



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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590 Nutrient Management Standard Team

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Thursday, July 10, 2014 || 9:00am – 3:00pm

Hancock Ag Research Station

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

Welcome/Updates

- Farm Technology Days in Stevens Point Aug 11-13 during the next meeting.
- Wet and cool weather conditions are seen a varying growth of corn across the state. There are concerns about N loss and crop damage. Where it's wet, it's too wet.
- In June, Ray Archuleta presented Advanced Soil Health trainings through NRCS, providing new insights and additional tools for increasing soil health. NRCS staff are working on the 2015 EQIP program.
- Polenske Agronomy now has new co-owners, and has changed their name to Tilth Agronomy.
- Joe Batton, current DNR employee, has been hired to take on Andrew's old position at DNR. He'll start on Monday. Joe will begin attending future 590 meetings to meet this team.
- Kewaunee County developed a resolution to address ongoing systemic groundwater contamination from agriculture and other sources. They are requesting a literature review and additional staff and resources. Other counties are considering such resolutions, often focused on storing liquid manure.

Review of timeline

Working backwards, our goal is to have the broad review of the draft standard in the winter (Jan - Mar) when farmers have time to learn about the potential changes and comment on the draft revisions. We need at least two meetings between the initial review and broad review, which means the initial review process should take place in October/November. The team will discuss how to use different outreach events occurring in the winter to start educating farmers and technicians on the changes (Crop Mgmt Conference; Soil, Water, NM meetings; WI Land+Water conference). There may be challenges in changing SnapPlus in rule.

Review Criteria in draft standard.

- V.A.1.c. – Deleted last phrase “if winter spreading will occur.” This will require the NM plan to include a Winter Spreading Risk Assessment to deal with anticipated and unanticipated spreading needs.
- V.A.2.b. – The five bullets under this section basically remain the same with some minor adjustments and the addition of a few more bullet points.
 - The old b.2. offering local authority added language to designate locally identified prohibition areas as “delineated in a *conservation plan*, nutrient management plan, or designated by the Land Conservation Committee”. Most farms do not have conservation plans, and their NM plans often

act as their conservation plans. If local areas would like to have additional resource protections, some approved process needs to be used for designated the areas, and the LCC has a recognized, public process for approving land and water conservation plans. Currently this addition is a recommendation and is being considered by all groups.

- The team decided to prohibit surface application of manure on R soils during February and March. The team discussed prohibiting application on soils that have bedrock within 60” of the soil surface, and discussed the issues with available maps that accurately outline these soils. What is the total acreage in consideration? If R soils are used instead of a more restrictive soil layer, the result is less protective of groundwater.
- There are huge inconsistencies with setbacks in various standards and rules. Would 590 plans be more implementable if there was just one setback and more consistency? Farmers appreciate the flexibility and could deal with different setbacks to various features. Many rules have a 250’ setback to sites susceptible to groundwater contamination. The group reconsidered the 200’ setback upslope from direct conduits to groundwater and currently plan to keep the 200’ setback the same.
- The team considered including in the Criteria an emergency variance to allow winter spreading with specific conditions and practices. The national standard precludes winter spreading, and a variance could assist water quality problems by allowing a temporary transition and guidelines to allow some farmers to comply with 590. Does this allow the standard to be applied consistently to all farms across the state? The team decided to exclude the variance in Criteria, with the acknowledgement that some farms are not able to meet this 590 standard. The language and suggestions for best handling winter spreading may be included in the Tech Note or in Considerations. There are still concerns about who would grant such a variance. Should the old NRCS Standard 633, Waste Utilization be revived and used as an alternative to the 590 standard?

Action Items

- Carrie will review research that relates to consecutive applications of manure in relation to V.A.1.I. and why we are not requiring second-year N credits.
- Pat will check with Ken regarding soil maps that designate 60” to bedrock. The team will revisit using these maps versus R soils. Pat and Andrew will revisit and bring maps to the team for further discussion.
- A meeting will be scheduled to continue the conversation regarding program policies, statutes, and implementation of winter spreading restrictions.
- Gini will solicit assistance in beginning the revision of the Technical Note.
- Everyone mark your calendars with the rest of the 2014 meeting dates: 8/12, 9/17, 10/15, 11/13, 12/17

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Aug 12th at Hancock Ag Research Station

Timeline

- Aug 12 – Review Considerations to end of draft standard; Develop plan for Tech Note Review.

WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection • WI Department of Natural Resources • Natural Resources Conservation Service • University of WI Extension • WI Land & Water Conservation Association

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- Sep 17 – Return to sections of concern and address. Review Tech Note. Prepare draft for initial review and finalize process.
- Oct 15 – Final preparations for initial review. Initial review occurs in October/November.
- Nov 13 – Review results of initial review. Consider revisions.
- Dec 17 – Review results of initial review. Consider revisions.
- Jan/Feb – Release for broad review. Develop training and outreach plan.
- Mar/Apr – Final drafting
- May/Jun – Release of final standard

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