



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Thursday, August 9, 2018 || 1:00 pm – 4:00pm || NRCS, 8030 Excelsior Drive, Room 102, Madison, WI 53717

Call in: 1-877-826-6967 <><> ID: 145-8130 <><> GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/131646133>

1:00 – 1:05

Welcome

Attendees:

Bob Armstrong, Angela Biggs (guest), Kate Brunner, Richard Castelnuovo, Chad Cook, Eric Hurley, Matt Krueger, Scott Mueller, Gretchen Wheat, Matt Woodrow

Absent:

Perry Lindquist, MaryAnn Lowndes (chair), Bruce Olson, John Ramsden

1:05 – 1:15

Angela Biggs and Eric Hurley Welcome and Introduction

1:15 – 2:00

SOC Committee Member Introduction)

SOC Committee Member introductions and description of roles

2:00 – 2:15

Review previous action items

5/16 notes – approved

SOC Funding – cost increases due to staff turnover discussed at 5/16/18 meeting were balanced with funds from the county dues account and WI Land+Water operations budget. Kate and Richard researched historical meeting minutes to try and find discussion of protocol for spending county dues or establishing endowment. Kate had emailed this committee with some details – gist was that the idea of creating a policy was discussed in December 2012 and March 2013 SOC meetings but didn't appear to have resulted in a written procedure.

Matt discussed setting up a policy for this reserve money with the WI Land+Water Executive Committee and we will be formalizing a policy for the county dues fund. Some discussion ensues:

- Richard wasn't sure if the money was SOC's but it was agreed that the policy would include WI Land+Water consultation with the SOC Advisory Committee as part of the approval to spend money from the county dues fund or endowment fund. It may be appropriate to reference the WI Land+Water policy on county dues in the next SOC Handbook update.
- Total reserve money in both endowment and SOC county dues account is about \$65,000, which is budget for about half of annual SOC budget. Important to maintain a reserve in the event that funding falls through.
- Kate will be preparing thank you letters to the counties who help fund SOC. In this letter, we will elaborate on this "rainy day" fund for increased transparency with the counties--why it's important to maintain and grow for times of insecure funding. If policy is further along, we could also inform the counties of the new policy and process for spending and saving funds.

SOC-funded research – Not a previous formal action item, but an update from previous meeting: SOC provided funding for swale infiltration research at UW. Data has been collected on 2 of the 4 swales and field research expected to be completed in the next month, report expected spring 2019 as part of Master Thesis. This research will be used to advance several teams' recommendations.

DATCP Richard Castelnuovo (608) 224-4608 Matt Woodrow (920) 427-8505	WDNR Mary Anne Lowndes (CHAIR) (608) 261-6420 Gretchen Wheat (608) 264-6273	NRCS John Ramsden Scott Mueller (608) 662-4422	UWEX Ken Genskow (608) 262-8756	County LCDs Perry Lindquist (262) 548-7867 Bruce Olson (608) 785-9867	WI Land+Water Matt Krueger (608) 441-2677	WisDOT John Rublein (608) 246-7953 Bob Armstrong (608) 267-3147	USACE Rebecca Graser (262) 641-6498
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2:15 – 2:45

Review SOC Process

SOC is funded by DNR, NRCS and DATCP; all 3 benefit from the process. DATCP is not a custodian but uses NRCS and DNR standards.

DNR and NRCS are legal custodians of standards, but they use or reference each other's standards, and DATCP references both agencies' standards.

Custodian can set sideboards and redirect the team if they get off target.

SOC doesn't take over the responsibility of the custodian. Kate facilitates and documents the process. Each standard team has a Team Leader as the technical leader.

The SOC process is an inter-agency process with collaboration by representatives from private sector, municipalities, counties, farmers, agronomists, or whomever else has technical experience

We conduct a biennial survey, get input from custodians on their priorities, then develop a 2-year work plan of standards expected to be revised.

We understand time requirement for NRCS standards; SOC is similarly committed to meeting those expectations.

Depending on degree of changes, the custodian designates a SOC path for Minor, Modified or Full Process. There is a public comment step for Modified and Full Process standards.

SOC has ag and urban listservs which are used to announce building of new teams, public comment periods and final published standards, in addition to notices the agencies may put out. In public review process, Kate records and distills public comments for the team to review and respond.

SOC process ensures transparency in development and review of standards.

This advisory committee provides guidance for the overall process. Meets quarterly to review standards in progress, outreach and training related to standards, plans for future standard revisions, and program financials.

Mary Anne is currently the chair. The committee isn't sure if there is a designated co-chair or what process was for rotating new chairs to the committee. Kate will check Handbook to confirm.

There is a SOC Handbook detailing the requirements and expectations of the whole process.

2:45 – 3:00

SOC Work Plan Update

Review standards list from *2018-2019 SOC Work Plan* and update as appropriate.

No immediate changes identified, no need to update. Custodians will review and let Kate know if any changes expected. DATCP is considering a standard for pesticide storage. NR151 performance standard related to depth to bedrock determination may use NRCS's

3:00 – 3:30

Team & training updates

o DNR standards

- **1009 Rain Gardens (Modified)** – *Ongoing, expected to be finalized Sept. 2018*
 - *Team meeting 7/25, response to Broad Review comments completed; plan is for DNR final approval of standard on 9/6.*
 - *An updated Rain Garden Manual for homeowners will follow. We are still working on edits and it too has to go through internal DNR review. Likely DNR approval Oct. or Nov. 2018.*
- **1057 Trackout Control Practices (Full)** – *Completed*
 - *Last team meeting 5/29 to confirm team responses to Broad Review comments. Responses were provided to all 8 broad reviewers.*
 - *DNR approved and final text published 7/25/18.*
 - *Training and outreach via webinar and conference presentation is expected in coming months.*
- **1061 Dewatering (Modified)** – *Ongoing, was on-hold but resuming now. Will be modified without team meeting but still collaboration and public review. Bob confirms with Kate that Tom Kobus of DOT is on*

list for initial review of revisions. Bob suggests DNR liaison Mike Halstead could also provide assistance. Revised standard tentative schedule is for Broad Review in November 2018 and published in early 2019.

- **1010 Proprietary Filtration Devices (Full)** – Ongoing - *First team meeting 8/1 – A new standard with a larger team. I am now sifting through the list of issues brought up by the group and hoping to work with the team to prioritize before the next meeting in Sept. There are many issues to consider and team is striving to keep in generalized for wider variety of filtration devices.*
- **NRCS standards**
 - **No Full Process Standards**
 - **582 Open Channel (Modified)** – Completed - *Was released for Broad Review with just 1 comment received from 1 reviewer. A response was provided and updated standard was finalized in June 2018.*
 - **Minor Updates:** 558 Roof Runoff Structure; 635 Vegetated Treatment Area; 360 Waste Facility Closure; 376 Field Operations Emissions Reduction; Wisconsin Conservation Standard (WCS) 1 Clearing; WCS 2 Excavation; WCS 3 Earthfill; WCS 3a Earthfill, Ditch Fills or Partial Filling; WCS 4-WS Embedded or Expansive Waterstop; WCS 5 Construction Site Pollution Control; WCS 7 Mobilization and Demobilization; WCS 8 Drainfill; WCS 9 Rock Riprap; WCS 10 Fences; WCS 11 Small Rock Aggregate (Non-Concrete); WCS 12 Cathodic Protection; WCS 16 Stream Clearing and Snagging; WCS 17 Wire Mesh Gabions and Mattresses; WCS 18 Sack or Tubular Gabion; WCS 20 Soil Bioengineering; WCS 21 Structural Measures for Streambank and Shorelines; WCS 22 Temporary Wave Barrier (Breakwaters); WCS-24 Construction Surveys; WCS 200 Grouted Rock Riprap; and WCS 204 Earthfill for Waste Storage Facilities. *All are noticed through FOTG Notice.*
 - **590 Update** - *Not sure what delay is in posting the federal version for public review period in Federal Register---it could be any day. Timing depends on number and extent of comments. This version is not a drastic change from previous version. With timing of federal draft release, comment period, and response to comments required prior to finalization, it would likely not come to the state level for about a year.*
- **Training – webinar and other outreach planned for 1057 Trackout Control** – no specifics yet, but the team has identified targeted audience and will be doing a variety of in-person and webinar outreach

3:30 – 3:45

Financials & Budget

Review Q2 financials and update on current 2018 funding status

Review expenses vs budget spreadsheet—current through Q2 so 50% budget remaining is generally the target, though most expenses are not uniform throughout the year.

Review pie chart on Staff Report – still heavy on administrative time with transition to new SOC Program Director. There has also been less work on standards required with wrap-up of several standards earlier in the year, and only one new standard started.

3:45 – 4:00

Review action items, next meeting agenda items (next meeting November 7)

Action items:-

- **Kate** – create Doodle poll for selection of 2019 meeting dates. Meeting locations will rotate between NRCS, DNR and DATCP.
- **Kate** – check in with Eric Hurley after he's more settled
- **Kate** – review SOC Handbook to review process for electing or rotating new chair (or potentially other committee assignments).
- **Matt** – continue to report back on progress with policy for county dues money
- **Kate** – prepare county thank-you letters, including description of dues policy

4:00

Meeting Adjourned

Supplemental Meeting Materials: Staff report, Q2 2018 Financial Update

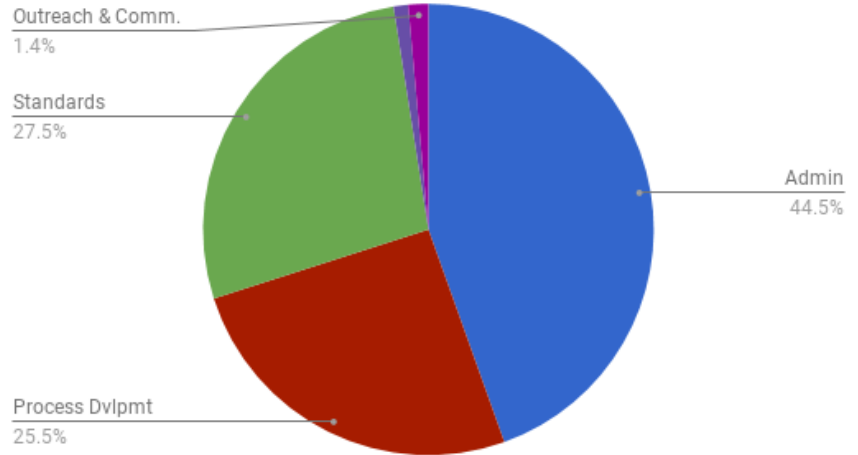
Staff Report for 05/11/18 – 07/31/18

Activities of SOC Program Manager Kate Brunner

Standards

- **1057 Trackout Control Practices:** Team considered Broad Review comments at its May 29 meeting. Responses were provided to all 8 reviewers. Standard finalized and DNR posted online on 7/25/18.
- **1009 Rain Gardens:** Team prepared responses to Broad Review comments and appropriate text edits at its 7/25/18 meeting. The team is now finalizing text and the standard is expected to be approved at DNR's Sept. 6 management meeting. Rain Garden manual will be updated, though still needs to undergo DNR review so it is expected to be published a month or two after the standard.
- **1010 Proprietary Filtration Devices:** First full team meeting held 8/1/18. This is a new standard so there's a lot of work. Team identified a variety of key issues and set up a schedule for monthly meetings.
- **582 Open Channel:** Circulated for Broad Review 6/1 to 6/18/18. A response was provided to the 1 reviewer. NRCS posted final standard with 6/28/18 FOTG Notice WI-94.

2nd Qtr % Program Manager Time by Program



SOC Program Development

- Final onboarding of the new SOC Program Manager;
- Coordinated and attended quarterly Council meeting (5/16/18);
- Acted as a liaison between agencies and county land conservation departments regarding technical issues, particularly through the WI Land+Water Technical Committee meeting on June 8, Mississippi River Basin Committee meeting on July 19, and at the 2-day County Conservationist Meeting on July 19-20.

Outreach

- Drafting a new Rain Garden Manual (with Elliot Meyer);
- Updated SOC website content on homepage news items, team pages, and events calendar;
- Maintained SOC listservs for standard announcements, added new members and corrected/updated information for inactive email addresses;
- Managed submissions for Technical Photo Gallery and posted updates.

Training & Conference

- Started coordination of training and outreach ideas for 1057 Trackout Control Practices standard;
- Attended the County Conservationist meeting to develop relationships with the counties and support program development and outreach related to recently updated and upcoming standards.

Administration

- Provided budget outlay and continued pursuit of NRCS contract for 2019-2024
- Finalized FY 2018 agreement with DNR;
- Drafted FY 2019 request for DNR;
- Completed 2nd quarter expense reports, time sheets, reports for funders;
- Participated in WI Land+Water staff meetings.