



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 NOTES

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 ▲ 1:00pm – 3:30pm ▲

Online meeting

1:00 Welcome & Introduction (Kate, Allan)

Goal: Welcome and review today's meeting objective.

Attendance: Kate Brunner, Allan Braun, Michael Demchik, Drew Zelle, Mic Armstrong, Mike Stanek, Matt Wilson, Peter Wisniewski, Tony Johnson, Jeremiah Auer, Shannon Rohde, Roy Diver

Absences: None

Guests: None

Objective today is to complete responses to the Initial Reviewers and get the standard ready for public review. If all goes smoothly, we'll shift back to the guidance document at the next team meeting.

Notes Review (Kate)

Goal: Review and approve 9/28/22 draft meeting notes.

Draft notes from September meeting were emailed to the team for review. Team discussion:

- Jeremiah and Mic offered some clarifications to the previous version regarding their presentations. Also need to add "fiber" to the list of pot types.
- Open action item for a few team members (**Allan, Mike S, Shannon, Matt, Peter**) that are working on the guidance document. Homework is due on Nov. 11.
- No other questions or comments to the notes were raised by the team, so Kate will post online as final.

Initial Review Comments (Kate)

Goal: Overview of Initial Review comments and initial team thoughts.

We received 42 comments from 3 reviewers. Although all 6 reviewers selected by the team initially confirmed participation beforehand, 3 of the reviewers dropped out and were not able to provide a review after all. Kate will attempt to solicit input from them again later as part of the Broad Review step.

The comments are coded with alphanumeric system. This is not a true blind review so Kate can provide name/employer if this context will help understand the comment better.

Does anyone have initial thoughts they'd like to share—anything that struck you as you were looking through the comments?

Initial Review Responses (Allan)

Goal: Complete responses to Initial Review comments, with focus on select areas:

- Erosion prediction software clarification
- Density clarification
- Clarifying language/graphic for managing snow deposition criteria
- Encourage fast growing species
- Native grass buffer
- Standing corn rows for snow management
- Moisture management and supplemental water
- Establishment time frame
- Inspecting frequency

Before this meeting Kate sent around the standard text with the Initial Review comments and some draft responses. This meeting is to finalize the responses so team members should speak up if you see anything you like to change or clarify in any way.

The team reviews the text while discussing the comments and making some changes on-screen together. Some key points from this discussion:

- Planners using the standard know where guidance documents are and the referenced tools for NRCS. This will also be part of both internal and external training after standard is published.
- Language related to “uncontrolled” intersection is clarified to remove the word uncontrolled. Language here is further adjusted to include reference that local/county roads may also have sight distance requirements.
 - The windbreaks relative to a sight triangle is depicted nicely in Gary Bentrup's Conservation Buffers design guidelines for NRCS, page 84 of the report at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/buffers/index.html>. Team will consider this for guidance document.
 - The referenced FHA design tables offer variations and minimums. These will be in the guidance document. The FHA document will also be added to References. Peter has reference if needed.
- Comment C13 related to snow deposition graphic may be added to guidance document. Peter will send one that we could use.
- Comment C30 related to distance from right-of-way 200-300' from fogline – this statement was taken from the Missouri Agroforestry Manual but was 200-300' from **center line** and not fogline. Team agrees to modify distance to be **175-300' from fogline** to account for that center line to fogline difference.

- Comment C33 related to encouraging fast-growing species is accepted, but team also adds cautionary statement that fast-growing trees also need earlier removal.
- Comment C35: Standing corn rows included previously. This would be covered under the CPS 589 Cross Wind Trap Strips, so that reference is added.
- Comments related to moisture management, establishment and O&M – team agrees the current language in both considerations and O&M is adequate (e.g. water as needed). Job Sheet also requires some of these details so not necessary as technical standard elements. No further emphasis is added.

Allan and **Kate** will make final polishing and wordsmithing of text where placeholders or rough text was added in-meeting. When Allan confirms the files are ready, **Kate** will send the Comment-Response version back to each of the Initial Reviewers and then release the cleaned-up file for public Broad Review. This team will be copied on the Broad Review notice and can forward it around to colleagues so we reach wider audience.

Break as needed

Plan of Action (Kate, Allan)

Goal: Review next steps and action items.

Next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 30 and discussion will return to refining the guidance document.

Following meeting is December 28, the last one on our calendars.

1. Team agrees to cancel the 12/28 meeting
2. Meeting will be needed in January 2023 to finalize responses from the Broad Review and get documents ready to publish. **Kate** and **Allan** will prepare a Doodle poll with a few January options.

Action items:

- Carried over from 9/28 meeting regarding the guidance document:
 - **Allan, Mike S, Shannon, Matt, Peter** volunteered to work on portions of the guidance document with homework due on Nov. 11. See email from Kate and the updated “Windbreak guidance doc ideas” file.
 - **Kate** and **Allan** will merge the information together in a revised guidance document for review at the Nov. 30 meeting.
- **Allan** and **Kate** will make final polishing and wordsmithing of standard text where placeholders or rough text was added in-meeting today. When Allan confirms the files are ready, **Kate** will send the Comment-Response version back to each of the Initial Reviewers and then release the cleaned-up revised draft standard file for public Broad Review. This team will be copied on the Broad Review notice and should forward it around to colleagues so we reach wider audience.
- **Kate** will send out a Doodle poll to schedule a January team meeting.

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- **Kate:** finalize 9/28 notes and post online
- **Kate:** prepare today's draft meeting notes for Team review.
- **Kate & Allan:** prepare 11/30 agenda.

3:30 **End** (meeting ends at 2:40)