



# 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, August 2, 2021 || 1:00 pm – 3:00 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

DNR – Bernie Michaud, Shannon Haydin  
 DOT – Christine Krall, Hans Hallanger  
 NRCS – Eric Hurley, Steve Becker

Absences: Bart Chapman, Chad Cook  
 Guests: None

### Review previous meeting notes and action items

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

#### Open Action Items

- Kate and Eric will discuss next steps to move forward on updates to CPS 328 and 595.
- 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. Open Action Item: Kate will coordinate with Eric and Steve to hold a SOC introduction training for NRCS staff later this spring or summer, along with some new hires: state grazing specialist (Adam Able), forester (Alan Brown), state business tools coordinator (to be named soon). Eric will be in touch with Kate when they are ready for training.
- 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. DATCP has been working with the affected counties and expected to publish this standard very soon.
- **DNR standards**
  - **1008 Permeable Pavement (Modified)** – Published June 2021. SOC work complete on this although if research continues the team may continue to meet annually. Kate will work with Pete Wood to support a training webinar to instruct users on changes to this standard.

<b>DATCP</b> Bart Chapman (Chair) (608) 224-4608	<b>WDNR</b> Bernard Michaud (608) 266-5239 Shannon Haydin (608) 949-0460	<b>NRCS</b> Eric Hurley Steve Becker (608) 662-4422	<b>UW Div. of Extension</b> Chad Cook (920) 232-1990	<b>County LCDs</b> Matt Albright (608) 637-5480 Amy Piaget (Vice Chair) (608) 212-9172	<b>WI Land+Water</b> Matt Krueger (608) 441-2677	<b>WisDOT</b> Christine Krall Hans Hallanger (608) 266-0279	<b>USACE</b> Rebecca Graser (262) 641-6498
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- **1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling (Full)** – Team meetings continue; Initial Review soon.
  - This team had some delays due to Covid19 and change in team leader. Amy Minser got up to speed and the team now has a good draft document.
  - Team meeting next week and this is probably last meeting before Initial Review. We are anticipating Initial Review in early Sept.
  - Hans along with Bob Pearson were suggested by team for a joint DOT review of engineering + environmental for the Initial Review.
  - There is an agricultural application for waste transfer pipelines so DNR suggests an Initial Reviewer from the agricultural side. DNR CAFO section sees a few projects a year with HDD for ag waste. Kate will bring Bernie into the DNR reviewer group to at least make sure it's clear when the practice applies (and when not—like frac out terms in the standard are related to construction phase and not waste conveyance after installation). There are CAFO program requirements for things like surveying stream beds (rather than Lidar), minimum cover, and railroad crossing requirements.
  - When there is public review of this standard, Kate will copy both the urban and agricultural SOC listservs.
- **NRCS standards**
  - **Stream restoration (NRCS 395, 580, 582, and 584)** – Initial Review April 2021, Broad Review June-July 2021; publication soon.
    - Lower than expected comments on the broad review—only 6 reviewers. The review period was kept open longer than usual since it spanned the July 4 holiday and it was 4 standards together.
    - Team is reviewing the comments and addressing them now. The documents are expected to be completed at the next and final team meeting next week.
    - Exit survey will ask the team if they feel working on 4 standards together worked well or not.
    - NRCS would like to get the documents into their document management system in mid-August and they would be published within about a month.
    - Kate will work with Steve Becker and Penny Pohle at WI Land+Water on the outreach and training to make sure word gets out about the changes to the different agencies and private sector.
- **Future standard work** – Discuss timing and steps for upcoming standard updates.
  - **DNR Dry Pond**
    - New standard and will be Full Process.
    - Kate met with co-leaders Kevin Kirsh and Dan Bekta to review the process and initial steps. Kevin and Dan are working on finalizing the application.
    - Website and resource list are ready to be published when the application notice goes out.
    - The Council doesn't have any specific suggestions for team members; Kate will copy the Council on the application announcement to forward on to any possible candidates. DOT would like to review this standard when the time comes.
    - First meetings will be Zoom meetings with the option to shift to in person meetings when the team members are comfortable with it.
  - **DNR Enhanced Phosphorus Removal**
    - This is still quite some time away so the staff workload is manageable. DNR prefers to work on two at one time so they will wait to start on this until HDD is published and outreach complete.
    - This would be for small scale phosphorus removal in the urban setting (e.g. retrofitting ponds).
    - This would need clear sideboards to make sure this doesn't unintentionally creep into agricultural application.
  - **NRCS – Crop Rotation and Pest Management**
    - Kate and Eric Hurley will set up a meeting with Mike Stanek to kick off both CPS 328 Conservation Crop Rotation and CPS 595 Pest Management Conservation System (595), formerly Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
    - Kate and Eric will confirm which SOC process is more appropriate for these 2 (Modified or Full Process).
    - CPS 328 has more substantial edits and CPS 595 is not widely used and edits are not expected to be significant.

## **Financials & Budget** – Review Q2 2021 expenses with budget comparison.

See 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter SOC accounting summary in attached staff report. Some budget line items are right where expected but some line items continue to be lower expenses than budgeted, almost entirely due to remote work due to COVID-19.

We don't anticipate much spending for professional development, team meetings, training and networking categories. There will be available budget for some new expenses:

1. With remote meeting needs and relying more on digital communications, we anticipate a new computer expense and Autocad purchase.
2. We also anticipate refreshing the SOC website, not a full overhaul or rebranding but changing the look and also making the back-end smoother.
3. SOC expects to have extra budget even with these expenses—around \$4K underspent this year, though we may have more to account for being underbudget last year and the longer term of the NRCS contract. In the past we've discussed research support and have provided funding to a UW project for infiltration research. Council discusses options for research funding:
  - a. Pathogen reduction (and nitrate reduction?) in composting had been discussed in the past, to support NR151 targeted performance standards in Silurian bedrock. There was a presentation by Pat Murphy to this Council a while back about a project he had started with industry groups. There is concern over who would design and manage this type of project for SOC. In depth research can also be \$100,000+.
  - b. Conservation crop rotation standard has some innovations and we could commission guidance documents (for example, small grains) based on additional research going on now. This would require some investigation to see what's being done and by whom. Kate and Eric will discuss further.
  - c. NRCS may also have use for invasive species guidance for existing research. The funding could fund the researcher to prepare a document in a format usable for NRCS and the producers/landowners.
  - d. Kate will confirm the budget available then connect with Eric to see about who to contact to pursue his ideas.
  - e. Kate will also reach out to Amy Minser and see if DNR has specific urban research needs or ideas.
  - f. Before any money spent toward research, Kate will work with those who fund SOC to make sure these are allowable expenses.

## **SOC Program Outreach** – Ongoing outreach for SOC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021.

The new WI Land+Water communications director helped prepare a press release. NRCS, DATCP and DNR provided some great quotes. No newspaper articles came of this but we are getting the word out as best we can.

The end goal of this outreach is for more people to sign up for the listservs, which would therefore result in more participation and comments to the standards.

## **Technical Standards Assessment** – Review next steps for the biennial Technical Standards Assessment.

The Council reviews the draft report on-screen. Some key points:

- Response rate was lower than the past couple surveys, but still consistent with historical participation. Some possible reasons: SITCOM had a survey about a month earlier for the same audience, we're all burned out on the computer, it's summer and was around July 4.
- End use of the survey results – prioritize next standards created and updated, reserve standard-specific comments for future consideration and provide to the teams (when the time comes), improve communication and training.
- Larger proportion of participants were from county government and private sector users.
- DNR question about upcoming work was worded to prioritize standards that could be worked on (excluding standards already coming in the next couple months). Survey respondents prioritized the following urban standards: Underground Detention and Treatment (New), Filter Strip for Storm Water Treatment (New), and Constructed Wetland for Storm Water Management (New).
- NRCS question about upcoming work was worded to identify which upcoming standards needed more significant work. The NRCS standard updates that ranked higher for more substantial revisions were

Cover Crop (340), Residue and Tillage Management Reduced Till (345), and Prescribed Grazing (528).

- Training portion of the survey included a list of recent and soon-to-be-published standards. The greater training need was related to CPS 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection and CPS 584 Channel Bed Stabilization.

Results of this survey will be used to inform the SOC 2022-2023 Work Plan.

- Custodians will evaluate their needs and the survey results and get back to Kate with their list of standards for this work plan. Shannon, Eric and Steve should get Kate their list of standards and whether they think it will be minor, modified or full process by October 15.
- Work plan isn't a requirement and there is still flexibility if priorities shift. At a minimum the work plan should include the list of Full Process standards and work the agencies know will be completed.
- Kate will send the council a draft work plan as part of the meeting materials for the next council meeting on November 9. We'll review at the meeting and Kate will finalize before the end of the year.

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

Next Meeting: November 9, 2021

#### Action Items from this meeting:

- **Kate** will post final notes from May 2021 meeting on SOC website.
- **Kate** will draft notes from today's meeting and circulate to the Council members.
- **Kate** and **Eric** (with Mike Stanek) will discuss next steps to move forward on updates to CPS 328 and 595.
- **Technical Standards Assessment**
  - **Kate** will finalize the report and post online and email listserv.
- **2022-2023 Work Plan**
  - Steve and Eric and Shannon – send Kate draft list of standards to include and whether they'd be Full, Modified or Minor. Send to Kate by October 15.
  - **Kate** compile draft work plan and circulate by Oct. 26 (2 weeks before next meeting).
- **Kate** will coordinate with **Eric** and **Steve** to hold a SOC introduction training for NRCS staff.
- **Kate** and **Bart** will prepare agenda for next meeting on **November 9, 2021**. Topics to include:
  - 2022-2023 Work Plan

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

Supplemental Meeting Materials: Q2 Staff Report with 2021 Budget Update  
Draft 2021 Technical Needs Survey Report (under separate cover)



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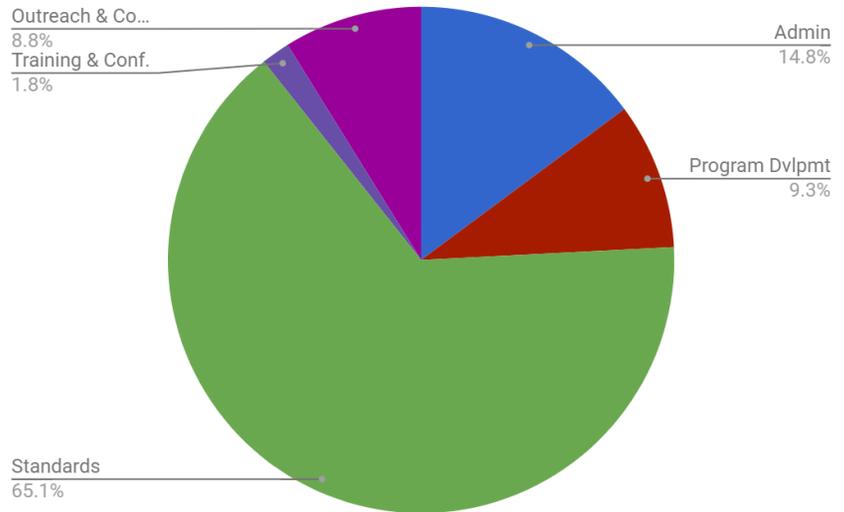
## Staff Report for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021

Activities of SOC Program  
 Manager Kate Brunner

### Standards

- DATCP 01 Verification of Depth to Bedrock:** Full process, not yet published. Submitted minor adjustments that came out of DATCP outreach and internal review to the team. Expect publication and outreach later in 2021.
- DNR 1008 Permeable Pavement:** Modified process, with team collaboration. Completed intake of Broad Review comments including logging of reviewers and comments and preparing a standard with comments interspersed. Worked with Team Leader on preparation of response to comments from the Broad Review, and final text preparation. Prepared responses to each of the Broad Reviewers. Prepared public announcement with DNR and, when posted to DNR website, published announcement to SOC and WI Land+Water listservs and the team. Expect some webinar training later in 2021.
- DNR 1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling:** Full process, new standard. Transitioned to new Team Leader (Amy Minser). Continued to refine the team work into technical standard style and simplify tables to help with interpreting the types of practices that apply with varying complexity (factors like size, wetland and waterway resource type, geology). Expect Initial Review in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.
- DNR Dry Pond:** Full process, new standard. Started coordination with Team Leaders (2 co-leaders) on background resources, drafting application, and identifying sectors for possible team members.
- NRCS Stream Restoration Standards (CPS 395, 580, 582, and 584):** Full process. All 4 standards out for Initial Review March 31 to April 30, 2021 (11 reviewers, 230 comments) and Broad Review June 10 to July 11, 2021 (6 reviewers, 102 comments). Completed intake of comments including logging of reviewers and comments and preparing a standard with comments interspersed. Assisted team with preparation of responses to comments and responded to each of the Initial Reviewers. Expect publication and outreach later in 2021.

2nd Qtr - SOC Program Manager Labor Summary



### **SOC Program Development**

- Coordinated and attended quarterly SOC advisory committee meeting on 5/10/21;
- Acted as a liaison between agencies, county land conservation departments, and other partners regarding technical standard issues through the NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting (4/15/21), and WI Land+Water Technical Committee meeting (6/4/21);
- Prepared recorded presentation for Racine County LCC, Land and Water Board, and other future promotion;
- Presented on the significance and scope of SOC at the Southern Area Association Meeting (5/27/21); and
- Developed and released the biennial Technical Standards Assessment survey.

### **Outreach**

- Published SOC 2020 Annual Report;
- Completed SOC update published in WI Land+Water's Annual Report;
- Created content for the SOC section of the new WI Land+Water website;
- Prepared and distributed a press release for SOC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary;
- 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 virtual UW-Madison Water Symposium (5/7/21); and
- Attended virtual Waukesha County Stormwater Symposium (4/20 to 4/21/21).

### **Administration**

- Tracked expenditures against 2021 budget;
- Completed 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter expense reports and time sheets;
- Completed 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter reports for funders;
- Provided support information and pursued DATCP and DNR contracts; and
- Participated in WI Land+Water staff meetings.

**2021 Budget Update**

<b>SOC 2021 Budget and YTD Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Q1-Q2 2021 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>60000 · Audit</b>	\$ -	\$ 568	0%
<b>62000 · Business Licensing &amp; Insurance</b>	\$ (10)	\$ 800	-1%
<b>63000 · Rent</b>	\$ 2,188	\$ 5,250	42%
<b>Total 64000 · Professional Services</b>	\$ 1,630	\$ 3,127	52%
<b>Total 65000 · Office Expenses</b>	\$ 1,369	\$ 2,652	52%
<b>Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>	\$ 47,133	\$ 96,659	49%
<b>67000 · Prof. Development (L+W Staff)</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,800	0%
<b>74000 · SOC Team Meetings</b>	\$ -	\$ 6,120	0%
<b>Total 80000 · Conference</b>	\$ 5,675	\$ 5,916	96%
<b>86000 · Training Program Events (excl. confe</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,500	0%
<b>90000 · Networking (Partner Events)</b>	\$ -	\$ 768	0%
<b>Total 95000 · Outreach</b>	\$ 1,351	\$ 2,100	64%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 59,336</b>	<b>\$ 127,260</b>	<b>47%</b>