



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 || 1:00 pm – 4:00pm || DNR GEF 2, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, Room 313

1:00 – 1:05 **Welcome**

Attendees: Bob Armstrong, Kate Brunner, Richard Castelnuovo, Chad Cook, Matt Krueger, Perry Lindquist (phone), MaryAnn Lowndes, John Ramsden, Gretchen Wheat, John White (phone), Matt Woodrow

1:05 – 1:15 **SOC Program Manager Introduction**

Introduce Kate and walk through the transition

Kate helped on WI Land+Water's Food, Land and Water project. She was previously in environmental consulting for 20 years, working on industrial type soil and groundwater contamination.

Kate summarized the SOC training process to date:

- Overlapped several weeks with previous SOC Program Manager Jennifer Thieme
- Training included hands-on work on some standards at different stages of process – setting up meetings, receiving public comments, and kicking off a new team
- Also a lot of administrative training – the SOC handbook and work plan; budgets, invoicing and grant processes; listserv postings for outreach; website management, and standard team tracking.

Kate is open to suggestions or input so feel free to speak up here or reach out directly later on.

1:15 – 1:45 **SOC Committee Member Introduction**

Remaining SOC Committee Member introductions and description of roles

Richard - DATCP – program funder, uses the NRCS standards in their rules, primarily ag but some urban.

Matt K – new Exec Director at WI Land+Water, previous experience at River Alliance included similar contacts and building relationships

Matt W - DATCP technical side

Chad – UWEX (sitting in for Ken G) – role initially was related to publications but they no longer have resources for bigger projects/publications. They work on some companion documents, drawings, tech notes or outreach, and raining (Erb).

Gretchen – WDNR engineer, CAFO plan review so mostly reviews ag standards, been involved with SOC for a long time so has knowledge of SOC and WDNR role/history

John Ramsden (JR) – NRCS – He, Perry and Bruce were on the original committee to start SOC >20years ago to get together and coordinate on standards. NRCS starts with national standards and build from there; they can't take away from national standards but can adjust for state-specific approach. They are approaching 100 standards and update on a 5-year cycle.

Mary Anne – WDNR – Runoff mgmt. section chief – her predecessor Gordon helped develop SOC too. DNR joined since they wanted to be part of the standards process and move beyond Manuals. Some DNR standards are rather old and that is considered when prioritizing for developing the work plan.

Bob Armstrong – DOT – He's been on SOC committee about 2 years. He's conduit for getting DOT review of standards. Though DOT is not funding right now, they still bring DOT perspective to standards. They may have detail drawings and specs but only sometimes use the standards.

DATCP	WDNR	NRCS	UWEX	County LCDs	WI Land+Water	WisDOT	USACE
Richard Castelnuovo (608) 224-4608 Matt Woodrow (920) 427-8505	Mary Anne Lowndes (CHAIR) (608) 261-6420 Gretchen Wheat (608) 264-6273	John Ramsden Scott Mueller (608) 662-4422	Ken Genskow (608) 262-8756	Perry Lindquist (262) 548-7867 Bruce Olson (608) 785-9867	Matt Krueger (608) 441-2677	John Rublein (608) 246-7953 Bob Armstrong (608) 267-3147	Rebecca Graser (262) 641-6498

Perry Lindquist – Wauk. County – One of the founders of SOC. He and Bruce represent local perspective to SOC (Bruce on ag and Perry on urban).

John White – NRCS – He is acting state resource conservationist, expected for a couple months more. He works more on minor standards. NRCS also has companion docs (technical notes or job sheets).

1:45 – 2:00 **Review previous action items**
Private sector involvement

Gretchen and Matt previously sent out their findings via email to this committee regarding offering PDHs for being on a SOC team. The conclusion is that we won't offer PDHs for being on a SOC team - the justifiable PDHs would be small, only a couple of hours through the duration of the team. If they were offered, this wouldn't likely drive up private sector involvement. We will not advertise or adjust our schedule for PDHs. If a team member takes on the responsibility of counting certain hours (topics/discussions/presentation) for their PDHs, we can provide documentation of the topic and person's attendance. PDHs are already offered for trainings but not SOC team participation.

Urban standards have a lot of private sector involvement but ag standards don't have same level involvement. Urban work has more engineering firms with larger staff. Ag industry participation low due to fewer people and heavy work load. We will continue to invite as reviewers.

2:00 – 2:30 **Team & training updates**

○ **DNR standards**

- **1008 Permeable Pavement** (None) – *Steering Committee released a request for applications to join the research project in late Feb.*
Team revisits this standard once a year: SOC sent out a request in February for opening additional research in permeable pavement at Sycamore Park. Peter Wood at DNR and Bill Selbig at USGS are leading this. So far only one organization is interested (PaveDrain). At least one other party (DRS Asphalt) was put off by the \$90,000 cost of the study.
- **1009 Rain Gardens** (Modified) – (Perry Lindquist, Team Leader) *Ongoing, was released for Broad Review 4/18 to 5/9. There were more than 60 individual comments – that review is underway and another meeting to tackle the more substantial comments is being scheduled now, likely mid-summer, The Rain Garden Manual updates are now paused until comments to standard have been addressed. Manual will be digital only for now. The document ownership and outreach will be considered by the team.*
- **1057 Stone Tracking Pad & Tire Washing** (Full) – (Amy Minser, Team Leader) *Ongoing, was released for Broad Review 4/18 to 5/9. Not many comments received, and response preparations are underway. Final team meeting 5/29 and Amy already has this on the DNR meeting calendar in June for finalization this fall.*
- **1061 Dewatering** (Modified) – (Jan Kucher, Team Leader) *Ongoing, on hold until June*
Jan will reach out to old team for input. We'll start work on this standard revision this summer. Bob A requests Tom Kobus out of Green Bay DOT to the reviewer list.
- **1010 Proprietary Filtration Device** (Full) – (Eric Rortved, Team Leader) *Scoping meeting 2/15, first team meeting will be 8/1*
This is a new standard, and will be built off of Proprietary Settling Devices
Standard may include testing criteria, not recommendations for specific product/brand
John Rublien at DOT will be considered as initial reviewer

○ **NRCS standards**

- **No Full Process** standards right now

- **360 Waste Facility Closure (Modified)** – Was released for Broad Review 3/8-3/29. Responses have been provided to all seven reviewers. Will be finalized soon.
- **Minor Updates:** Aquaculture Ponds (Code 397), Earthfill for Waste Storage Facilities (WCS 204), Groundwater Testing (Code 355), Pond Sealing or Lining – Compacted Soil Treatment (Code 520), Pond Sealing or Lining – Concrete (Code 522), Pond Sealing or Lining – Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner (Code 521), Saturated Buffer (Code 604), Waste Storage Facility (Code 313—October 2017R), and Clay Liner (WCS 300). Many of these were “trickle down” consistency changes that came from revisions to 313 last year.
- **582 Open Channel (Modified)** - JR proposes to add a modified process Open Channel standard, which will be sent out for broad review (note: this wasn't in SOC Work Plan). They are adding criteria for 2-stage ditch. There was no initial team on this but he'll bounce it off NRCS and DATCP engineers prior to release for review.
- The **590 (Nutrient Management)** national standard expected to be out for public comment in Federal Register soon. After Federal version is finalized we have one year to update the state NRCS standard. NRCS is monitoring this closely and Kate will also track.
- **Webinar training held for 313 et. al.** to recap 313 changes and consistency changes made to other standards.

2:30 – 2:45 **SOC Team-Recommended Research**

Update on the status of supporting infiltration swale research to advance several teams' recommendations: The contract was signed earlier this year to fund research by Anita Thompson at UW related to assessing infiltration of swales. We just got her funding request for \$2,000 for research to be completed this summer. Two teams for standards 1002 (Site Evaluation for Infiltration) and 1005 (Vegetated Swale) concluded with recommendations for further infiltration research. This expanded swale research of a larger area and differing soil types provides data to support the standards. Roger Bannerman and John Panuska were involved in scoping the research.

Jennifer had also reached out to Jason Nemecek at NRCS. He provided some detailed insight and suggestions for research, but didn't have completed research.

3:00 – 3:30 **Financials & Budget**

Review Q1 financials and update on current 2018 funding.

Income stream expected to remain true to the 2018 budget

- DNR - Still waiting for DNR contract from 2017-2018. Delayed since every 5 years DNR sole-source funding is reviewed and approved with more detailed, slower process.
- NRCS - Though still being confirmed, current discussions with NRCS indicate a 5-year grant period for next renewal. We will also be requesting cost-of-living and inflation changes over the 5-year budget period.
- DATCP grant came through very quickly and we already have 2018 contract. If NRCS grant provides for cost-of living increases, this could be considered in subsequent requests to DATCP.

County dues amounted to \$5,250 in 2017 and we've already received about \$4,300 in 2018. This is separate funding held in a separate account, also separate from endowment account. Both reserve and endowment funds combined currently total about \$65K.

The SOC Program Manager staff change resulted in increased costs (overlap of staff 1 month, and ongoing cost for increased benefits). We reviewed the budget and made some adjustments knowing how Q1 expenses came out and defined some clearer budget projections for the rest of the year. We still will be a little in the red but we proposed to draw from the SOC account from county dues to balance the budget. Kate and Matt didn't see a specific policy for how and when this money can be accessed. Richard remembers talking about this before related to endowment. Kate will

check historic meeting notes to see about the 2 accounts and management rules – this may have been already discussed. Some recall that Bill Schuster proposed this, probably during merger time-frame. JR says WI Land+Water and SOC have a good history on the budgets and transparency. We will continue to track and report back expenses each quarter. Matt K is going to talk to WI Land+Water Exec Committee about this county fund withdrawal and developing policy on managing funds.

Consider account change to money market for county dues and endowment accounts

0.1% vs 0.2% interest – Several members thought it was already in money market. We'd know in advance when/if we'd need to withdraw this money so access limitations are not a problem. This change is acceptable.

3:30 – 3:45 Action items, next meeting agenda items, next meetings: August 7, November 7

Kate – review historic meeting minutes to identify if there is a written purpose and policy for using funds in endowment/reserve accounts.

JR – will request Angela Biggs (new State Conservationist at NRCS) at next meeting in August, which would then be held at NRCS [Post-meeting note: SOC committee meeting date changed to August 9, 2018].

Matt – request Exec Committee to confirm a \$4000 withdrawal from SOC county dues account to active SOC account to make up difference in 2018 budget. He will also inquire about policy/procedures for using reserve funds.