
TECHNICAL STANDARDS PROCESS ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT January 2012 – December 2012



The Standards Oversight Council oversees a collaborative process for developing effective technical practice standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources.

COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Council is composed of representatives from cooperating agencies and organizations in the state who are involved with developing technical standards and the delivery of soil and water conservation programs.

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

University of Wisconsin – Extension (UWEX)

WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

WI Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA)

Standards Oversight Council

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2012 OVERVIEW

This year was marked with changes in staff, improvements in our communications, and continued progress in updating conservation practice standards for Wisconsin's soil and water conservation programs. By redesigning our website and public comment system, we aimed to build awareness of our work and encourage broad participation in the process amongst stakeholders. We further evaluated our team processes and are implementing changes to improve efficiency and ensure transparency and accountability.

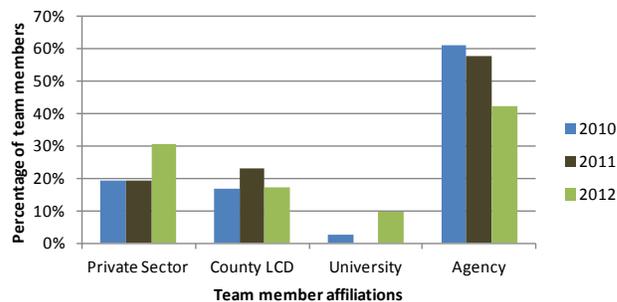
This year, five separate work teams, engaged in Full Process standard revisions, completed three waste management standards and began work on two additional standards. We developed a new, more user-friendly website to facilitate our collaborative process, enhance understanding of our work, support implementation of technical standards, and update our look. We are refining new systems for accepting comments on draft standards, receiving input on our future standards work, and relaying progress of each team. We were proud to launch the new website in December.

We are grateful for the continued support from federal and state agencies, counties, and all team members for their financial contributions, staff time and expertise, and commitment to a collaborative, science-based process for conservation practice standard development. Looking forward to 2013, we'll be focused on supporting the teams as they work towards revising the Nutrient Management practice standard and developing a Permeable Pavement standard.

2012 HIGHLIGHTS

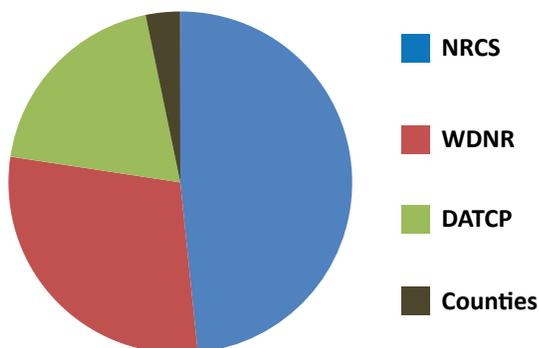
- Major revisions to three waste management standards published
- New website launched
- New coordinator hired
- Infiltration Trench standard published

Affiliations of Team Members in 2010 - 2012

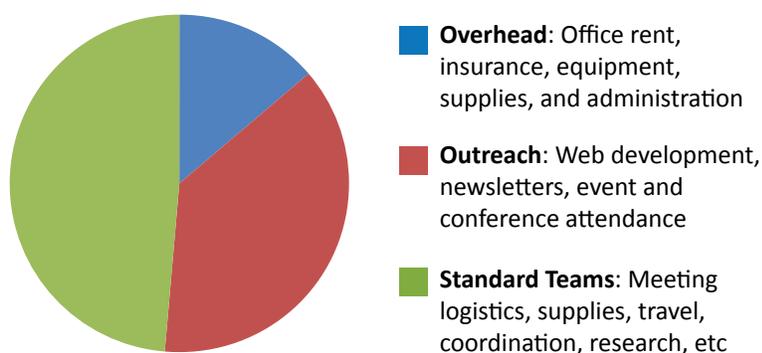


This figure illustrates the percentage of individuals from various affiliations serving on the standards development teams by year.

2012 Income



2012 Expense*



These financial graphs provide a non-audited summary of SOC income and expenses. The lists in the expense categories are not all inclusive.

* Staff time allocated to program area: 15% Administration & Overhead, 35% Outreach, 50% Standard Teams

I love the overall concept of the SOC process and feel very fortunate to be in a state that uses such a process to develop standards.
~ 2012 standard team member

ACTIVE STANDARD TEAMS

In 2012, the Council and the work teams completed major revisions to three standards, considered public comments to complete minor revisions to several other standards, and began two new work teams. The following standards, listed by custodian, were subject to a full-team, extensive nine-step process for completing revisions.

NRCS

Revisions to Standards **313, Waste Storage Facility; 634, Waste Transfer; and 629, Waste Treatment** were completed after more than two years of team work and research, being reviewed by outside experts, and reviewing public comments. After the teams resolved issues raised by submitted comments, the final drafts were approved and published in September.

These waste management standards were revised to clarify the standards based on field experience, reduce the need for variance requests, comply with changes in NRCS national standards, and incorporate new technology, materials, and research. Portions of the previous Standard 629 that related to vegetative treatment were moved to Standard 635, Vegetated Treatment Area, and wetlands for milkhouse waste treatment moved to Standard 656, Constructed Wetland. Training presentations were held across the state to provide an overview of the changes to the standards.

A **590 Nutrient Management** standard revision team was selected after unprecedented interest in team participation. The team was charged with comparing the Wisconsin 590 practice standard with the recently updated national 590 practice standard. Some of the major technical issues to be addressed by the team include nitrogen loss risk assessment, winter spreading risk assessment, and adaptive nutrient management.

DNR

Wisconsin's first **Permeable Pavement** standard is in the process of being developed by a diverse team of conservation technicians, industry consultants, and researchers. This summer, SOC and WDNR convened this work team to develop the new permeable pavement practice standard aimed at achieving water quality benefits.

For more information on active teams, upcoming work, the budget, and more, visit our website:

www.socwisconsin.org



2012 UPDATED STANDARDS

All updated standards were announced through the SOC list-serve and website. Several standards were open for public comment. All comments receive careful consideration and review.

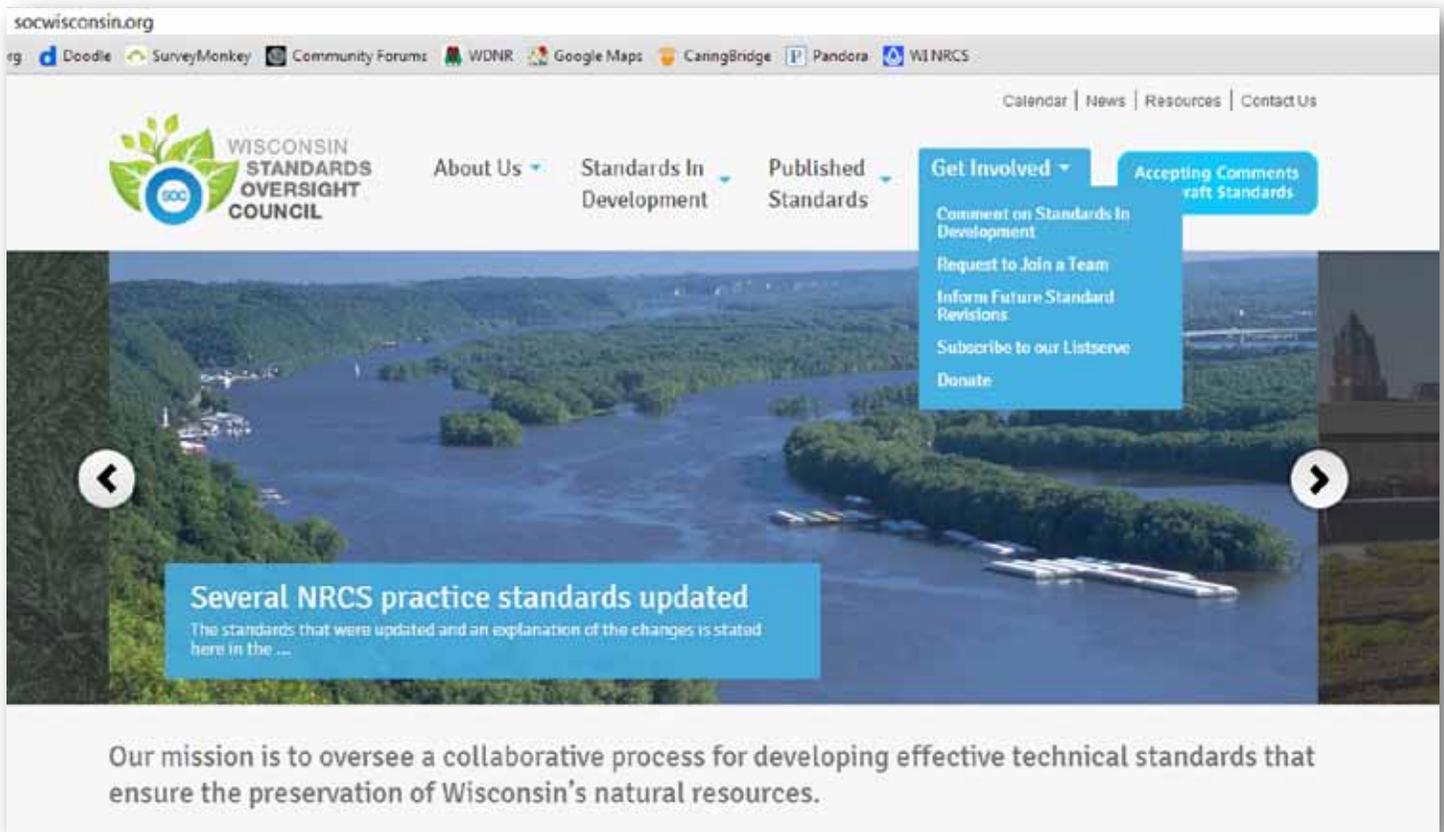
AGRICULTURAL

- Alley Cropping (311)
- Animal Mortality Facility (316)
- Animal Trails and Walkways (575)
- Composting Facility (317)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Constructed Wetland (656)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Livestock Pipeline (516)
- Mulching (484)
- Pond Sealing or Lining – Flexible Membrane (521A)
- Pond Sealing or Lining – Compacted Clay Treatment (521D) **New**
- Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329)
- Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (346)
- Residue Management, Seasonal (344)
- Stormwater Runoff Control (570) **New**
- Subsurface Drain (606)
- Vegetated Treatment Area (635)
- Waste Storage Facility (313)
- Waste Transfer (634)
- Waste Treatment (629)
- Water Well Decommissioning (351)
- Woody Residue Treatment (384)

URBAN STORMWATER

- Infiltration Trench (1007)

The Standards Oversight Council launches a new website!



During this year's transition with new staff and being between teams, we took a fresh look at our overall participation and avenues for communication.

With this evaluation, we saw opportunities - to better engage technical standard users across the state, to better communicate our work, and improve our ability to serve as a resource. We hope you will take advantage of our updated online presence and give us input for future improvements.

WHAT'S NEW?

- Easier navigation
- Accessible event calendar
- Specific pages on individual standard team progress
- Ability to comment on draft standards online
- Ability for standards users to view other's comments on draft standards
- Ongoing survey for input on Technical Standards Needs

The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) is an inter-agency collaboration that facilitates a team approach in developing and maintaining technical standards for soil and water conservation practices in Wisconsin. The SOC framework for working on standards is science-based, and maximizes participation in the development process through the use of an oversight council, work teams, and reviewers.

www.socwisconsin.org