
TECHNICAL STANDARDS PROCESS ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

January 2010 – December 2010

Prepared by the Standards Oversight Council

COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

WI Department of Commerce (Comm)

WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

University of Wisconsin – Extension (UWEX)

Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE)

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA)



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I. Introduction

What does the Standards Oversight Council do?

The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) is assigned the responsibility of overseeing the process used in Wisconsin for the development, maintenance and distribution of technical standards for urban and rural soil and water conservation practices. Essentially, SOC is the “gatekeeper” for the technical standards process, and is responsible for the contents of the Technical Standards Process Handbook (TSPH) that serves as a reference for everyone involved in the SOC process. SOC members represent the primary responsible parties in the technical standards process. They are also authorized to appoint individuals to represent their respective organization for participation in any technical standard activity.

The Standards Oversight Council

SOC is composed of cooperating agency personnel in the state who are involved with developing technical standards for the delivery of soil and water conservation programs, including:

- **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)**
Runoff Management Section, Engineering Unit Leader,
- **Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**
Conservation Engineering Section Chief,
- **Wisconsin Department of Commerce (Comm)**
Appointee of the Secretary of the Comm,
- **USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
State Resource Conservationist,
- **University of Wisconsin – Extension (UWEX)**
Appointee of the Dean of University of Wisconsin - Extension,
- **Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE)**
Appointee(s) of the WALCE Board of Directors, and
- **Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA)**
Executive Director.

For efficiency purposes, many federal, state and local agencies in Wisconsin rely upon the same technical standards to implement numerous conservation programs. This diverse user group must deal with different mandates, goals, policies, deadlines and political pressures. SOC is the organization charged with working through these inherent difficulties.

To further clarify the intent of SOC, it is important to note what it is not responsible for doing. SOC does not write standards, it oversees an interagency process charged with that task. SOC does not “own” any standards, and no change of custodianship by cooperating agencies is proposed. When a new or revised standard is needed, SOC determines which agency will take the lead, and coordinates the work team activities.

II. Evaluation of SOC Accomplishments in 2010

There are several levels to the activities and accomplishments performed by the Standards Oversight Council. The most visible means of measuring these accomplishments is to produce a list of the technical standards that SOC work teams devoted effort to create or revise during 2010. This list also includes technical standards undergoing revision by a Custodian's informal work team employing the SOC-EZ process. Table 1 contains this information for NRCS technical standards; Table 2 for a WDNR technical standard; and Table 3 for Commerce technical standards.

Table 1. SOC Technical Standards Work Team Status 2010		
NRCS IS THE CUSTODIAN FOR THESE STANDARDS		
SOC WORK TEAM	STANDARD(S)	STATUS
Waste Storage Facility Team	Waste Storage Facility (313)®	A SOC work team was formed in March 2009 to substantially revise the Waste Storage Facility technical standard, which governs the design, construction and maintenance of storage structures to temporarily store manure, leachate, wastewater and contaminated runoff as part of an agricultural waste management system. In 2010, the SOC work team met monthly and anticipates completing work on this standard in 2011.
Waste Transfer Team	Waste Transfer (634)®	A SOC work team was formed in March 2009 to substantially revise the Waste Transfer technical standard, which governs the design, construction and maintenance of conveyance systems, conduits and equipment to transfer animal manure, bedding, wastewater, leachate and contaminated runoff. In 2010, the SOC work team met one to two times per month, completed the Broad Review phase of standard development and initiated a second round of Broad Review to further clarify several key issues. Also in 2010, the work team prepared a draft 634 Construction Specification and made progress developing a Companion Document to the 634 standard. The work team anticipates completing work on the standard, specification and companion document in 2011.
Waste Treatment Team	Waste Treatment (629)®	A SOC work team was formed in the Summer 2010 to revise the Feed Storage Leachate and Runoff Control provisions of the 629 Waste Treatment technical standard. The work team will consider new research and lessons learned since the original feed storage leachate and runoff provisions were created in 2007. The SOC work team anticipates completing work on this standard in 2011.

® Revised Standard

Table 2. SOC Technical Standards Work Team Status 2010

WDNR IS THE CUSTODIAN FOR THIS STANDARD		
SOC WORK TEAM	STANDARD	STATUS
Bioretention (informal WDNR team using SOC-EZ process)	Bioretention (1004)®	In 2010, SOC and WDNR staff employed the SOC-EZ process to complete revisions to the 1004 Bioretention technical standard for stormwater management. The original standard was finalized in 2004 by a SOC work team. In June 2009, WDNR and SOC solicited comments on proposed revisions to the standard’s criteria for the engineered soil mixture. After evaluating comments received, WDNR removed native topsoil from the engineered soil mix, and increased the sand component to 70%-85%. Also, WDNR removed the requirement to use only silica sand. Thus, sand consisting of dolomite or calcium carbonate may also be used.

® Revised Standard

Table 3. SOC Technical Standards Work Team Status 2010

COMM IS THE CUSTODIAN FOR THIS STANDARD		
SOC WORK TEAM	STANDARD	STATUS
Infiltration Trench Team	Infiltration Trench (number to be assigned)*	In 2010, SOC finalized a new technical standard on Infiltration Trenches for the Dept. of Commerce. A SOC work team comprised of representatives from state, county and municipal agencies involved with non-point programs, as well as consulting engineers, prepared the new stormwater management standard that establishes criteria for infiltration trenches collecting and storing runoff until it can infiltrate into the subsurface soil. It includes criteria for site selection, trench design, construction, and operation and maintenance.
Manufactured Perimeter Control and Slope Interruption Products (informal Commerce team using SOC-EZ process)	Perimeter Control and Slope Interruption Products (number to be assigned)*	In 2010, the SOC-EZ process was employed to finalize a new technical standard to address installation of approved products that reduce uninterrupted slope length, and slow the velocity of runoff from small areas of disturbed soil. SOC distributed the draft standard for Broad Review and an informal work team at the Dept. of Commerce addressed comments and revised the draft technical standard. In late 2009, jurisdiction over the commercial erosion control program was transferred from Commerce to WDNR. As a result, an informal work team within WDNR finalized the new technical standard and WDNR retained custodianship.

* New Standard

In order to gauge the significance of Tables 1, 2 and 3, it is helpful to have an understanding of how much work is involved from the time a technical standard is selected for revision or creation, to the time it is finalized and distributed.

It is not uncommon for the process to take between one to two years to complete. This time frame is often dependent upon whether a team is working on more than one standard, and if the team is developing companion documents to enhance the application of the standards. A typical team may include anywhere from 5 to 12 work team members who commit at least one full day a month to working on the standard and other related tasks. This does not include the preparation time required for these meetings. In addition, the standards are subject to two stringent review processes that expose the drafts to hundreds of people before being finalized.

During 2010, individuals from numerous affiliations participated as SOC work team members. Table 4 illustrates the diversity of backgrounds represented on the work teams.

Table 4. Affiliations of SOC Work Team Members in 2010	
Organization	Number of Work Team Participants
Consultant/Private Industry	6
WDNR	4
County LCD	6
DATCP	5
NRCS*	8
UWEX	1
Municipalities	1
Comm	4
DHFS	1

* Individuals participating on more than one work team have been counted multiple times because of the different roles they fulfill on each work team.

It is widely acknowledged that given the complexity of the work and the breadth of stakeholders involved, the quality of the technical standards have been dramatically improved when compared with the pre-SOC era. There is also much evidence to suggest that the acceptability of the end product has increased. This means that Wisconsin is able to move closer towards providing a single, uniform set of land and water conservation practices that are consistently used and accepted by all user groups and codifying agencies.

Beyond the SOC process, the custodian of technical standards retains the responsibilities and the right to set the schedule for completion. The custodian maintains the final word regarding the content of the technical standard. Note that to date, no final work team drafts have been refused by a custodian; this should not occur if all parties meet their expected responsibilities.

Other SOC-related Accomplishments in 2010

Over the past year, SOC has been conducting a number of projects. SOC has continued to demonstrate a commitment to improving the accessibility and usability of technical standards by considering new initiatives and improving the general awareness of SOC activities in Wisconsin. In addition, the Council has concentrated on improving the process by evaluating the current structure and considering new ways to conduct business. SOC-related accomplishments in 2010 can be categorized as follows:

- SOC Outreach, Publications and New Initiatives
- Maintaining and Improving SOC Operations

SOC Outreach, Publications and New Initiatives~~~~~

Progress on New Companion Document –Currently in progress is an initial draft of a new companion document for the NRCS 634 Waste Transfer technical standard. The work team that has been revising the 634 Waste Transfer Standard also has been working on a companion document to provide guidance on practices to improve waste transfer systems. The work team is expected to finalize the draft companion document in 2011.

Updating the 2-Year SOC Work Plan – Prior to 2009, SOC devoted time and resources every two years to gathering input from state and federal agencies, counties, municipalities and other public and private entities about priorities for new and revised technical standards. Using the input, SOC prioritized the projects and develop a SOC Work Plan covering a specific period of two calendar years. Beginning in 2009, SOC increased the SOC program’s flexibility by updating the SOC Work Plan more frequently, as needs and priorities change. Thus, rather than cover specific calendar years, each new and revised SOC Work Plan is dated and covers planned work projects for the forward two-year period. In revising and updating the work plan, SOC continues to solicit input from the various agencies and interested members of the public. In 2010, SOC updated the SOC Work Plan to include the latest information on projects planned for the next two-year time period.

Utilizing the SOC Website www.socwisconsin.org – The SOC website is maintained to provide a single clearinghouse for SOC-related information. This website was developed to ensure that the services of the Standards Oversight Council are fully utilized and recognized by technical standard users in Wisconsin. Standards available for broad review, work team progress and meeting dates, links to relevant sites, and SOC meeting minutes are available online.

Promoting SOC via Print and Public Meetings – Several informational articles and news briefs were published (Wisconsin Conservation Engineering Newsletter, Thursday Note) to inform the conservation community of ongoing SOC activities and plans.

UWEX Partnership –The UWEX Environmental Resources Center (ERC), although it no longer dedicates a part-time staff member to work on SOC publications, nonetheless continues to provide in-kind services to SOC on an as-needed basis. For example, in

2010, web designers with UWEX completed its project to reorganize, redesign and create basic templates of new webpages for the SOC website (see below). In the future, UWEX will continue to act as an editorial resource for SOC, and funding for services likely will be negotiated between SOC and UWEX's ERC.

Maintaining and Improving SOC Operations ~~~~~

SOC Communications – The SOC listserv continues to be used to support SOC's system of distributing draft standards for review, notifying listserv members of new teams being formed to revise or create new standards, soliciting input on important topics and generally communicating with members of the SOC distribution list. Other communication efforts include responding to general requests for information about SOC and the technical standards development process, as well as maintaining telephone and email correspondence with work team leaders and members regarding the progress of various work teams.

Newly Redesigned SOC Website – In 2010, SOC continued to work with web designers at the UW-Extension's Environmental Resources Center to substantially update the SOC website. The redesign of the SOC web site was completed in the spring of 2010. The new website is visually more appealing, easier to navigate, and contains more useful information. At this point, SOC and WLWCA will maintain the redesigned website, including updates to the site's information on SOC activities, data, and important links.

Maintaining the SOC Distribution List – In addition to the listserv, the SOC distribution list also includes an extensive Outlook contacts database that the SOC Coordinator continually updates and maintains, as well as a small mailing list for contacts wishing only to receive regular mail. In 2010, the SOC Coordinator continued to work on expanding the number of urban contacts in the SOC distribution list. Overall, maintaining the SOC contacts database requires a significant amount of the SOC Coordinator's time.

III. Appendix

The following Tables provide a list of standards of which SOC has overseen the revision, creation or deletion.

Table 5. Revisions of NRCS Technical Standards Overseen by SOC To-Date		
Code	Revised Standards (21)	Date
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	4/02
327	Conservation Cover	11/01
342	Critical Area Planting	5/00
382	Fence	11/08
393	Filter Strip	1/01
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	7/01
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	3/02
634	Manure Transfer	11/04 & 12/05
590	Nutrient Management	7/02 & 9/05
329A	Residue Management No Till & Strip Till	5/98
329B	Residue Management Mulch Till	5/98
344	Residue Management Seasonal	5/98
378	Pond	7/01
521A	Pond Sealing or Lining - Flexible Membrane Lining	4/99
528A	Prescribed Grazing	12/08
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	2/97 & 12/05
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	3/01
313	Waste Storage Facility	6/01, 11/04 & 12/05
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	7/01
642	Well	4/99
657	Wetland Restoration	9/00

Table 6. Creation of New NRCS Technical Standards Overseen by SOC To-Date		
Code	New NRCS Standards (8)	Date
629	Livestock Feed Storage Leachate and Runoff Control #	8/08
634	Manure Transfer	1/99
629	Milking Center Wastewater Treatment System #	8/08
528A	Prescribed Grazing	4/98
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	1/01
I-643A	Shoreland Habitat	7/01
635	Wastewater Treatment Strip	1/02
351	Well Decommissioning	4/99

I = Interim Technical Standard # These standards were not issued separately, but were incorporated into 629 Waste Treatment

Table 7. Creation of New WDNR Technical Standards Overseen by SOC To-Date		
Number	New WDNR Standards (28)	Date
1004	Bioretention for Infiltration	10/04
1066	Construction Site Diversion	6/04
1053	Channel Erosion Mat	8/05
1061	Dewatering	9/06
1062	Ditch Check	8/05
1068	Dust Control on Construction Sites	6/04
1050	Erosion Control Anionic Polyacrylimide	7/01
1003	Infiltration Basin	10/04
1052	Non-Channel Erosion Mat	6/04
1071	Manufactured Perimeter Control and Slope Interruption Products	12/10
1058	Mulching for Construction Sites	6/04
1055	Sediment Bale Barrier (Non-Channel)	6/04
I-1051	Sediment Control Water Application of Polymers	12/02
1059	Seeding for Construction Sites	6/04
1064	Sediment Basin	3/06
1063	Sediment Trap	9/05
1070	Silt Curtain	9/05
1056	Silt Fence	6/04
1002	Site Evaluation for Stormwater Infiltration	3/04
1057	Stone Tracking Pad	6/04
1060	Storm Drain Inlet Protection for Construction Sites	6/04
1067	Temporary Grading Practices for Erosion Control	6/04
1069	Turbidity Barrier	9/05
1100	Turf Nutrient Management	5/06
1005	Vegetated Infiltration Swale	5/07
1054	Vegetated Buffer For Construction Sites	6/04
1001	Wet Detention Pond	3/99
WDNR and Comm Joint Custodianship Standard		
1006	Methods and Procedures for Predicting the Efficiency of Proprietary Stormwater Devices	3/08

I = Interim Technical Standard

Table 8. Revisions of WDNR Technical Standards Overseen by SOC To-Date		
	New WDNR Standards (2)	Date
1001	Wet Detention Pond	10/07
1004	Bioretention for Infiltration	12/10

Table 9. Creation of New Comm Technical Standards Overseen by SOC To-Date		
Code	New Comm Standards (1)	Date
TBD	Infiltration Trench	10/10

Table 10. Discontinued NRCS Standards		
Code	Discontinued Standards (24)	Date
310	Bedding	7/97
326	Clearing & Snagging	7/97
402	Dam, Floodwater Retarding	7/97
349	Dam, Multiple-Purpose	7/97
356	Dike	7/97
404	Floodway	7/97
Interim	Floodproofing	7/97
388	Irrigation Field Ditch	7/97
552A	Irrigation Pit or Regulating Reservoir – Irrigation Pit	7/97
552B	Irrigation Pit or Regulating Reservoir – Regulating reservoir	7/97
436	Irrigation Storage Reservoir	7/97
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	7/97
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	7/97
449	Irrigation Water Management	7/97
466	Land Smoothing	7/97
521B	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	7/97
521D	Pond Sealing or Lining, Cationic Emulsion – Waterborne Sealant	7/97
521E	Pond Sealing or Lining, Asphalt-Sealed Fabric Liner	7/97
462	Precision Land Farming	7/97
566	Recreation Land Grading & Shaping	7/97
554	Regulating Water in Drainage Systems	7/97
312	Waste Management System	6/01
425	Waste Storage Pond	7/97
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	7/97