



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2015 || 9:00 am – 12:00pm || DNR GEF 2, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, Room 313
Conference Call Number: (877) 826-6967 Conference ID: 1458130 (dial this number when prompted)

Attendees: Pat Murphy, Mary Anne Lowndes, Gretchen Wheat, Bob Armstrong, Michelle Reynolds, Richard Castelnovo. On phone: Bruce Olson, Perry Lindquist, Jim VandenBrook.

Updates

- Follow up on action items from last meeting
 - Budget revised and posted.
 - Delayed contact to DBA due to being unclear of the intent. Council agrees that it is best to keep the Council composed of representatives from the public sector. Private sector entities heavily rely on the standards, and can be involved in the process by participating on teams and through submitting comments on draft standards. Due to the lapse in DNR funding, the Council also is exploring other opportunities for funding and agrees that it is best to reach out to other public sector agencies first.
 - DOT reached out to the other engineering partners for the Swale Team participation. Some inquiries arrived late, and they were asked to be initial reviewers instead.
- Staff report review
 - Highlights – WI Land+Water Conference; 590 draft out to broad review; new DNR standard 1005, Vegetated Swale, team created; 1st draft of video completed
 - No questions.
 - Annual Report completed. Disseminated to WI Land+Water conference attendees. Gini can send a thank you letter with Annual Report to county contributors.
- Inter-agency Training Committee (Pat, Mary Anne)
 - No news. SITCOM continues to be active and additional trainings are occurring.

Team updates

- DNR Standards
 - Full Process – Revise Standard 1005, Vegetated Swale
 - A diverse team of 11 professionals was selected. They held the first kick-off meeting on April 15th, and plan to meet monthly with a goal of completing the project by June 2016.
 - EZ process standards
 - 1050, Erosion Control Land Application of Anionic Polyacrylamide
 - 1051, Interim Sediment Control Water Application of Polymers
- NRCS Standards
 - 590, Nutrient Management – considering broad review comments

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- Comments from 39 different individuals or entities were received in the broad review comment period Mar 23 – Apr 20, totaling more than 50 pages of comments. All sectors were represented in the comments.
- Given that the broad review occurred at a difficult time of year for farmers to comment, the team decided to conduct another broad review from Jul 31 to Aug 31. We hope this second round of review will uphold the integrity of the process.
- The team will consider as many comments and revisions as possible until July 31, when the draft is released again. In the announcement, we will describe the specific areas to focus feedback. We hope a suggested limit to the scope of the broad review will encourage more thoughtful feedback and expedite the process of additional revisions.
- 393, Filter Strip – Extensive EZ process.
 - The standard and Tech Note are completed. The draft will be announced with other newly revised standards to be released later this year.

Financials Review & Future Funding Update

The 1st quarter financials were reviewed. The budget was altered to reflect the decrease in DNR funds, and an increase in potential DATCP and WI Land+Water contributions. If DATCP and WI Land+Water increase their contributions by \$5K each, then there is a \$6K gap to fill for 2015. DOT may have access to \$5K and will know by the end of June of 2015. WI Land+Water does have room within their operating budget to fund the gap this year if needed, or the SOC staff position can allocate a portion of their time to other WI Land+Water projects. Given that the 590 revision is extending, the Council agreed it would be best to continue to have the staff at 100% on SOC-related activities. Also, the SOC reserve fund is available for use, and is exactly why we have the fund. The Council decided to not use this fund in 2015, and consider the use of the fund in 2016. Eighteen counties have contributed to SOC this year, which is more than in past years.

For 2016, a DATCP grant has been submitted with an increased ask. DATCP may have trouble offering more funds next year, since their budget has also been cut. They are being pushed to provide more funds to the University and SnapPlus. It is important for DATCP to see that all other agencies are contributing. Many of the standards are listed in DATCP rules, and therefore DATCP also is largely responsible for the standards. The NRCS contract goes through September 2016. We will apply for annual contributions from DOT starting in 2016. The DNR grant has been put on hold until more is known about their funding allocations and potential restrictions.

Since WI Land+Water is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a member organization, members can contribute tax-deductible donations to the organization. It was noted that the current WI Land+Water newsletter does not have any language about how someone could contribute or that WI Land+Water is 501(c)3 organization accepting donations.

Transition of SOC Chair

Pat Murphy would like to step down as the SOC Chair at the August Council meeting. NRCS will also be looking for a replacement representative on the Council. Pat will contact JR and Jimmy to suggest Scott Mueller as the new NRCS representative on SOC. Scott recently has been involved in SITCOM, facilitated the initial process for creating SOC in the 1990s, and would be a good fit for a smooth transition. We will have elections for the SOC Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting.

Video Review & Update

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A draft of the video with the interviews was shared with the Council. The next steps are to capture background footage to accompany verbal content and more visually tell the story. We hope to capture some footage at a 590 team meeting, use the Ag research fields as background, capture the meeting in action, and potentially use the farmers and agronomists there. The Council approved an \$800 increase in the budget to cover the extra costs. Feedback on the content of the video so far:

- Female representation. Currently just four male speakers. It is important to have female representation. There was a suggestion for a female engineer, potentially a SITCOM representative that would be good.
- Urban/Stormwater practices. The content is heavily focused on agriculture. The Council would like to see more emphasis on urban practices, which could potentially happen with background footage.
- Research link. The emphasis on the influence of land grant university research is missing. It is important to state that peer-reviewed research influences and guides the standards. As new research results are available, the results feed into the standards. There was a suggestion to include Carrie Laboski to talk about this component.
- Simplify text. There was suggestion to simplify the text on the screen or potentially use bullets. We could show quotes from what the interviewees are saying to reiterate their points.
- The text on the screen may not be needed once the background footage is in place. We may not need the text since it is not giving new information. It might be best to just repeat what is being said.
- The short highlight statements (like Nashold's "I use these standards every day.") may be good ones to reiterate with text.

2015 Technical Standards Needs Survey

The draft survey was reviewed: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/technicalstandards>

- DNR and NRCS will get back to Gini with the suggested standards to work on in 2016 – 2018.
- The survey will be released from June 29th to July 27th to allow enough time for input given July vacations.
- The survey will be sent out from through the SOC listserv, WI Land+Water newsletter, on the website, to internal agency staff, and potentially to the Waukesha stormwater workshop participants and/or the NASECA listserv.
- Suggestions revisions to the survey:
 - Change LCD to county gov't
 - Change Local gov't to Other Local Gov't (city, municipality, town, village)
 - Instead of asking what are the 10 most common standards that you use, include a question about what area of work do you focus on? Suggest categories from previous survey.
 - Combine questions 3 & 4 regarding past participation in SOC. How have you previously participated in the SOC process?
 - Refine definition of DNR and NRCS standards in question #11. DNR standards related to stormwater (urban, transportation)... Add a link to the standards in this question.
 - Revise the question about suggesting another other standards that need to be revised to include any other standards that need to be developed, like pathogen management.
 - Consider using this survey to acknowledge SOC's upcoming 20-year anniversary and gather impact or success statements about how SOC has impacted your work in the last 20 years.

SOC 20th Anniversary – 2016

The Council would like to suggest a place on the 2016 WI Land+Water conference agenda during a general session to highlight the successes of SOC and celebrate its 20-year anniversary. We could show the video and encourage Jimmy Bramblett, Secretary Brancel and Secretary Stepp to attend.

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Next Meeting Agenda Items – Aug 12

- 2015 budget review and update for future funding sources
- SOC Chair & Vice Chair Elections
- Review Tech Standards Needs survey results
- Review draft 2016 – 2018 Work Plan
- Review draft 2016 Budget
- SOC highlight video distribution & dissemination

Action Items

- ✓Gini will send a thank you letter and copies of the Annual Report to county contributors.
- Pat will follow up with Army Corps representative regarding the upcoming meeting dates and involvement.
- Bob will check in on potential funding the first week in June.
- ✓Gini will schedule a conference call towards the end of June to check in about the budget.
- ✓Gini will include SOC Chair and Vice Chair elections at the next SOC meeting.
- Pat and Mary Anne will check with their staff and send back suggested priority standards to include in the Technical Standards Needs Survey.
- Gini will check to see if we can send out an announcement about the survey to the NASECA listserv.
- Depending on the release of the video, Gini will consider adding a link to the video in the announcement of the survey release.
- ✓Gini and Jim will suggest a 'Donation' link or language in the next WI Land+Water newsletter.
- Gini will revise the Technical Standards Needs survey, release and promote it, and then compile the results for the August meeting.
- ✓Gini will inform WI Land+Water conference planners that SOC would like some time to highlight their 20 years of success, ideally at a general session and to show the SOC video.
- Richard will check with Matt Woodrow to see if he can attend the August SOC meeting.

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