



2021 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Committee on Dam Decommissioning

Chair/Vice-Chair/Young Professional: Jennifer Bountry and Kevin Schneider and Vacant

Date: May 5, 2021

Goal – To provide a forum to discuss, develop, and share technical information about the decommissioning of dams. This technical information is used to provide dam owners, dam engineers and public safety officials, and other professionals with the information necessary to help guide decision-making when considering dam removal as a project alternative.

Jennifer Bountry is the committee chair and Kevin Schneider is the vice chair. The YP chair is vacant. The committee had a virtual meeting for the 2020 conference on April 21. The committee held another conference call on December 9, 2020. The committee had another meeting May 3, 2021 as part of the 2021 annual meeting. Committee activities over the past year include:

- Completed a position statement on how to approach engineering challenges for dam removal through application of the committee’s Dam Removal Guidelines published through USSD. Received board comments February 2020 and received approval and is now published in April 2020 (<https://www.usdams.org/about/position-statements/>).
- Completed a newsletter for USSD on recent news in dam removal. Newsletter article was originally planned in 2019 and published in spring 2020. Article title is “What’s New in Dam Decommissioning” (<https://www.usdams.org/resource-center/publications/ussd-newsletter/>).
- Completed and published a committee corner article in spring 2020 USSD newsletter.
- Discussing the potential for a dam removal workshop with non-profits but this activity is currently postponed during the pandemic. It would be ideal to have a workshop where we could include a field visit to an active or recently completed dam removal project site as part of the workshop.
- Actively working on cost estimating guidelines for dam decommissioning projects with a partnership with USGS and ACOE and industry experts. The committee has provided technical guidance on important cost drivers, constraints and caveats to include related to uncertainties and necessary local site conditions, and case studies to help develop the guidance. Work is expected to continue in 2021 with a final publication in 2022.
- We will be asking for USSD Board approval for a new chair and vice-chair as our 3-year term has completed and we feel it is important to get new ideas and leadership in the committee.
- The committee is working on updating the 3-year goals in the charter.

There was only one dam removal paper for the USSD 2021 conference and we discussed ideas to recruit more presenters in 2022. The committee is actively working to increase membership, both younger members and experienced members.