



# Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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## 1009 Rain Garden Standard Team

### MEETING NOTES

Wed., July 25, 2018 ▲ 9:00am – 1:00pm ▲ Dane County Office, Room 121, 5201 Fen Oak Dr., Madison, WI

#### 9:00 Welcome & Review Current Status

**Attendees:** **Kate Brunner**, WI Land+Water  
**Perry Lindquist**, Team Leader, Waukesha County Dept. of Parks and Land Use  
**Roger Bannerman**, USGS  
**Jim Baumann**, former WDNR  
**Leif Hauge**, Waukesha County Dept. of Parks and Land Use  
**Judy Horwathich**, USGS  
**Eric Jacobson**, Aspen Garden and Landscape  
**Ken Potter**, former University of Wisconsin

Kate provided a brief introduction, indicating our goal today is to review the responses to public comments draft by Perry, and finalize the text incorporating public comments. We have time to do some final clean-up in the next couple weeks, then get to DNR by 8/31 for approval at their 9/6 PMT meeting.

#### 9:15 Review Comments and Draft Responses

Goal: Review the Broad Review comments received and refine the associated draft responses. Key points to discuss are highlighted in blue in standard text, with some discussion below.

The team reviewed the comments and draft responses, focusing on the following more substantial comments from the Broad Review Process:

1. Removed “for residential or commercial projects” from definition because it is already in the conditions where practice applies, which is more appropriate.
2. Revised first sentence in “Conditions Where Practice Applies” to clarify that applicability has soil, site and runoff limitations. Peak flows, pollutant loads, thermal impacts, etc. are already discussed in the “Purpose” section.
3. In response to comments, added deicer language in the “conditions where practice applies” to be consistent with pointing out general limitations of standard applicability.
4. Professional assistance suggested for some portions of this standard
  - a. See sentence added to “Conditions where practice applies”
  - b. See asterisks added to select definitions
  - c. Soil limitations: Bedrock within 1-3 feet

- d. Setbacks: Well within 25 feet
- 5. Added "Compliance with Law" subtitle to clarify the context of the paragraph below it, and to draw more attention to the fact that only the applicable regulatory authority can make compliance determinations. This paragraph also had limited relation with "Conditions Where Practice Applies" section.
- 6. Use of models for rain garden sizing.
- 7. Why are soil infiltration rates different than other standards?
  - a. Added new Note below Table 2 discussing averaging and source of infiltration rates
  - b. Allow higher infiltration rates? No, would be only if approved by a regulator.
- 8. Added citation for sources of data for both Table 2 and Table 3 (Roger to provide detailed citation for Table 2; Ken for his calculations for Table 3)
- 9. Allow larger drainage areas if designed by a professional? No, would be only if approved by a regulator.
- 10. Allow deeper ponding depths? No, would be only if approved by a regulator.
- 11. Add sand to list of soil amendments to aid infiltration? No, keep as compost only (which could also have sand). Team experience is that amendments to improve infiltration has very limited success. This section should be related to plant establishment, not infiltration.
- 12. Consideration for DATCP licensed growers and dealers is appropriate. NHC native plant dealer list is restricting--much smaller list, includes out-of-state vendors so not all on DATCP licensed. This standard also supports both native and non-native plantings so NHC list not appropriate. Invasive species prohibitions are already discussed.
- 13. Consideration changed to include reference to prohibit restricted and prohibited species under NR 40 [note: this is different from list of rain garden invaders in Consideration (3)(k)]
- 14. Added definitions for "adverse drainage" and "bedrock". Added asterisk to some definitions for conditions where professional input may be appropriate.

The team discussed the comments and came to decisions while modifying the text together during the meeting.

**12:00 Lunch**

**12:45 Next Steps and Action Items**

Goal: Identify next steps in process for standard completion.

We are on schedule to get final text to DNR 8/31 and we are on the agenda for the Sept. 6 DNR Policy Management Team (PMT) meeting for final DNR approval. Kate will work with Perry and DNR to make sure the submittals and signatures are on-track. Based on recent experience, Kate thinks it will be several week after that meeting before final text is published by DNR.

Announcement of the final standard would be by DNR on GovDelivery; Kate would also cross-post to the SOC listserv and to our county network.

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Training and outreach will be performed after final standard is published. Team thinks DNR would lead this. WI Land+Water would provide webinar service and recording, make announcements to our membership and SOC listserv members. Eric suggests outreach and training through WI Nursery and Landscape Associations—he's not a member so Kate will look into this and make sure they are on list noticing the new standard, manual, and training.

Homeowner's manual - Elliot Meyer at WI Land+Water met with Roger and Eric last February to review manual updates—Elliot has text revisions from that meeting and has been working on graphics and making the document pretty. We paused work on the Rain Garden Manual after comments came in, but will move forward again, with some parallel edits based on the final draft of the standard. Kate will send final draft of manual to the team for final review and comment. The goal will be for the manual to be published concurrent with or soon after the standard.

Team Exit Survey handed out and 5 team members returned completed survey

#### Action Items

**Roger** will send Kate the Rawls citation for Table 2.

**Ken** will send Kate citation/summary for Table 3.

**Kate** will refine text and make consistency edits based on today's discussion, then send to Perry for review by the end of this week.

**Perry** will review final draft then send to the **entire team** for one final, short review in mid-August.

**Kate** will work with DNR on approvals and posting. When finalized, DNR will post on GovDelivery and Kate will send out email notices to SOC and county listservs, update SOC website.

**Kate** will check with DNR and see who at DNR would lead a webinar (or other training?).

**1:00 End**