*
 - b. *Communities*
 - c. *Responses to significant events such as floods, earthquakes and dam incidents/failures*
4. *Develops Common Messaging for members and collaborative associations and trade organizations (in association with the USSD Collaboration Imperative): Why we care about safety, sustainability, responsible resource development, and being a part of the solution.*
 - a. *Identify focus areas*
 - b. *Develop talking points and provide access to committee materials for all members to have access to.*
5. *Socializing advocacy within and outside USSD including articles in the USSD newsletter, workshops and keynote presentations at annual conferences*
6. *Developing and evaluating measurements of success for the USSD’s Advocacy program*

The committee is empowered to receive requests for positions on issues within the scope of responsibilities of the society, to vet those requests and make determinations on the position[s] USSD should take on those issues. The committee is empowered to use whatever technology is necessary and appropriate in the furtherance of this mission, within the approved budget, and with the objective of engaging the membership of USSD in grassroots activities, education efforts and communications in support of its decisions. The committee is empowered to enter into agreements with other organizations to form coalitions, working groups and other such collaborative entities in the furtherance of this charter.

Operations

By necessity, many of the issues brought to the Advocacy Committee will have very short time/response constraints. This will require the committee members to be able to quickly read materials presented to the committee and arrive at a decision on behalf of USSD. Where time allows, the committee may make recommendations to the Board for its decision, though this is not necessary for all instances given what will be the pressure of time. A more detailed description of the purposes and background of the creation and operations of this committee are found in the memorandum from Gene Guilford to Keith Ferguson dated July 6, 2016.

Composition

The Advocacy Committee shall begin with its present initiative with the Board designated Champion, Keith Ferguson, as chair, and the USSD Executive Director as vice chair. The four members of the Executive team shall have standing positions on the committee for the purpose of ensuring the Board's senior leadership is represented in committee decision-making. The committee may add up to four additional ad-hoc members as may be dedicated to the purposes of the committee and have the time to dedicate to its success. The committee shall establish a system for rotating membership of up to three two year teams. Membership on the committee shall be subject to the approval of the USSD Board of Directors.