



# Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Supporting Technical Standards for Urban and Rural Soil and Water Conservation

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## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012 || 9:00 am – 12:00pm || DATCP, Madison, WI, Room 172

Conference Call Number: (877) 826-6967 & Conference ID: 1458130 (dial this number when prompted)

In Attendance: Richard Castelnuovo, Mary Anne Lowndes, Bruce Olson, Gretchen Wheat, Todd Boehne, Gini Knight. On phone: Perry Lindquist

### Updates

- Review of action items from last meeting. NRCS, DATCP, and DNR do not have annual audit requirements for their grants, allowing SOC to choose to allocate funds for an annual audit in the budget.
- WLWCA Board appointed Bruce Olson and Perry Lindquist as representatives to the Council.
- June/July staff report reviewed. Consider using a compilation of these staff reports for annual report to agencies.

### Trainings discussion/summit update

Outcome: To share progress of trainings discussions and summit and advance the thinking of SOC's role in training.

We reviewed the two meetings that have taken place in regards to reestablishing a coordinated approach to conservation training across the state. All SOC partners recognize the difficulty and real need of reinvigorating a state-wide system of training for conservation professionals, like SITCOM. Currently there is not a vehicle for the agencies to discuss training needs and opportunities. SOC provides an existing venue for the agencies to collaborate on training. UWEX may offer the best training options currently, although their course offerings typically are not focused on engineering practices. UW-Madison Engineering Dept. offers high quality and high cost courses. More questions were raised regarding the job approval and tracking systems, as well as private sector involvement in trainings.

Part of SOC's mission is maintaining the integrity of the standards. SOC's role is unclear in upholding the integrity of all of the technical standards for conservation versus the standards that are currently being developed or revised. The Council will continue to explore the question of defining the focus and capacity of SOC's role in training. SOC will most likely be involved in training of newly developed or revised standards.

The consensus from the Training meetings was to build a commitment to training and improve the professionalism of staff. This group plans to meet again in September to discuss a proposed Training

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Summit scheduled for the end of January. The Training Summit will be an avenue to bring stakeholders together to explore solutions to the various issues with state-wide conservation training.

### Handbook Review

Outcome: To gather full Council input on a few sections in the Handbook to assist in preparing a final draft of 2012 version

- Pg 6 – Separately tracking of SOC budget within WLWCA budget. Approved.
- Pg 11 & 12 - Training under Companion Documents (Reference 2001 Companion Document on website, in which UW- Extension had just allocated a half time position to developing companion documents). Simplified this section to clarify what “Supporting materials, including companion documents” actually are, and moved information about who is responsible for what under Responsibilities of Key Players.
- Pg 21 – Add “Develops Recommendations for Training Content to Custodian” as a responsibility of the teams under Steps in Standard Development. Approved.
- Pg 32 – Clarifying roles of Custodian regarding training, education, evaluation. No changes.
- Pg 24 & 25 – Variances or rule exemptions. Discussion of importance and ability of agencies to report variances and/or waivers to standards back to SOC, as data for potential standard revisions. Chart is unclear, and may serve better as an appendix. Perry and Richard to revise and update.
- Pg 38 – Team Resources. Provide link to online team evaluation survey, and delete hard copy in Handbook. Provide these resources on the website as pages and also as one document.

### Website update / Input

Outcome: Obtain input on audience, messaging, services of website

Makin' Hey! Communications received the bid for the design/development of the new site. We should have a draft by mid-September. Gini will send along progress and ask for input. Input was received for completing the Makin Hey questionnaire about new website. We also briefly discussed website structure, including sample team pages, online technical standards needs assessment, and home page. All are supposed to provide feedback on structure and sample home and team pages.

### Ongoing Work Teams Updates

313, 634, and 629 standards are nearly wrapped up. DATCP and NRCS are planning a road show for trainings in late August and early September. The standards are expected to be released in September.

### New Work Team Updates

- **Pervious Pavement** – Full Process. DNR. Tim Ryan, the previous team leader, has taken another position in the Fitchburg office. Peter Wood will be taking over as the team leader. There are 14 members on the team: four DNR, four industry professionals, two contractors, a Dane County, city of Madison, city of Milwaukee, and DOT representative. The first meeting is planned for Wed, 8/22 in Waukesha. Mary Anne is checking on her availability to be at the first meeting as a team sponsor.
- **590 Nutrient Management** – Full Process. NRCS. A scoping session that aims to gain broad buy-in, to provide opportunities for input, and to raise awareness of the 590 revision is planned for November. During September and October, we'll be gathering research and

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data, soliciting participation, updating SOC list serve, and promoting the scoping session. The make up of team members is planned to be finalized in late November, with the first team meeting in January.

- **Filtration Devices** – Full Process. DNR/DSPS. Research ongoing.
- **Inlet Protection** – EZ Process. DNR. Looking at possible team leaders for this revision.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

Create doodle poll for mid October for next meeting.

#### **Action Items:**

- Pat/Todd/Jim to report back on training meetings and progress of training summit.
- ✓ Perry and Richard to revise Variance and Rule Exemption section of Handbook
- All to review Handbook changes as requested.
- All to provide feedback on the new website development.
- Gini/Jim/Pat will work on a draft 2013 budget to bring to next SOC meeting.
- ✓ Gini to send out doodle poll for next meeting for dates in mid October.

#### **Future Meeting Topics:**

- Filling DSPS representative, possibly on training committee
- 2013 Budget
- Handbook Revision Finalization
- Website review
- SOC list serve subscribers
- Outreach – submissions to newsletters, attendance to events
- Team Updates