



# Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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## DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 || 9:00am – 12:00pm || DNR GEF 2, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, Room 213  
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, Jim VandenBrook (briefly).

### Updates

- The **November 2014 action items** were reviewed and all were accomplished. The Army Corps of Engineers was contacted and encouraged to be involved in SOC. They are interested, and asked who they should send to a meeting. Pat will continue to follow up. DNR's Chapter 30 program agreed to be the Custodian of the Shoreline Habitat standard 643A. They do not want to revise the standard at this time. We will pass along the comments from the 2013 survey related to that standard.
- No staff report questions
- **Inter-agency Training Committee** is continuing to meet. There are significantly more trainings that have occurred and more scheduled. There still seems to be some confusion over PDHs, job approval requirements, and maintaining professional development hours to keep a PE license. The SOC listserv and potentially NASECA could be used other communication outlets for training opportunities, particularly to target engineers. The importance of statewide training opportunities was discussed. It is problematic for NRCS to host conservation planning trainings only for their staff, and not open up opportunities for private consultants.

### 2014 Actuals vs 2015 Budget review

The 2014 year-end financials and 2015 budget were reviewed and approved to post on the website. The networking line item was moved to be encompassed by Outreach.

Current funding challenges and long-term funding strategies were discussed. The Governor's budget decreased DATCP and DNR funds. The DNR lost \$500,000+ in appropriations. DNR's contribution to SOC was in that pool of funds and consisted of about ~40% of the SOC annual budget. The current DNR contract will end on June 30, 2015, leaving an \$18,500 whole in the 2015 SOC budget. Several options in maintaining the 2015 program budget were discussed, which included reducing staff time to SOC and changing to other WI Land+Water projects, using an additional \$5K from the DATCP grant, using a portion of the county contributions as the rainy-day fund, and/or exploring other funding sources. The SOC Program Manager may be able to reduce their time on SOC-related activities after the 590 revision team has submitted a final draft standard to NRCS.

More counties have already provided SOC contributions in 2015 than in 2014.

- 2015, 17 counties already contributed \$150 - \$350. \$5,450 total as of Feb 10, 2015.
- 2014, 14 counties contributed

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This budget topic will be discussed at the May meeting, when the current allocations will be more clear. A longer term strategy for funding agency involvement will continue to be discussed at the next meeting. DOT staff are still initiating conversations with their leaders and will explore accessing monies through their stormwater fund.

DATCP and DNR grants for 2016 are due in April. We will continue to apply for these grants and request more money to cover the program. The grant requests will reiterate what services SOC offers to the agencies and how the collaborative process has provided more input on the standards and made a positive impact on standard development.

### Team updates

- DNR standards
  - 1072 – Solicitation for new team members was sent out and been requested until Feb 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - Kim Gonzalez (DNR) - lead; John Voorhees, AECOM; RA Smith National; IE Colby; S E H;
    - DOT – Bob Armstrong; Strand; others?
    - Michelle/Bob/Mary Anne will send the team solicitation letter to others.
  - 1073, Toxicity Criteria was changed as a guidance document, not a technical standard.
  - EZ process standards
    - 1050, Erosion Control Land Application of Anionic Polyacrylamide (Jan Kucher, leader)
    - 1051, Interim Sediment Control Water Application of Polymers (Jan Kucher, leader)
- NRCS
  - Standards will most likely be nationalized within the next three years. States will use other Tech Notes and Job Sheets as other technical resources to address regional resource issues.
  - 590 Nutrient Management – reviewing initial review comments
    - Request to go to Broad Review Mar 23 – Apr 20, extended to 4 weeks.
    - Scheduling a live meeting on March 27 to present major revisions within the proposed 590 draft at beginning of broad review.
    - A summary of the proposed revisions have been presented at the Soil, Water, and NM meetings and at the Crop Management Conference.
    - There will be a breakout session on the research behind the proposed revisions at the WI Land+Water conference in March.
  - 393 Filter Strip – Completed broad review, in final drafting phase.
    - The draft standard and Tech Note were posted for broad review Jan 12<sup>th</sup> to Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - The team received a compiled list of comments and suggested NRCS draft final revisions based on the comments.

### 2014 Annual Report review

The draft Annual Report was reviewed and feedback provided including text edits and formatting suggestions. The Annual Report will be provided to the WI Land+Water attendees, LCC training attendees, NRCS area offices, and agencies to send to their leaders. A digital copy will also be sent out on the SOC listserv and other communication channels. Gini will check with one of the 2014 initial reviewers to see if they are willing to let us use the following quote or a variation:

[“Please relay to the SOC how honored I am for them to solicit my input and also, the amount of appreciation they deserve for investing their time for WI agriculture and for our natural resources.”](#)  
- 2014 Initial Reviewer

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

March 1996 was selected as the 'beginning' of SOC.

General timeline:

- 1995 - QST meetings
- 1996 – Report presented & approved by WLWCA & WALCE; First Council Meeting – March 1996; SOC coordinator hired in the summer, first pilot team for Standard 580, Streambank & Shoreline Protection, WLWCA Resolution approved in Dec 1996 to support SOC funding
- 1997, Feb – MOU signed between agencies

The Council would like to host an event to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We could potentially have an event at the 2016 WI Land+Water conference in March and have a booth highlighting the successes. Ideas included showing the video, inviting agency leaders, and potentially initial/founding Council members. We could have a post card option for this year's WI Land+Water attendees to say how SOC has impacted them and their work to gather data on our successes.

## Video Messaging

An update on video status was provided and feedback on the rough outline collected. The top three interviewees were selected as first choices for interviews. The current plan is to capture the footage at the WI Land+Water Conference in March, where most participants may be at one time.

Potential Interviewees:

- David Nashold, Chippewa County LCD;
- Chris Homburg – Homburg Contractors; Permeable Pavement team member/ Green Tier
- Jeff Polenske, CCA
- Perry or Pat Murphy? Two people discussion
- Chris Hitch – RA Smith National, engineer

We will add something about federal, state, county staff and private engineering firms and crop advisors all using the same standards to protect Wisconsin's land and water resources to the wishlist of key statements. We want to highlight the importance of SOC's ability to ensure consistency across agency programs and farm owner expectations. The Council agreed that waiting for more appropriate weather would be better for background footage. We have tentative plan of June for a completion date.

## 2015 Technical Standards Needs Survey

We briefly reviewed the 2013 summary of results. Explore needs and brainstorm any new ideas for this survey. The name question will be deleted from the survey until the end, suggesting they include their name if they provided comments that we may need to follow up on. Instead of providing a text box to insert affiliation, we will provide a check box for one of the following: State Gov't, Fed Gov't, Local Gov't, LCD, or private sector. We will explore using this survey as a way to collect information for the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

- 2013 Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S3FPQTZ>
- Survey open in June or July

## Next Meeting Agenda Items – May 6

- Budget update
- Survey draft
- Video update

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- Team updates

**Action Items**

- Gini will revise the budget and year end financials, collapsing the Networking line item under Outreach. She will send final draft to Perry for his approval.
- Gini will reach out to Bob's DBA contact.
- Michelle and Bob will reach out to their contacts with designers to encourage participation on the Vegetated Swale team.

**Supplemental Meeting Materials**

1. Staff Report
2. 2014 Actuals vs. 2015 Budget
3. Draft 2014 Annual Report

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