



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Supporting Technical Standards for Urban and Rural Soil and Water Conservation

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DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 || 9:00 am – 12:00pm || DATCP, Room 172, Fish Bowl
 Attendees: Mary Anne, Gretchen, Richard, Pat, Jim, Gini. On phone – Perry, Bruce.

Updates

In the future, NRCS may be requiring peer-reviewed research references in standards for cost-sharing programs. Part of SOC's role in standards development is ensuring the scientific documentation behind the standards. Can we vet the research through the SOC process? Pat will check in with JR regarding this potentially new policy.

- Reviewed of Action Items from February 26 meeting. Unfinished action items are back on the list for this meeting.
- Staff report was reviewed.
- Current 2014 P & L vs. Budget. Gini will include the SOC Endowment and County Dues on future quarterly budget reports. Gini will create a visual for ongoing grant cycles, which are all on separate time frames.

Grantor	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
DATCP	1 – Funding period begins	2 – Next year's application due.	3	4 – Funding period ends.
DNR	3	4 – Next application due. Funding ends.	1 – funding period begins	2
NRCS	2	3	4 – Next application due. Funding ends.	1 – funding period begins

- Update from Inter-agency Training Committee (Jim). The next SITCOM meeting is May 28th. The group is making progress and additional trainings are occurring with good attendance and reviews. Overall conservation professional trainings are a barrier and it affects SOC and the effectiveness of the standards that we produce.

Team Updates

- 590 Nutrient Management – recent/upcoming meetings: Apr 10, May 14, Jun 10, Jul 10
 - The team is making real progress on the technical issues. We are planning to start reviewing the full draft standard starting in June.
 - We plan to have an initial review in September, which may include in-person meetings and explanations to a few farm groups.
 - We are planning for the broad review in the winter and final drafting in late winter/spring.
- 1080 Permeable Pavement
 - Final standard was published. Team evaluation completed. Two-part training webinar series is being planned for early fall.
 - Review summary of evaluations: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-H6MQNDG/>.

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- 393 Filter Strip
 - This scoping team has met twice to review draft standard language. Currently the group plans to meet one more time to review the Technical Note before the revised standard and Tech Note go out for Broad Review in the late summer/fall.
- WDNR Standard 1060, Storm Drain Inlet Protection for Construction Sites – The revised standard is currently out for broad review.
- Check in about other upcoming standards in the current Work Plan.
 - NRCS: 591, Ammendments for Treatment of Ag Waste - completed; 382, Fence – update Spec 10, add temporary interior fence; 394, Firebreak – update from nat'l standard; 654, Road, Trail, Landing Closure and Treatment – new standard for WI, after timber harvest – Gini will check on standards being published.
 - DNR: 1004, Bioretention; 1062, Ditch Checks – New DNR staff has been hired and is starting Jun 2nd. This person will be the new lead for the stormwater liaison group and work on leading the revision of these standards.

Long-term funding and representation

The council continued the discussion on long-term funding for SOC program and heard the status of agency commitments. DATCP’s contract for SOC is now linked with the training contract. This connection between SOC and Training could be positive as it increases support for SOC. There is a clear desire for high quality and professionalism in the state’s conservation programs. We can develop good standards, and also need capable staff to implement them. NRCS’s commitment is ongoing, particularly with 590 standard still in progress. The upcoming NRCS contract may be one year instead of two years this time. Pat will check in with the Army Corps of Engineers. WDNR’s financial commitment to SOC is stable. DNR is engaged with DOT through permitting and the technical standards do come up. This level of engagement is positive. The Council suggests that we provide a letter to key leaders at DOT to raise awareness of SOC process. Gini will draft a letter to send to DOT that thanks them for their staff participation in the permeable pavement team, informs them of upcoming projects, and invites them to the work planning session. Gini will ask Michelle and Laura (permeable pavement team members) who their supervisor is to make sure it gets to the correct person.

WI Land+Water is also working on diversifying its funding sources. If we do lose commitment from our agency funders, then there is a problem with our programming. Council representatives should help us craft priorities and program direction that are in line with agency priorities and needs.

SOC Overview & Informational Media

The Council discussed the use of having a short video explaining SOC’s role and impact in WI conservation with a goal of engaging our agency funders, the private sector, and industry for a more solid support for broader conservation programs. The secondary audience is the counties and staff that use the standards. The overall theme should revolve back to the need for uniform standards. With this project we hope to sell the structure and credibility of the program and process for standards development. Through the SOC process, Wisconsin’s conservation practices are technically strong, result in water quality improvements, reduce liability, and provide assurance that our landowners are doing the right thing to protect public goods.

To show impact, we would like to highlight various urban and land management practices, what were the issues, how did the practices mitigate them, and what other benefits the practices have. We also want to highlight the

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varied resource concerns and conditions across the state, and how the standards can be flexible to meet varying conditions. Potentially include:

- Permeable Pavement
- Practices with Pleasant Valley group
- Basement flooding

We would like to have footage of the practices and several people speaking on SOC's behalf:

- Private sector representative: Permeable Pavement team or Farmer (Jefferson Co dairy farmer, Hoards magazine?)
- Municipal engineer – regulatory influence: Gary Huth, Greg Fries, Sue Olson, other references from Mary Anne or Perry?
- Pat or Perry
- NRCS – maybe Jimmy Bramlett?
- County representatives – Matt Zoschke, Wally from Adams County?, Kelly Jacobs

Examples of audio clips with photography:

- [MetaMonday](#) – Midwest Environmental Advocates campaign
- [Natural Histories Project](#)

Next Meeting – Aug 20 at WI Land+Water new office, 131 W. Wilson St. #601. On-street parking or in city parking ramps on E. Wilson or Doty St.

Aug Agenda Items:

- Budget overview, new agreements.
- 590 Standard Initial Review process
- SOC overview/video progress
- Work Plan review (invite DOT?)
- Others...

Action Items

- Pat will work to keep Standard 634A Shoreland Habitat standard on the NRCS website as a reference.
- Gini will check back in with the group on Shoreland Habitat standard and see if we need to plan a scoping meeting to determine which agency will be the Custodian of the standard. Tribes are a major user of this standard.
- Pat will check in with JR regarding a potentially new NRCS policy that requires standards to reference peer-reviewed research references for cost-sharing.
- Gini will draft a letter to DOT thanking them for staff participation, inform them of upcoming projects, and invite them to the fall work plan meeting. Gini will ask Michelle Reynolds who the best contact is.
- Pat will check in with Army Corps of Engineers to engage them in SOC process.
- Gini will continue to explore options for video production and move forward with framework.
- Gini will continue to work on updating the Handbook with recent changes, including biennial Technical Standards Assessment/Survey format, budget format, and staff evaluation.

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