



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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NRCS 380 Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation Standard Update Team MEETING (TOUR) NOTES

Wednesday, July 27, 2022 ▲ 12:00pm – 4:00pm ▲

Hancock Agricultural Research Station, N3909 County Rd V, Hancock, WI 54943

12:00 Welcome & Introductions

Attendance: Kate Brunner, Allan Braun, Eric Hurley, Mic Armstrong, Matt Wilson, Michael Demchik, Mike Stanek, Tony Johnson, Jeremiah Auer, Roy Diver, Shannon Rohde

Absences: Peter Wisniewski, Drew Zelle

Guests: Michael Hook (WI Land+Water), several staff from UW Extension and Central WI Windshed Partnership

Tour (Shannon)

Team tour of various windbreaks: mixed species conifer-hardwood, shrubs, recently renovated or needs renovation, living snowfences, and failed windbreaks.

Tour consists of several spots around Hancock property to look at a variety of different windbreaks. Several smoke tests attempted to demonstrate how the wind moves through and around the windbreaks.

The team noted that some older windbreaks had invasive species or other less desirable species by current standards. The team discussed some important factors to successful windbreaks:

- Site preparation and early weeding so new plantings take hold
- End of life management - access needed for maintenance
- Maintenance
 - Shift maintenance to a guidance doc
 - More maintenance in early years until stabilized
- Considerations
 - Encourage plant diversity for disease mgmt. (“consider avoiding single species [or variety of genetics] in windbreaks”). Could alternate every-other species in one row.

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- Maintain access for maintenance [future access for removal of quick growth species (e.g. poplar)], irrigation equipment.

Plan of Action (Allan, Team)

Discuss tour observations and possible adjustments to technical standard or guidance document.

Team will meet again on August 31 to look at specific language.

4:00 *End*