

BOARD REPORT

Committee Name: Public Safety , Security, and Emergency Management

Submitted by: William F. Foos, Chair

Report Date: 30 April 2021

Committee Mission/Purpose

The mission of the Committee on Public Safety, Security, and Emergency Management for Dams (COPSSEM) is to support the Mission and Strategic Plan of United States Society on Dams (USSD) through the development, maintenance, and communication of programs and tools which gather and disseminate public safety, security and emergency management for dams.

This committee exists to foster cooperative arrangements and partnerships with other organizations to include Dam Owners/Operators/Security Specialists/Public Safety Specialists/Emergency Preparedness Specialists for the purpose of enhancing public safety, security, and emergency management of dams within the United States. Our efforts will be demonstrated through educational and collaborative endeavors with recognition through the establishment and sponsoring of an awards program.

2020 Goals/Accomplishments

Advocate

- Members of our committee have been providing technical support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Safety for Dams National Strategy effort that is focused on developing a "National Dam Warning Sign Guidance" bulletin. This effort is ongoing with the goal of a published document in 2022.
- Relevant outreach programs that have obtained committee support include sponsoring and supporting member Dr. Rollin Hotchkiss' "Joint Task Committee on Low-head dams". His program also sponsored by Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO), has enrolled engineering students from various Universities to search for and map all the low head dams for each state using Google Earth. Members of our committee have volunteered their time in this important public safety effort to help identify and map all the low head dams for State Dam Safety program awareness.
- Members of our committee developed an app for mobile phones to aid in the identification of low head dams. The web-based app is being piloted and can be accessed by using this QR code.
- The collected data is mapped as shown, with location icons consolidated when looking at the entire country and individual locations visible with a closer look. Ultimately, the goal is to fill the entire map with all low head dam locations in the country to serve as a living tool for government entities, outdoor organizations, engineers and the general public



Educate

- Publish technical papers and presentations – committee members continue to be involved and contributing to the themes, workshops, and sessions that support our annual

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conferences. This year's conference will see three sponsored sessions with over 10 papers being presented on Public Safety, Security, and Emergency Management topics.

- Collaboration with Department of Homeland Security-Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency representatives Dr. Enrique Matheu, Michelle Yeziarski, and USSD members Dean Durkee and Bill Foos have published a paper "Resilience is more than just Dam Safety" that has been accepted and will be presented at the 2021 International Coalition On Large Dams (ICOLD) conference on behalf of USSD. Additionally, a virtual on-line, workshop was conducted in 2020 that centered around this paper's content, in addition to holding a similar presentation at ICOLD's annual conference.

Collaborate

- Strategic collaboration within USSD continues by supporting the Young Professional Committee and the various activities that they are leading. Together we have sponsored the workshop "The Golden Hour" a crisis communication training workshop developed by FEMA with support by members of both committees. This workshop is scheduled to be held this year as part of the new year-round technical workshop series.
- Strategic collaboration outside USSD continues by working on national initiatives supported by ASDSO's committee on Public Safety. Members of the committee continued to work on identifying dam safety related incidents and providing them to ASDSO for inclusion on their internationally recognized web page on "Public Safety at Dams"
<https://damsafety.org/public-safety>
- Strategic collaboration with targeted international organizations has included helping lead development of ICOLD's "Bulletin 2 on Public Safety Assessments". This bulletin will be one of a four set series to be published by ICOLD over the next two years.
- Cosponsored the U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's Canal Safety Competition. The Canal Safety Challenge, a collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Water, Klamath Irrigation District, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, is a public competition focused on discovering solutions to improve public safety and reduce drownings in canals throughout the U.S. and make egress from the canals easier or allow for safer rescue and recovery efforts. This committee has provided judges to help assess the submissions for this competition and was instrumental in selecting the three-finalist chosen to develop and demonstrate a prototype of their ideas. The competition should conclude at the end of 2021 with the best prototype selected to be awarded a development contract.

Cultivate

- Committee operations have improved by holding reoccurring quarterly business meetings and facilitate a formal agenda process that has maintained committee member participation and allowed the committee to grow to over 33 members as of April 2021.

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2021 Goals

To better align our goals in 2021, we have adopted the four domains outlined by USSD Board of Directors' 2020 Strategic Plan: Community and Connections, Advocacy and Awareness, Recruitment and Growth, and Education and Professional Development.

Community and Connections

- Solicit and support other initiatives around matters of public safety, security and emergency preparedness for Dams.

Advocacy and Awareness

- Support and stay engaged in the development of a FEMA “US Focused Public Safety Guidelines” an initiative started in collaboration with ASDSO that should be published by the end of 2021.
- Maintain and support the recognition program for members and member projects that reflect best in class and most improved on matters of public safety, security, and emergency management for dams

Recruitment and Growth

- Support organization initiatives to encourage participation of new members and young professionals to become aware of if not participate in the committee and initiatives.

Education and Professional Development

- Identify and work towards developing education material and solutions around emergency incident management that involves establishing and working in a Unified Command structure.
- Support awareness and training programs provided by DHS-CISA around matters of Cyber Security awareness and how to protect remote monitoring and instrumentation of dam operations.

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What do you need to accomplish your 2021 goals?

- Continued collaboration support from USSD Executive staff to stay informed and support action items identified that need to be communicated to the Board of Directors to solicit guidance and input on actions.
 - Committee chair meetings that are structured and organized so that all committees are given an opportunity to report out and solicit support from other committees on initiatives.
 - Full time marketing and communications coordinator that will help alleviate the committee of the responsibility of managing their own internal and external communication program.
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