



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Supporting Technical Standards for Urban and Rural Soil and Water Conservation

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590 Nutrient Management Standard Team

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 || 9:00am – 3:00pm || Hancock Ag Research Station

Attendees: Kevin, Terry, Carrie, Sue, Sara, Tony, John, Pat, Laura, Andrew, Matt, Nikki

Welcome/Updates

- NRCS began working with multiple neighboring states on the 2015 EQIP program. Jimmy Bramblett was in Washington working on comprehensive nutrient management plans. NRCS Filter Strip standard is being revised with a small team through the SOC Process.
- The rainy, wet weather has caused delays in getting into the fields. Some corn fields have been planted, but for the most part, farmers are behind schedule. It's also too wet to get into the fields to spread manure and some pits are about to overflow. *Soils & Fertilizers*, a booklet published in 1932 by John Deere was brought to the meeting. Even as old as it is, the guidance is still basically the same practices that we're talking about today.
- UW-Extension staff have been incredibly busy, with all staff spending more time in the field to make use of suitable conditions for field work.
- NPM and DATCP are working on a series of promotional brochures. Sara brought the first brochure that aims to help promote nutrient management for its value. It features four stories of farmers.
- May 22nd at 2pm - DATCP webinar to cover recent changes to ATCP 50 and FAQ regarding Farmland Preservation Soil and Water Conservation Standards. It will also include announcements for new guidance and forms available on the DATCP website.

Alternative to P Index

The group discussed the extent of the use of soil test P option. In the 2005 WI standard, the former team worked on the P Index which evolved into SnapPlus. This was a new process for everyone, and they decided to allow an alternative to SnapPlus which was Soil Test P. The team is recommending that NRCS keep soil test P as an option for multiple reasons, including its educational value, it being an alternative to SnapPlus, and that CAFOs are also using it in SnapPlus. In SnapPlus for CAFOs, soil test P rates are currently only for manure not for fertilizer. When soil test P is above 100, CAFOs have to use Soil Test P and the P Index, and Criteria C offers mitigation practices to address P in groundwater. The concern for loss of P in sandy soils needs to be addressed in Criteria C. Criteria C will be reviewed and we will confirm that the SnapPlus programming can be aligned with the standard. Different management options would be available when the risk for loss of P is low.

We now have TMDL and nutrient criteria for surface waters, which was not the case at the last revision of the 2005 590 standard. The TMDL programs may look to the 590 standard for guidance. If farmers are using Adaptive Management plans where they are required to reduce P loss levels, how to do we ensure reductions through practices? If farmers are in a 303d watershed, other mitigation practices may be needed. Rigorous

data quantifying reductions of P loss through certain practices is not available. Right now the standard is vague, because the data is a little unclear. The team would like to check in with the NW part of state to hear their perspective. Pat will verify groundwater P language in national standard, pg 3, and determine if the WI standard should be strengthened.

Where did the limit of 50ppm of P come from? The data shows that 30ppm is the point where there is no a response from the crop. The rate was increased to 50ppm to allow for field variability. This rate is a historical reference, is in SnapPlus, and is also in the national standard. It is challenging to change the perspective on the need for P, especially when a fertilizer company suggests using 100ppm. Farmers/planners should ask what soil test fertilizer companies are using and for the data showing the need for such rates.

There was discussion regarding the potato growers. We will consider including guidance for potato growers in the Tech Note, similar to how the cranberry growers have used options in the Tech Note to meet their specific circumstances. Todd will reach out to Veg & Potato Growers Association to hear their thoughts. Sue will talk with Laura Ward Good about Criteria C.2. 4 and removing Table 1 in SnapPlus.

The team basically proposes to keep the soil test P option the same, with the caveat and need for more discussion about TMDL programs (surface water nutrient criteria) and that modeling is not robust enough.

Recommendations for Reducing Nutrient Loss through Tile Drainage

The team is thinking the best option is to limit unincorporated liquid manure rate to 12000 gallons per acre per application in SQWMAs and where tile is present. The group revised Nutrient Application Restrictions in Criteria A and W soil nutrient application restrictions in Criteria B to further address nutrient loss to tile. All team members need to consider practicality of the revisions to Criteria B.

Table 1 Revision

The rates were simplified to one application rate noted above, and therefore Table 1 is no longer useful and will be deleted. Prohibitions of spreading on saturated soils are stated in other places throughout the standard.

Breakout group work

- Winter Spreading Risk Assessment (Matt, Andrew, Pat, Joe, John)
 - The group reviewed the draft language recommendations and made some revisions. Pat will make further revisions based on the discussion and the group will host a conference call to discuss before the recommendations go before the full team.
- Criteria A & B (Sue, Sara, Nikki, Carrie, Terry)
 - This group further refined Criteria B and Table 2. They also discussed options for addressing the national standard requirement of manure testing for ammonium N.
- Karst Features (Kevin, Laura, Tony, Todd)

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- This group further reviewed draft language, and will redraft recommendations to include in the full draft standard. The information will be presented to the team in the next meeting. They would like the full team to provide input in changing the definition of SWQMA to include karst features or make changes to Criteria A.2.

Review Action Items and Next Meeting Agenda - Next Meeting: June 10 at Hancock Ag Research Station

Action Items before the next meeting

- Pat will verify language for the groundwater P in the national standard.
- Sue will talk with Laura about Criteria C.2.4. and removing Table 1 in SnapPlus.
- Todd will check in with potato and vegetable farmers about P.
- Pat will draft a definition of ponding.
- Sara and Carrie will have proposed language to address manure analysis requirements.
- Winter Spreading group will revise draft language and have a conference call to discuss.
- Tony will make minor revisions to karst language, which will be incorporated into the standard for full team review.
- Pat and Gini will make revisions to Definition & Purpose to match national standard.
- Terry will bring recommendations to address air quality requirements from national standard.
- Carrie, Pat, and Terry will work on adaptive nutrient management.
- Carrie to work with Rick Wayne regarding soil temperature maps and statement.
- Work on Fast Facts for Winter Spreading
- Gini will follow up on past action items (review references, revised definitions, etc)

Timeline

- May – Alternative to P Index, Adaptive Nutrient Management
- Jun – Review Draft from Section I. through Criteria if possible. Hear from winter spreading group?
- Jul – Winter spreading, Continue reviewing draft
- Aug – Review draft; EZ format; outreach
- Sep – Prepare draft for initial review. Consider process for initial review
- Oct – Review results of the review
- Nov – Review draft, prepare for Broad review
- Dec – Broad review
- Jan/Feb – Review results of broad review
- Mar – Final drafting
- Apr – Release

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