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USSD NEWS

USSD Letter to Michigan Governor

After the unfortunate dam failures on May 19th in Michigan, USSD sent a letter to Governor Gretchen Whitmer expressing our condolences for the catastrophic loss of property and natural resources, and to offer any technical expertise through our membership.

[Learn More...](#)

Strategic Plan Roll-Out

Several Zoom calls were held the last two weeks in May to unveil USSD's new Strategic Plan. Approximately 100 members participated in one of five calls where USSD President Denise Bunte-Bisnett walked through the thought process behind the new plan and asked for input to identify the strategies that would help fulfill the objectives identified.

Over the next 30-60 days, the Board of Directors will review the comments from the calls with other feedback and finalize the plan strategies.

USSD's Creates New Mission and Vision Statements

As part of the strategic plan process, the Board of Directors revised USSD's Mission and Vision Statements. It is important to note that neither the new mission or vision changed the who and what that is USSD. The previous statements were long and wordy; the new short and succinct, and most important--rememberable

Mission Statement: Empower professionals to advance sustainable benefits of dams and levees for society.

Vision Statement: A world where all dams and levees are safe and valued by the communities they serve.

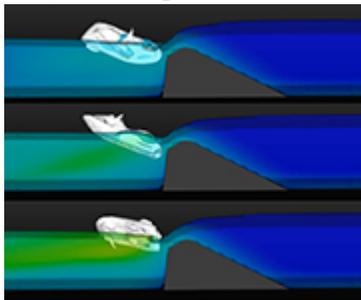
ICOLD UPDATES

The 27th Congress and 89th Annual Meeting of ICOLD

The initial Bulletin for the ICOLD 27th Congress and the 89th Annual Meeting was released. The annual meeting will be held in Marseille, France, June 4-June 11, 2021.

[Learn More...](#)

Improving Dam Safety with CFD Modeling



CFD Modeling provides the ability to analyze and simulate hydrodynamics at a high level of detail and accuracy for a variety of applications, including to design solutions to remediate hydraulic hazards at dams. Click the link below to learn how Gannett Fleming uses CFD modeling to help identify, minimize, or eliminate the risks associated with hydraulic hazards at low head dams.

[The Angels are in the Details](#)

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Did You Know?

As a USSD member, an exclusive benefit is a complimentary membership in ICOLD. You will need to register on the ICOLD website with the U.S. National Committee code in order to gain access to the myriad of dam related technical resources. Membership also provides a discounted registration fee to ICOLD conferences.

Need the code? Contact Tonia Bengtson at tonia@ussdams.org

[Learn More...](#)

2020 ICOLD Annual Meeting Submission Deadline Extended

The 88th ICOLD Annual Meeting & Symposium 2020 in New Delhi abstract submission deadline has been extended until August 31.

[Learn More...](#)



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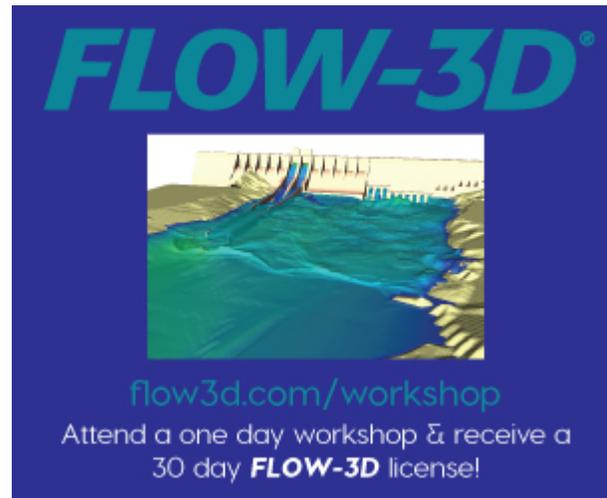
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MEMBERSHIP

Schnabel Engineering announced the hiring of Brian Irsch as a Dams and Levee Engineering Business Unit Associate. Irsch has 22 years of experience in geotechnical investigations and construction management on civil engineering and environmental projects. Irsch will be based in Schnabel's Greensboro, NC office.

WEST announced that Dr. Jeffrey B. Bradley, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, F.ASCE is the recipient of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE) 2020 Service to the Academy Award, for his significant leadership and vital contributions in furthering the mission and goals of the Academy.

WEST welcomed George Sabol, Ph.D., P.E. to their Tempe, Arizona office. Dr. Sabol brings more than 40 years of experience in hydrology, hydraulics, and structure design in the Rocky Mountain West and internationally and is a recognized technical leader in flood hydrology.



EDUCATION

USSD Announces New Online Education and Training Program

USSD recently launched its new online program on June 2 with the *Professional Ethics Webinar* presented by Ron Lemons and Gina Smith of Freese and Nichols.

Beginning on August 19, we will launch the **Leadership Webinar Series** that focus on nontechnical skills needed by dam and levee professionals to perform at optimal levels and provide added value to employers.

This Fall will unveil a series of technical webinars presented by USSD members. These webinars are being produced from technical content originally set for the 2020 Conference, as well as those in the Fall Workshop series. The Fall schedule line-up should be finalized within the next 45-days and be scheduled for October-November.

Have eyes in the water without having to get in.



Imagine if you could inspect dam infrastructure without getting wet, save thousands, and avoid time wasted on safety and approvals. Let CamDo's underwater wifi camera be your underwater eyes with crystal-clear quality and reliable live streaming at your fingertips.

[Learn more:](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Leadership Webinar Series Begins August 19



Last year, USSD sent out a survey to ascertain the interest in nontechnical education and training, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Communication skills were ranked at the top.

We are excited to present this new Leadership Webinar series that will develop and improve on one of the most important skill sets in both our professional and personal lives--communication. In a series of 3-modules with 3-webinars each, that can be taken singularly or as a building skill block; Laura Camacho PhD of Mixonian Institute

will teach attendees the key strategies for effective communication.

Ms. Camacho is a corporate strategist, trainer, and culture fixer located in South Carolina. Her many clients include Charleston Water Systems and the Society of Women Engineers.

[Learn More...](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

19

Aug 2020

Communication Fundamentals for Engineers #1
Communicate with Anyone!

People have four basic orientations in their communication style: action, relationship, process or idea. Learn your particular communication style. We cover the communication process, top biases and blocks to communication and how to adapt your message to different audiences.

[Learn More...](#)

20

Aug 2020

Communication Fundamentals for Engineers - #2 Be Heard

Learn the career-changing fundamentals of selling yourself and your ideas. It's not what most people think. It's not puffery or grandstanding, but rather building trust and listening to others first. Learn what is involved in being considered indispensable and exactly how to craft a compelling statement.

[Learn More...](#)

21

Aug 2020

Communication Fundamentals for Engineers - #3 Winning Presentations

Learn how to build an audience-centric message that the speaker personally relates to. The secret sauce to engaging presentations is connecting the dots between the topic, the speaker and the audience. We go through a template to help them craft a winning presentation that centers around a compelling point of view.

[Learn More...](#)

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Aug 2020

Advanced Communication for Engineers - #1 Executive Presence for Online Meetings

In the new normal of virtual meetings, your leadership presence does not automatically transfer to online meetings. Learn important techniques for this new way of collaborating; how to hold difficult conversations, and the importance of building your tribe.

[Learn More...](#)

27

Aug 2020

Advanced Communication for Engineers - #2 Prepare for Difficult Conversations

Winging a high-stakes conversation is actually dangerous. Preparing for a challenging conversation is the most important aspect of that conversation. Preparing the right way makes the whole conversation less stressful for everyone involved and increases the likelihood of favorable outcomes.

[Learn More...](#)

28

Aug 2020

Advanced Communication for Engineers - #3 Build Your Tribe

Your tribe is made up of the people who support you throughout your entire career. This content is specific to distributed/remote professionals. Make sure you have a diversified tribe of lamp bearers, possibilarians, cheerleaders, challengers and connectors. How to make memorable connections, especially for introverts and ambiverts.

[Learn More...](#)**9**

Sep 2020

Specialty Communication for Engineers - #1 Crisis Communication

It all happens so fast. Your communication can change your company's fate with any unanticipated event that possibly disrupts daily operations. There is so much potential harm to the brand's reputation. Common crises include security breaches, product defects, negative press, or even a lawsuit. Learn how to prepare your communication response to any crisis.

[Learn More...](#)**10**

Sep 2020

Specialty Communication for Engineers - #2 Culture-building Conversations

What internal conversations say about your company's culture. Dr. Camacho defines a healthy culture as one where everyone feels heard, understood, and valued. She shares 7 communication tools and 3 communication hats to help leaders improve communication in their spheres of influence.

[Learn More...](#)**11**

Sep 2020

Specialty Communication for Engineers - #3 The Business Skill of Likability

Learn what makes people likable grow your business through elevated touch points. The skill of likability requires a level of self-confidence that allows you to focus on the other person. Research links likability to higher salaries and more frequent promotions. Become a more persuasive communicator through the skill of likability and learn how to coach your team to follow suit.

[Learn More...](#)**1**

Oct 2020

USSD Fall Workshop Series

The Fall Workshop Series originally scheduled for Oct. 13-15 in Denver will be converted to a webinar series beginning in October. Watch your inbox for the new

schedule and details or log into ussdams.org

[Learn More...](#)

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Nov 2020

88th Annual ICOLD Conference & Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins

RESCHEDULED Nov. 28 - Dec. 3, 2020 in New Dehli, India.

[Learn More...](#)

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Apr 2021

40th Annual USSD Conference and Exhibition in Charleston, SC

After the unfortunate cancellation of the 2020 conference in Denver due to COVID-19, we look forward to seeing everyone in Charleston, SC- April 12-16, 2021.



United States Society on Dams

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