



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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NRCS Stream Protection/Restoration Standards Team

MEETING NOTES

Friday, March 12, 2021 ▲ 9:00am – 12:30 pm ▲

Online Meeting

9:00 Welcome (Kate, Team)

Goal: Welcome, attendance, meeting goal.

Confirmation of attendance:

Attendance: Kate, Steve, Jeff H, Joe, Seth, Bob, Nate, Marty, Stacy, Ben, Faith

Absent: Mike, Bart, Jeff S, Ken

Guests: None

Meeting goal: Discuss and edit the draft text for Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 584 Channel Bed Stabilization. Get it close to Initial Review today.

We also hope to have time to review CPS 395 today.

Review Draft 3 of CPS 584 Channel Bed Stabilization (Steve, Team)

Goal: Review the proposed revised draft supplemental language and discuss alternate options as a team.

CPS 584 is a little outside the grouping of the other 3 standards this team is working on but still similar. Steve reviews photos of some examples of structures while discussing the history and context for Channel Bed Stabilization. This is used for concrete structures to manage flow, but not really intended for natural streams. Some structures may be constructed may instead be under CPS 395 (like a vortex weir or rock) —as long as the weir stays below a certain height, the work can stay in 584. See CPS 395 text for details.

Concrete work under this standard isn't in the EQIP funding schedule. A dam repair project may have funding coverage under other standards like CPS 395 and fish passage.

The federal standard of CPS 584 is currently out for comment. The federal standards are very generalized and we can put state-specific detail as we are here. Team can review to see if our state specifics might be applicable more widely and send comments on the federal standard. **Steve** will make sure this teamwork is applied to the new (future) updated federal standard.

Prior to this meeting, Kate emailed the team a “Draft 3” of the CPS 584 standard for team review. Steve prepared this document from discussions at previous team meetings and written comments he received on earlier drafts. Steve reviews Draft 3 of the standard with supplemental language on-screen and the team discusses. Some wordsmithing is done on-screen together. Some key points of the team discussion:

- Standard drawings show 4’ in some and 8’ in others for keying in. **Steve** will review the standard drawings and confirm consistency and adjustments. The standard drawings may be habitat structures that are not part of this particular standard.
- Language added to analyze channel bed in site assessment list – include bedload classification for scour depth calculations. Similarly, soil geotechnical evaluation is discussed but no additional language added for that.
- No considerations added to federal language.
- Plans and specifications some details added.
- **Steve** will send the updated Draft 4 of CPS 584 out to the team with the bundle of 4 standards for the team to review one last time before we go out for Initial Review. **Team** will then have one week to review this group of 4 standards. This review and final adjustment will be handled via email, not in meeting.

New Agenda Item:

CPS 395 – Stream Habitat Improvement and Management

To make good use of the team’s time, we move on to discuss CPS 395. Draft 3 of CPS 395 standard was emailed for team review. Steve prepared this document from discussions at previous team meetings and written comments he received on earlier drafts.

Steve reviews the standard with supplemental language on-screen and the team discusses. Some wordsmithing is done on-screen together. Some key points of the team discussion:

- This isn’t an engineering standard so this doesn’t have engineering type of design and calculations. Eric Hurley and Steve Bertjens at NRCS will also need to approve the edits.

- Team changes the language for consultation with a fish biologist or interdisciplinary team (landowner, technician, conservationist, etc.). This has been adjusted several times before and remains to be difficult wording but agree to send the language out for comment and see what the initial reviewers think.
- The weir height threshold on referral to CPS 584 (initial proposal was 5x bankfull width) is not a number determined by any engineering calculation. Team discusses that this should be more generalized and shifts the language to instead minimize the impact upstream. An Example is also included for clarification.
- Team wants to provide specific referrals to external documents, but allowing some flexibility where needed, and avoiding hyperlinks since those change. Weblinks are often bad links before the next standard revision.
- Team discusses acknowledging climate change and increased storm frequency and intensity. Part of the reason this team is looking at these standards is due to changing storms, without purposefully mentioning. The standards showing analysis of 100-year floodplain which is more cautious than recent history.
- **Steve** will send the updated Draft 4 of CPS 395 out to the team next week, along with the bundle of all 4 standards for the team to review one last time before we go out for Initial Review. This review and comment will be handled via email, not in meeting.

11:00 Faith and Ben need to leave for other commitments and we lose our quorum. Any subsequent edits will be sent to them for review via email.

What's left for CPS 584? Discuss Plan of Action (Kate, Team)

Goal: Identify the next steps related to CPS 584. Review Action Items.

Previously planned meetings on March 19 and 25 are cancelled. Team will work through final review and comment via email. The goal is to get all 4 standards out for Initial Review in early April. Team can provide additional feedback after Initial Review.

Action Items:

1. Previous Action item - **Steve** editing CPS 580 based on 2/25 meeting and CPS 582 based on 3/10 meeting. He will be emailing CPS 582 Draft 4 and CPS 580 Draft 5 to the Team for last chance review before Initial Review.
2. Previous Action item - Mid-process survey—**Kate** emailed an online team survey about the SOC process and this teamwork. Please fill out the anonymous survey this week so we can continue to improve.
3. Next steps for this team related to both CPS 395 and CPS 584. **Steve** has some editing to clear up language based on meeting today, and will then email Draft 4 of CPS 584 to the Team (along with the other 3 standards).

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4. **Team:** Review all 4 standards (Draft 5 of CPS 580 and Draft 4 of CPS 395, 582 and 584) as the last chance for team input before Initial Review.
5. **Kate:** prepare 3/12/21 draft meeting notes, **Steve** reviews, then full **Team** reviews.
6. **Kate** will email team the list of Initial Reviewers. Many of them have already confirmed; Kate will continue to pursue interest and availability.

12:30 End