



LEVEE SAFETY UPDATE

Jamie McVicker named USACE Civilian of the Year

Carol Sanders, HQ

Jamie L. McVicker, P.E., P.M.P, received this year's LTG John W. Morris Civilian of the Year Award.

McVicker, a technical manager for the Mississippi Valley Division Levee Safety Production Center, leads the team developing and implementing the inventory and review program for all non-federal levees in the nation.

Prior to her current assignment, McVicker was the Levee Safety Program Manager in the St. Louis District, where she was instrumental in assisting many non-federal sponsors prioritize levee improvements through System-wide Improvement Frameworks.

During that assignment, McVicker also led the USACE-wide periodic inspection program totaling more than \$140 million—resulting in the inspection of all levees within the USACE portfolio. Additionally, McVicker assisted with the management of the U. S. team's role in the International Levee Handbook by contributing to various chapters and working with colleagues from France, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom. This effort resulted in the establishment of an International Community of Practice. McVicker has demonstrated her commitment to mentoring and developing other employees through her leadership in developing the Lev-



Jamie McVicker, USACE Employee of the Year (File Photo)

ee Safety 101 Fundamentals PROSPECT Course and her role as practitioner advisor for a local university. In her spare time, she is active in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and currently serves as the SAME St. Louis Post President.

This award is presented to a civilian employee who has achieved the highest overall standards of excellence and who has significantly contributed to the mission, reputation and prestige of the total U. S. Army Corps of Engi-

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The Levee Safety Update is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Safety Program and contains information about initiatives that are under development and may change in subsequent updates. It provides levee safety program information to levee safety officers, levee safety program managers, other communities of practice and others interested in levee safety. Information for future issues may be submitted to: LEVEESAFETY@USACE.ARMY.MIL.

Screening Level Risk Assessments Progress

Trent Ferguson, SAD

Ninety-eight percent, 2,595 of 2,641 of all USACE levee segments, have completed the MSC review process and 80 percent, 2,118 of 2,641 have completed the Levee Senior Oversight Group (LSOG), excluding non-project segments. The Headquarters Levee Safety Officer (HQ LSO) has approved 52 percent (1,368 of 2,641) of the segments. All systems in the USACE portfolio that have a non-project segment will be HQ LSO approved when the non-project segment is ready to be approved as part of the overall system. Within the USACE portfolio, there are 450-500 individual non-project segments that are incorporated into 458 systems (818 overall segments) within the USACE portfolio that contain non-project segments. To date, 345 non-project segments have been entered into the National Levee Database and 192 have screenings started.

Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-218 Levee Safety Program Policy and Procedures

Rachel Lopez, LSPM MVS

The USACE Levee Safety Program has been diligently working on the draft Engineer Circular 1165-2-218 (EC 218), and it is now ready for review! EC 218 content was developed with consideration of all the great input received from the 2014 draft EC and provides the policies and procedures for the implementation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Levee Safety Program. Several reviews will occur internally to solicit feedback across the agency late summer and early fall 2017, and an external review period will follow.

The internal review will last for approximately 60 days and consist of four separate concurrent reviews: an agency-wide review, Levee Safety Steering Committee (LSSC) review, Levee Senior Oversight Group (LSOG) review, and an Agency Technical (ATR) Review. The review period for each is currently open and will close October 1.

All USACE personnel with a responsibility for planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance inspection, assessment, and rehabilitation of levee systems are encouraged to participate in the agency-wide review and provide valuable feedback.

Feedback from the agency-wide review will be collected using a web-based form, which will prompt reviewers to respond to a set of questions about the draft EC. This form can be accessed at <https://usace-feedback.typeform.com/to/tqPZa1>.

CECW-CE Engineer Circular 1165-2-218	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington, DC 20314-1000	EC 1165-2-218 [PUB. DATE]
	Water Resources Policies and Authorities LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM – POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
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Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-218 (*continued*)

Following the internal review, an external review will take place to capture feedback from our levee safety partners and stakeholders, including non-federal levee sponsors, interested associations, other federal agencies and interested individuals. This review will last approximately 60 days and begin in winter of 2017.

A team of levee safety professionals across USACE has been established to help support the review and analyze each comment received. Following the reviews, an analysis and summary of comments will be generated and posted to the Dam and Levee Safety SharePoint site, which will identify the key policy issues articulated, areas needing clarification and other common comments received. This will occur for the internal and external comments separately, as the responses to internal comments will

largely be addressed prior to the external comment period. The team will also determine appropriate changes to the EC that will occur based on the feedback.

The final EC 218 is expected in early summer of 2018 and will be supported by internal and external webinars to discuss the comment adjudication process and main changes from the draft EC, as well as communication guidance and materials, including fact sheets, summary of changes, and other products suggested through the reviews.

Information about the reviews along with the draft EC can be accessed on the Dam and Levee Safety SharePoint site at https://cops.usace.army.mil/sites/DLS/Shared%20Documents/EC_1165-2-218_Review.

Section 408: Fiscal 2017 – A Year of Growing and Learning

Scott Mensing, MVK

Fiscal 2017 has been a year of changes for the Section 408 program: districts creating internal processes and categorical permissions, financial challenges, guidance changes, a policy update, creation of a database.

The program experienced a significant change this summer with new guidance stating that Inspection of Completed Works (ICW) funds may no longer be used for the review of a Section 408 request. ICW funds may, however, be used for Section 408 programmatic activities (i.e. management and coordination).

Budgeting for the remainder of the fiscal year provides funding to those critical reviews that have been prioritized by the districts, divisions, and headquarters USACE. The Risk Management Center (RMC) will continue to monitor reviews individually

to ensure funds are being used as planned. If funds are available for additional reviews, the RMC will coordinate with headquarters and Section 408 coordinators.

USACE anticipates the Section 408 program to be financially stronger in Fiscal 2018. The program currently expects to receive approximately \$8.5 million – a \$5.5 million increase over fiscal 2017. In addition, the new policy should be released and available for use.

Updated information about Section 408 is included in the draft EC 1165-2-216, which is under internal review and comment this month and externally in November. Districts and divisions will have an opportunity to comment on the document prior to finalization.

Section 408: Fiscal 2017 – A Year of Growing and Learning (continued)

A number of implementation documents have also been recently released, specifically regarding acceptance of contributed funds from non-federal pri-

vate entities and navigational servitude. Please contact any member of the HQUSACE or RMC Section 408 team with any questions.



Levee Safety Team of the Year: left to right Linda Manning, Rich Varuso, Mary Weidel, Chris Baker, Carol Sanders and Noah Vroman. Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 19, 2017 USACE Photo

Levee Safety Community of Practice First-Ever Team Award of Excellence

Carol Sanders, HQ PAO

The Levee Safety Community of Practice awarded its first-ever Team Award of Excellence to the Levee Safety Risk Communication Workshop Training Team. The team organized to develop and deliver interactive, hands-on risk communication workshops to USACE districts. At the time of the award submittal, workshops had been delivered to 27 districts; by the end of fiscal 2017, workshops will be delivered to all USACE districts that have levees. Two members of the team, one experienced in levee safety and one experienced in risk communication and stakeholder engagement, typically led the three-day workshops, which were attended by the district's levee safety program manager and members of his/her team.

A typical workshop included members of various communities of practice including levee safety, planning, public affairs, emergency management, Silver

Jackets and regional FEMA personnel. In addition to enhancing relationships within districts, the workshops allowed the development of frameworks for the district engagement strategy, a communication plan and one levee system summary.

Chris Baker and Stacy Langsdale, both from IWR, led and co-led the team respectively. Additional members included: Mary Weidel (IWR), Rich Varuso (RMC), Melissa Mullen (MVD), Rachel Lopez (MVS), Boni Bigornia (SPD), Joe Goldstein (SPL), Amy Echols (NWP), Dwayne Ford (HNC), and Carol Sanders (HQ PAO). Team members from The Council Oak were also instrumental in developing and delivering the workshops: Linda Manning, Sara Hilbrich, and Pat Tallarico. Suzanne Vermeer from FEMA Headquarters also supported the workshops by delivering key information on how FEMA programs can support risk communication efforts.

Brasher is Levee Safety Professional of the Year

Carol Sanders, HQ



(l-r): Brian Giacomozzi, Chief Engineering and Construction Division, Fort Worth District; Eric Halpin, Deputy Dam and Levee Safety Officer, HQUSACE; Col. Calvin Hudson, Commander, Fort Worth District; Brian Brasher, Levee Safety Program Manager, Fort Worth District; Camron Brasher and Brianna Brasher, son and daughter of Brian Brasher; and Steven Fink, HQUSACE Levee Safety Program Manager.

Brian Brasher, Levee Safety Program Manager in the Fort Worth District is the USACE Levee Safety Professional of the Year. Brasher served as the district's technical lead for levees during the 2015/2016 flood events, and distinguished himself through his effective communication with sponsors and local affected landowners.

He also mentored and trained employees on inspections and screenings, increasing the capability of the district's professional staff. Brasher led the team preparing to communicate levee screening results, successfully presenting the Fort Worth Floodway Levee screening results to the sponsor.

Brasher also served as the SWF Technical Team Lead for the ongoing Dallas Floodway Risk Assessment.

This award recognizes his superb efforts to strengthen relationships with sponsor and customers, provide invaluable training and successfully execute all tasks with limited resources, while taking on additional leadership responsibilities.

The Levee Safety Professional of the Year Award recognizes the person who has exhibited excellence in levee safety contributions above and beyond their normal duties. Brasher is the second recipient.

Levee Safety Communicator Retiring (again)

Eric Halpin, HQ



Eric Halpin presents Carol Sanders with a token of appreciation from her Dam and Levee Safety teammates in Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 19, 2017. USACE Photo

We bid our colleague, our communications mentor, and our friend Carol Sanders goodbye this fall after a fabulous ride with the Safety Programs. We wanted to express our appreciation of the real value she has brought to the Dam and Levee Safety Programs, our teams, and our way of thinking about communication AND particularly engagement. Carol, who retired as the Headquarters, Chief of Public Affairs, has worked as a rehired annuitant for nearly 10 years with our programs shaping the strategy, the process, and the policy. She's also shaped people through

mentoring many individuals about how to be better engineer and scientist communicators. In helping create much of our approach to communicating risk and engagement with the public, she has helped shape the agency into one that embraces the larger framework and concepts of risk - maybe the biggest change to occur in our programs. All the while, she was our smiling face, our kind advisor with a healthy dose of realism and pragmatism. She's a leader. THANK YOU, Godspeed, and we'll leave the light on for you!

—Eric Hal-