



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

131 W. Wilson Street, #601, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
 (608) 441-2677 || Fax (608) 441-2676 || socwisconsin.org

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Monday, May 10, 2021 || 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Online meeting

1:00 Welcome

Meeting Attendees (via phone/computer)

WI Land+Water (staff) – Matt Krueger, Kate Brunner
 WI Land+Water (County LCDs) – Matt Albright, Amy Piaget
 DATCP – Bart Chapman (Chair)
 DNR – Bernie Michaud, Shannon Haydin
 DOT – Christine Krall, Hans Hallanger
 NRCS – Eric Hurley, Steve Becker
 UW-Madison Div. of Extension – Chad Cook

Guests: Jennifer Western Hauser, Jerome Donohoe, Dave Behrend

Review previous meeting notes and action items

A draft of the 2/8/21 Meeting Notes was emailed around to the Council representatives.

- Open Action Item: Kate will coordinate with Eric and Steve to hold a SOC introduction training for NRCS staff later this spring or summer, after the state grazing specialist is on board.
- No questions or edits to the draft notes were raised via email or in this meeting. **Kate** will post the notes on the SOC website.

Team updates – See details on attached Staff Report; supplemental information below.

- **DATCP standards**
 - **01 Verification of Depth to Bedrock (Full)** – Team work complete; publication pending.
 - Draft standard included that landowners could perform the work themselves (with some training). The draft training program has been developed for the engineering certification, counties and landowners. DATCP has been considering details for how to keep the standard requirements cost-effective and an appropriate level of accuracy.
 - DATCP has worked out the data flow for collection, review, processing. They are also working out additional details with counties and Snap Maps updates.
- **DNR standards**
 - **1008 Permeable Pavement (Modified)** – Broad Review April 2021. Broad Review began at the very end of 1st Quarter and ended in 2nd Quarter. We received 20 comments by 2 reviewers. DNR Team Leader Pete Wood is reviewing and responding to comments.
 - **1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling (Full)** – Team meetings continue. The Team Leader left DNR late last year and was volunteering to continue for a few months. Her last meeting was last week; Amy

DATCP Bart Chapman (Chair) (608) 224-4608	WDNR Bernard Michaud (608) 266-5239 Shannon Haydin	NRCS Eric Hurley (608) 662-4422 Steve Becker (608) 662-4422	UW Div. of Extension Chad Cook (920) 232-1990	County LCDs Matt Albright (608) 637-5480 Amy Piaget (Vice Chair)	WI Land+Water Matt Krueger (608) 441-2677	WisDOT Christine Krall Hans Hallanger (608) 266-0279	USACE Rebecca Graser (262) 641-6498
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Minser has been attending meetings and transitioning to the Team Leader role. This team still has a few important topics to work through before Initial Review. DOT utilities section will be involved in review; Kate will coordinate with Hans Hallanger and Abby Williamson (on the team) when we get to review stage.

- **NRCS standards**
 - **Stream restoration (NRCS 395, 580, 582, and 584) – Initial Review April 2021.**
 - Initial Review began right at the end of Q1. We received 229 comments in full (i.e., 4 standards added together) by 13 reviewers.
 - NRCS Team Leader Steve Becker has not yet reviewed all the comments but divided up the response assignments so 4 subgroups of the team are now reviewing and drafting responses to comments.
 - There's a massive amount of literature available as background. The standards included some references but also didn't want to overwhelm with excess options and nuances.
 - NRCS work is on private land and they don't have control of upland area, so their reach is limited when you consider the full watershed.
 - NRCS attempts to keep policy out of the standards. For example, when and how the user consults with an external biologist is procedural rather than technical standard.
 - NRCS wants to make sure federal dollars are well spent. Cost sharing was a concern to some reviewers – if there are referral criteria for something like a geotechnical investigation or modeling, then who pays?
 - The team will complete responses to the comments, then there will be one final internal team review of updated standards before the public comment period (Broad Review).
- **Future standard work – Discuss timing and steps for upcoming standard updates.**
 - DNR – Kate has started talking to Dan Bekta about starting work on Dry Pond. This is a new standard and will be Full Process. We haven't yet opened application to call for team members; Dan is working on details for the application. Dry Pond will apply to an infiltration basin for sediment and nutrient reduction, and volume management—similar purpose to a wet pond but less danger. NRCS 378 has some parallel information this team could use for reference.
 - DNR's enhanced P reduction standard will wait until HDD done.
 - NRCS – over the next year Eric plans to focus on three standards: Conservation Crop Rotation (**328**); Pasture and Hayland Planting (**512**), formerly Forage and Biomass Planting; and Pest Management Conservation System (**595**), formerly Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - Of these, 328 will have most work. It's not up for national review but there's a lot of innovation going on, especially overwintering to plant in fall and harvest for forage/grain in spring. It may be that the standard stays pretty similar but the companion documents get more significant updates.
 - 512 and 595 have new national standard (and also title changes).
 - NRCS is ready to move forward on 328 (Conservation Crop Rotation) and 595 (Pest Management Conservation System). **Kate** and **Eric** will discuss next steps outside of the Council meeting.
 - DATCP – no standards expected soon. They will have a DATCP standard related to details for nitrogen reduction, after the nitrogen performance standard is published in NR151. Timing not sure; current forecasting has the rule published spring/summer 2022.

Financials & Budget – Review Q1 2021 expenses with budget comparison.

See 1st Quarter SOC accounting summary in attached staff report. Expenses continue to be lower than budgeted, almost entirely due to remote work due to COVID-19.

SOC Program Outreach – Ongoing outreach for SOC's 25th anniversary in 2021.

1st Quarter was busy with outreach – sponsorship and/or presentations at NASECA, WAPAC and WI Land+Water conferences and meetings. SOC Annual Report published and there was a SOC blurb included in the WI Land+Water annual report.

Kate also made a very brief slide show video about the SOC process, which will be promoted in the forthcoming WI Land+Water newsletter, along with the older SOC video.

The message in all this outreach is to encourage users to stay informed and then get involved when they can.

If any council members have ideas for additional outreach, let me know! When the press release is complete, Kate will ask the Council members to forward the message.

Technical Standards Assessment – Refine the proposed questions and review next steps for the biennial Technical Standards Assessment.

- Draft SOC Technical Needs Assessment questions were emailed around to the Council and some comments and edits have already been incorporated. The Council reviews updated questions on-screen together and discusses some additional edits.
- Work affiliation – **Kate** will review results from last survey and see if the “Other” category might reveal a group we could add for this time. [education=7; utility=4; nonprofit = 3]
- The open-ended training-related question can be deleted if duplicate of SITCOM survey (which is being released in about a week).
- Standard lists:
 - Lists should not be too long, but focused to the priorities where custodians think input would be more meaningful.
 - Shannon already provided DNR’s list of possible standards for revision. DNR also added a question to solicit input regarding the approach and focus for the Enhanced Phosphorus Reduction standard.
 - DATCP will likely have a standard related to the nitrogen rule, but the specifics need to wait until the NR151 rule change (some time next year).
 - Eric provides a list of 11 ecological standards. He’d like to change the question for his list to focus on how substantial the edits should be—which of the following need change, and how much?
 - Eric would also like to have a targeted question for the Amending Soil with Gypsum standard asking if users think NRCS should keep it.
 - **Steve** will provide Kate with his list of proposed/planned standard work for 2022-2023; this draft list will be included in the survey. The engineering side of NRCS has a lot of standard work; however, Steve expects much of their work will be carrying over previous WI language and only 1 (maybe 2?) will involve team input. His question would be related to “Do you think major revisions are necessary?”
- **Kate** will add an introduction or header built in to the survey so the user has context for the intent—who should participate and why? It will also make clear that SOC is just standards for urban stormwater and ag conservation practices.
- **Kate** will then work with the DNR social scientist to have them review and advise on question structure (similar to previous survey) to ensure the audience stays engaged to complete the survey, and so the questions are worded to avoid confusion.
- Mid- to late June – **Kate** will release the survey with open participation for 3 weeks. Kate will announce the survey widely through WI Land+Water listservs, SOC listservs, SITCOM email list, and some targeted outreach (like through groups like WAPAC, NASECA, ASCE). The Council can forward to their networks and agency systems.
- Mid- to Late July – **Kate** will take in the data and prepare a draft summary report.
- **Aug. 2** Council meeting - draft survey summary report will be sent to the **Council** for review prior to this meeting. If timing works out for release of the survey in July.
- **November 9** Council meeting - **Kate** will circulate draft SOC 2022-2023 Work Plan for **Council** review prior to the Council meeting. Work Plan to be finalized before year end.

Meeting Closure – Review action items, next meeting agenda items.

Future 2021 Meeting Dates: August 2 and November 9

Action Items from this meeting:

- **Kate** will post final notes from February 2021 meeting on SOC website.
- **Kate** will draft notes from today’s meeting and circulate to the Council members.
- **Kate** and **Eric** will discuss next steps to move forward on updates to CPS 328 and 595.
- **Technical Standards Assessment**
 - **Steve** will send Kate list of priority NRCS engineering standards he expects more substantial work on in 2022-2023.

- **Kate** will work with DNR social scientist review and advise on question structure.
- **Kate** will open survey to public by mid to late June. Kate will let you know her outreach and ask Council to forward along to any contacts that may have been missed.
- **Kate** will coordinate with **Eric** and **Steve** to hold a SOC introduction training for NRCS staff later this spring or summer, after grazing specialist is on board.
- **Kate** and **Bart** will prepare agenda for next meeting on **August 2, 2021**. Topics to include:
 - Results of the Technical Standards Assessment Survey
 - 2022-2023 Work Plan

3:00 **End** (*meeting ends early*)

Supplemental Meeting Materials: Q1 Staff Report with 2021 Budget Update
Draft 2021 Technical Needs Survey Questions (under separate cover)

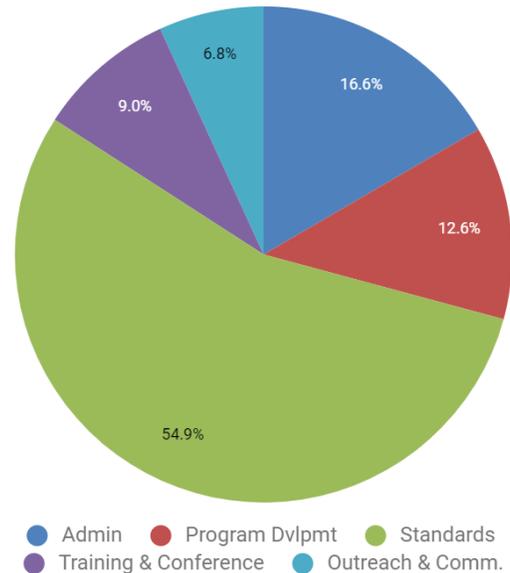
Staff Report for 1st Quarter 2021

Activities of SOC Program Manager Kate Brunner

Standards

- **DATCP 01 Verification of Depth to Bedrock:** Full process, not yet published. SOC work on hold and teamwork complete. Once published, an announcement for broader outreach and training will be made.
- **DNR 1008 Permeable Pavement:** Modified Process, with team collaboration. Team check-in meeting on 1/20/21 to review maintenance research and corresponding edits to criteria and considerations. Standard out for Broad Review March 31 to April 22, 2021.
- **DNR 1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling:** Full process, new standard. The team paused work since August 2020; resumed monthly meetings on February 9, 2021. In 1st Quarter the team leader applied the work into technical standard style and the team is working to define details of complexity and risk to determine when the appropriate practices are required or recommended.
- **NRCS Stream Restoration Standards (CPS 395, 580, 582, and 584):** Full process. This team met frequently in 1st Quarter (8 meetings in 3 months!) and got the standards ready for Initial Review. Some issues remain, but team agreed to see what reviewer input would reveal. All 4 standards out for Initial Review March 31 to April 30, 2021.

1st Qtr - SOC Program Manager Labor Summary



SOC Program Development

- Coordinated and attended quarterly SOC advisory committee meeting on 2/8/21.
- Acted as a liaison between agencies, county land conservation departments, and other partners regarding technical standard issues through the NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting on 1/21/21; and WI Land+Water Technical Committee meeting on 3/26/21.
- Created sponsorship materials (logo, slides, summary statement) for use at WI Land+Water Annual Conference, NASECA Annual Conference, and WAPAC Annual Meeting.
- Presented on the significance and scope of SOC at the Conservation Partnership Training on 1/26/21, at NASECA Annual Conference on 2/10/21, at the sponsor speed round at the WAPAC

Annual Meeting on 2/25/21, at the WI Land+Water conference sponsor networking hour on 3/3/21, and at WI Land+Water Board of Directors meeting on 3/18/21.

Outreach

- Attended and moderated portions of the WI Land+Water Annual Conference on 3/2 to 3/5/21;
- Prepared SOC 2020 Annual Report, draft reviewed by Council in 1st Quarter, to be published in 2nd Quarter;
- Provided SOC update in WI Land+Water's Annual Report – draft underway and to be published in 2nd Quarter;
- Updated SOC website content on homepage news items and team webpages; and
- Maintained SOC listservs for standard-related announcements, added new members and corrected/updated information for inactive email addresses.

Training & Conferences (Professional Development)

- Attended webinar course on Building Consensus (1/28/21); and
- Attended virtual NASECA annual conference (2/10 and 2/11/21).

Administration

- Finalized and published 2021 budget;
- Prepared 2020 year-end financial report;
- Tracked expenditures against 2020 budget;
- Completed 1st Quarter expense reports and time sheets;
- Completed 4th Quarter reports for funders;
- Provided support information and pursued DATCP and DNR 2021 contracts; and
- Participated in WI Land+Water staff meetings.

2021 Budget Update

SOC 2021 Budget and YTD Actual Expenses	Q1 2021 Actual	2021 Budget
Expense		
60000 · Audit	\$ -	\$ 568
62000 · Business Licensing & Insurance	\$ (224)	\$ 800
63000 · Rent	\$ 875	\$ 5,250
Total 64000 · Professional Services	\$ 605	\$ 3,127
Total 65000 · Office Expenses	\$ 388	\$ 2,652
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	\$ 22,116	\$ 96,659
67000 · Prof. Development (L+W Staff)	\$ -	\$ 1,800
74000 · SOC Team Meetings	\$ -	\$ 6,120
Total 80000 · Conference	\$ -	\$ 5,916
86000 · Training Program Events (excl. confe	\$ -	\$ 1,500
90000 · Networking (Partner Events)	\$ -	\$ 768
Total 95000 · Outreach	\$ 1,343	\$ 2,100
Total Expense	\$ 25,103	\$ 127,260