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# TECHNICAL STANDARDS PROCESS ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

## January 2011 – December 2011

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Prepared by the Standards Oversight Council

The Standards Oversight Council oversees the development, maintenance, and distribution of quality technical standards to support land and water conservation programs for urban and rural areas in Wisconsin.

### COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

WI Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)

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

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The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) oversees the process for developing, maintaining, and distributing technical standards that support the implementation of soil and water conservation practices in Wisconsin. The Council is composed of cooperating agency personnel across the state who develop, revise, and/or utilize these technical standards.

In 2011, the Council and the work teams continued to draft major revisions to several standards. Three of those standards were revised using the Full process, listed in detail below, were sent out for broad comment, revised with the comments, and are nearly ready for publication and distribution. Several standards were revised with minor updates through the EZ process. In November, the biannual Technical Needs Survey was revised, distributed and summarized to determine the upcoming priorities for technical standards development and revision. The Council also began coordinating the hiring process to fill the SOC coordinator position.

During 2011, individuals from numerous affiliations participated as SOC work team members. Table 1 illustrates the diversity of backgrounds represented on the work teams.

<b>Table 1. Affiliations of Work Team Members in 2010 &amp; 2011</b>		
<b>Organization</b>	<b># of 2010 Team Participants</b>	<b># of 2011 Team Participants</b>
Consultant/Private Industry	6	5
WDNR	4	3
County LCD	6	6
DATCP	5	5
NRCS*	8	7
UWEX	1	0
Municipalities	1	0
DSPS	4	0
DHFS	1	0

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

## II. 2011 SOC Accomplishments

### Active Standards Work

In 2011, three work teams were active in completing the revisions of three NRCS standards. Detailed information about each work team activities is listed in the Table 1 below. Five standards were also revised using the EZ process in 2011. These standards are highlighted in Table 3.

Table 2. SOC Technical Standards Work Team Status 2011		
WORK TEAM DESCRIPTION		STATUS
Standard	Waste Storage Facility (313)®	This 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 2011, the SOC work team met monthly, sent out the standard for broad review in June, received comments from 39 individuals and organizations, and worked to resolve issues raised from comments. They anticipate releasing the publication of the standard in the summer of 2012.
Custodian	NRCS	
Process	Full	
Estimated Completion Date	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2012	
Standard	Waste Transfer (634)®	This 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 2011, the SOC work team met monthly, incorporated comments from a second round of Broad Review, and created companion documents to accompany the standard. The work team has completed work on the standard, and is awaiting finalization of 313 standard to release both standards at the same time.
Custodian	NRCS	
Process	Full	
Estimated Completion Date	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2012	
Standard	Waste Treatment (629)®	This 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 incorporated new research and lessons learned since the original feed storage leachate and runoff provisions were created in 2007. The team sent out the standard for Initial Review in June, responded to the comments, and then sent out the standard for broad review in the fall. The comments were reviewed by initial reviewers and the team. The anticipated release date is in the summer of 2012.
Custodian	NRCS	
Process	Full	
Estimated Completion Date	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2012	

® Revised Standard

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. Due to this process, 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.

## **Operations & Outreach**

**SOC Coordinator Position**– The Council developed a new Position Description and Evaluation Form for the Coordinator to reflect the changes in the role and placing a greater emphasis on communication, technical, and computer skills. The Council initiated the hiring process to fill the vacant SOC Coordinator position. Gini Knight accepted the position and officially assumed role of SOC Coordinator on April 2, 2012. Gini brings demonstrated skills as a project manager and outstanding communication skills.

**Technical Needs Survey** – The Council recreated and distributed the Technical Needs Assessment form, used to prioritize standards in need of revision or development. The survey responses were compiled and used to inform the revision of the Work Plan.

**Updating the 2-Year SOC Work Plan** – SOC solicited input from the various agencies and the public to prioritize projects and update the ongoing Work Plan covering the upcoming two calendar years. In November of 2011, SOC updated the Work Plan to include the latest information on current projects and projects planned for the next two years.

**New Companion Documents** – Companion documents to 634 Waste Transfer Standard were completed to provide guidance on practices to improve waste transfer systems.

### **OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS**

**SOC Website** [www.socwisconsin.org](http://www.socwisconsin.org) – The SOC website is maintained to provide a single clearinghouse for SOC-related information. Standards available for broad review, work team progress and meeting dates, links to relevant sites, and SOC meeting minutes are posted online. In 2011, the website was used to solicit comments for two draft standards.

**Maintaining the SOC List serves** – The SOC list serve includes nearly 500 contacts from across multiple agencies and professionals around the state, as well as a small list of members preferring US mail only. The SOC list serve continues to support SOC’s system of distribution of draft standard for review, input solicitation, notification of the formation of new teams, and general communication. The SOC Coordinator maintains the list serve and stays abreast of updates that need to be sent to the group. In 2012, the list serve will be split into two list serves with separate content – 1) Urban - non-agricultural, construction and development standards and 2) Agriculture- agricultural operations and land management standards.

**General Communications** – Staff responds to general information requests regarding SOC and the technical standards development process via phone and email.

**Promoting SOC via Print and Public Meetings** – Regular informational articles and news briefs were published in WLWCA’s Thursday Note to inform the conservation community of ongoing SOC activities and plans.

### III. Appendix

The following tables provide a list of standards of which SOC has overseen the revision, creation or deletion. The highlighted rows were completed in 2011.

<b>Table 3. Revised NRCS Technical Standards</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Standard (25)</b>	<b>Date</b>
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	4/02
397	Aquaculture Ponds	7/11
327	Conservation Cover	11/01
342	Critical Area Planting	5/00
554	Drainage Water Management	6/11
382	Fence	11/08
393	Filter Strip	1/01
398	Fish Raceway or Tank	7/11
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	7/01
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	3/02
430	Irrigation Pipeline	7/11
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
380	Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment	11/11

<b>Table 4. New NRCS Technical Standards</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Standard (8)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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

<b>Table 5. New WDNR Technical Standards</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Standard (28)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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
<b>WDNR and DSPTS Joint Custodianship Standard</b>		
1006	Methods and Procedures for Predicting the Efficiency of Proprietary Stormwater Devices	3/08

I = Interim Technical Standard

<b>Table 6. Revised WDNR Technical Standards</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Standard (2)</b>	<b>Date</b>
1001	Wet Detention Pond	10/07
1004	Bioretention for Infiltration	12/10

<b>Table 7. New DSPTS Technical Standards</b>		
	<b>Standard (1)</b>	<b>Date</b>
1007	Infiltration Trench	10/10