



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 || 9:00 am – 12:00pm || DNR GEF 2, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, Room 308

Attendees: Pat Murphy, Richard Castelnuovo, Mary Anne Lowndes, Gretchen Wheat, Gini Knight, Michelle Reynolds, Jim VandenBrook, Bob Armstrong. On Phone: Bruce Olson, Perry Lindquist, Pat Trainer.

Welcome/Introductions

Updates

- Follow up on action items from last meeting
 - Standard 634A Shoreland Habitat – This was an interim standard with NRCS. Since there is no national standard, it was deleted from the NRCS FOTG. We will post this standard on the SOC website for now. This may happen with other NRCS standards in the future as they become more generic at the national level. Mary Anne has been in contact with the Ch. 30 department to determine DNR interest in being the new Custodian of this standard. Tribes are a big user of the standard.
 - The biennial SOC Handbook update is occurring. Several sections were revised with current procedures including the updated process, Technical Standards Needs survey, budget format, position description, and staff evaluation. Gini will incorporate revisions and suggestions.
 - Video production for SOC overview. Gini is working with another video production company to create a detailed plan and proposal for developing a promotional video for SOC. If the current proposal works out, pre-interviews will occur in December with filming in January.
- Staff report - no questions. Most staff time toward new NRCS agreements and 590 initial review.
- State Inter-agency Training Committee – This group is meeting quarterly, conducting new trainings, and organizing additional trainings. SOC will keep this group informed of standard revisions and needed trainings.
- Team updates
 - DNR standards
 - 1004, Bioretention – published
 - 1060, Storm Drain Inlet Protection – published
 - NRCS 590, Nutrient Management – recent/upcoming meetings: Oct 24, Nov 25, Dec 17
 - The first full draft of the standard and Tech Note have been sent out to 18 initial reviewers.
 - We hope the team can resolve the comments and create revised draft in the next four meetings, and then begin the broad review in late February.
 - NRCS has introduced the major concepts behind the revisions to several stakeholders including the Ag Coalition, the State Technical Committee, and other NRCS field staff.
 - NRCS 393, Filter Strip – Extensive EZ process.
 - Limited action has occurred with this team since the last SOC meeting due to limited availability of NRCS staff to work on this standard. In July, the team approved the draft standard for broad review with some revisions. We are scheduling another meeting to finalize the Tech Note and standard before sending both documents out for broad review this winter.

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Work Plan review

The draft 2015 Work Plan was reviewed. The Council agreed on upcoming standard revision projects and processes to be used with each. No major changes were predicted. There were suggestions to refine the SOC Process steps again to 6, add links to NRCS and DNR standards, and add a point to explore the celebration of SOC's 20th Anniversary. Should we showcase SOC program and process with a regional or national audience?

2014 YTD vs. 2015 Budget

The 2015 Budget was revisited after Work Plan approval. No changes were made.

Outreach Projects

- Annual Report. Move forward with similar format as last year.
- Video Production. The goal would be to produce a 2-3 minute video to sell the structure and credibility of the program and process for standards development. The process is successful in getting more buy-in from all, and providing an opportunity for everyone to give input into standards development. With the video, we want to highlight successes, show impact, and entice those that may be slightly removed from the process or reticent to participate. A secondary film may be developed to actually educate on process. Do we have any statistics on SOC benefits from the beginning? It's okay to use WI Land+Water graphics. Who are good candidates to interview?
 - Farmer (John Koepke), on farm.
 - LCD representative (Kelly Jacobs, Dan Masterpole, Wally Sedler)
 - Chris Homburg, contractor – Permeable Pavement team member
 - Municipal engineer – Sue Olson - Appleton, Greg Konkol, Steve Wurster – Ruekert/Mielke; Tom Grisa – Brookfield; Chris Hitch – RA Smith National / Green Tier company
 - Agency rep – Pat Murphy or JR

Open Conversation with DOT representatives

We provided time for DOT representatives to ask questions and share thoughts with the rest of the Council. What would it take for DOT to participate on Council? It would be helpful to explain to higher management that the agencies would not lose control of the standards, but have access to more expertise and resources to produce more effective standards. The process is more efficient, reduces duplication efforts, shows good governance, and has wide use, implementation, and buy-in. DOT is currently comparing their standards to other state standards to check for comparisons and duplicity.

Action Items

- Gini will post the old NRCS 634A Shoreland Habitat standard to the SOC website.
- Mary Anne will follow up with Ch. 30 program staff to determine interest in DNR being the Custodian of that standard.
- Gini will make the suggested edits to the SOC Policy Handbook and post to the website.
- Pat will reach out to Army Corps of Engineers to encourage participation on SOC teams, process, or Council representation.
- Gini will make edits to the 2015 Work Plan and post on the website. Gini will look into files to try to determine official start date or year of SOC.
- Gini will move forward with video production plan. Mary Anne, Pat, and Richard may join in pre-planning.
- All to provide availability for 2015 meetings: Feb, May, Aug, Nov, <http://doodle.com/ik9u468964m9nc6n>

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