



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 || 1pm – 4pm || DNR GEF 2, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, Room 413

Attendees: Gini Knight, Mary Anne Lowndes, Richard Castelnouvo, Perry Lindquist, Judy Derricks, Bob Armstrong, Scott Mueller, Gretchen Wheat, Jim VandenBrook. On phone: Bruce Olsen, Barbara Walther

Welcome

Introductions and welcome to our new Army Corps representative, Barbara Walther. Welcome Barbara!

Updates

- All action items from August meeting were accomplished.
- Staff report highlights – Video completed and posted to website, social media, etc; 590 team wrapped up; staff transition
- Inter-agency Training Committee (Jim, Mary Anne, Gretchen) – Continuing to be active and work toward objectives; Webinars have been a very successful way to distribute information

Team updates

- DNR standards
 - Standard 1005, Vegetated Swale – The team has met monthly since April, and has made progress in re-organizing the current swale standard to meet new purposes beyond infiltration. The team members are active, engaged, contributing, and working well together. They plan to have a draft out for initial review in December, and still hope to complete the final draft by May.
 - Standards 1050, 1051 – A broad review of these standards was conducted, although little feedback was received. DNR will finalize and publish standards when ready.
- NRCS standards
 - 590 Nutrient Management – The team had a few more full day meetings, and half day conference calls. As of Nov 18th, all team members were content with the final draft and had no objections to submitting it to NRCS for final approval. Gini submitted the final draft standard and Tech Note to Judy Derricks on Nov 19th, and also sent an online evaluation to all team members to complete.
 - 393 Filter Strip – Although the team completed their draft for NRCS in May, a final evaluation was not submitted until October. The evaluation was requested, and responses were compiled. The Policy Handbook was updated to make sure team evaluations were requested right after the final draft was submitted to the Custodian, not after the Custodian publishes the standard, which could take awhile.

2015 Technical Standards Needs Survey Summary

Custodian representatives confirmed that the survey results were distributed amongst staff and appropriate contacts. The Council was pleased with the number and content of the responses received. The responses were more substantial and helpful in the 2015 survey than in the 2013 survey. It keeps getting better, and we briefly explored options for getting more specific feedback that Custodians or teams could use. Overall, the survey is

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meant to gauge how well the standards are working, and provide an opportunity to uncover unknown issues. The survey helps set the priorities and bring light to new issues. It was agreed that requesting more specific feedback would be more cumbersome for respondents and may deter responses.

2016 – 2017 Work Plan

The 2016-2017 Work Plan was revised and approved as final. Once revised, it can be posted to the website and listservs. The Council worked to ensure no more than three full teams will be in progress at the same time. The DNR standard, 1002, will not begin until the Swale Standard, 1005 ends.

Full Process Teams

- NRCS – Vegetated Treatment Area. Contact: John Ramsden on timeline, solicitation of team members
- DNR – Vegetated Swale, ongoing. Team Leader: Kim Gonzalez
- DOT – Hydraulic Erosion Control Products (new). Team leader: Michelle Reynolds

- DNR – Site Evaluation, begin summer of 2016, after Swale is complete. Contact: Jan Kucher
- DNR – Proprietary Filtration Devices, begin after more data is collected in 2017

DOT contacts for future team members:

- Compost S100 – Michelle Reynolds
- Dewatering 1061, Bob Armstrong
- Site Evaluation 1002, Bob Armstrong, DSPS or Dane County
- Ditch Checks 1062, John Rublein

The Work Plan is fairly broad without specific objectives. At the February SOC meeting, the Council can go over the Work Plan with the new SOC Program Manager for more detail. From the Tech Standard survey, there was clear emphasis on the request for greater outreach on revised or newly developed standards. The new SOC program manager can work with WI Land+Water staff and SITCOM to address this request.

It was also noted, that it would be helpful to have and post a summary of the revision of changes to the SOC listserv or with the team progress pages, etc. This would be another task for the team, team leader, or for the Custodian.

Current Financials Review & 2016 Draft Budget

The YTD financials and 2016 draft budget were reviewed and revised. The professional development budget was increased due to new staff, and the team meetings budget was increased since three teams are scheduled for 2016. We have more confidence in 'other agency' funding and an increased amount from DATCP which will cover this costs.

In the past, Perry and Bruce have crafted a letter to the counties (often with draft from SOC program manager) requesting a voluntary contribution to the SOC program. It is agreed that it is best to send out this letter in May when counties are creating their budgets and when WI Land+Water sends out their upcoming year's dues update.

Annual Report & 20th Year Anniversary

The current format of the Annual Report is working well. The new SOC Program Manager will have fresh eyes to make changes as needed. Some points to include are the completion of the 590 NM standard, and the increased engagement from DOT. This conversation led to a discussion of the decreasing involvement of UWEX at the

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leadership level. Several people from UWEX participate actively on the standard revision teams, but not as much participation in the Council.

Two goals for the 20th Anniversary celebration are to use this as an opportunity for increased outreach and for recognition of the broad participation and behind the scenes effort of this important work. If it doesn't take too much effort, the Council would appreciate seeing a visual representation of a timeline of SOC history. It would be great to have an article in Agri-View about the success SOC has had in the last 20 years. Another goal could be to compile a list of all the programs that use these same technical standards. One of our biggest accomplishments is uniformity in use of these standards. Can we capture that?

We could invite many of the original team or 'creators' of SOC. Look in the Policy Handbook for the editors of the First Edition. Perry, Jim, and Bruce will be the core group to lead the 20th Anniversary logistics. They will contact Ed Odgers and Gordon Stevenson as potential presenters during one of the luncheons at the WI Land+Water conference.

Staff Transition

Gini is willing to work with new SOC program manager. Jim attended the last Swale team meeting and will be there for the December meeting for some continuity. Gini began a list of resources and orientation tools that will be modified as time goes on. All Council members are happy to meet with new SOC program manager as needed and will help through training and orientation process.

Next Meeting Agenda Items – Thursday February 25th, at DNR, Room 513.

- Introductions if any Council members haven't met Jennifer
- Team Updates
- Check in on 20th Anniversary celebration at WI Land+Water conference
- Any other orientation for SOC program manager
- Review Work Plan

Action Items

- Gini will revise Work Plan. The new SOC Program Manager can post to listservs and website.
- Gini will send the final 2016 budget to Jim for incorporation into WI Land+Water budget.
- Bob will check in with DOT to confirm process for requesting 2016 grant money.
- Mary Anne will be in contact with Dave Siebert for potential DOT funding.
- Jim will reach out to Ken Genskow and/or Rick Clemmy to reengage UWEX involvement, particularly with our interest in more pursuing more outreach and educational mechanisms.
- Gini will draft bullet points of topics for Annual Report. New SOC program manager will create 2015 Annual Report and request feedback from Council via email. Annual Report should be ready to print in early February.
- Jim, Perry, and Bruce will lead efforts to organize the 20th Anniversary festivities. They will contact Ed Odgers and Gordon Stevenson as potential presenters and invite other original team members.
- The new SOC Program Manager will work with Jim for logistics and outreach opportunities for 20th Anniversary celebration.
- SOC program manager to send list of next meeting attendees to Mary Anne before the meeting.

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