



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 || 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Online meeting

1:00 Welcome

Meeting Attendees (via computer)

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

Absences: Amy Piaget, Matt Albright

Guests: none

Review previous meeting notes and action items

A draft of the 11/9/21 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. Bart has typo corrections. Kate will post the notes as final on the SOC website.

Open Action Item:

- **Kate** will look into Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) and see if their members would want to disseminate an invitation for more tribal representatives to stay informed via SOC listserv. Waiting for HDD responses for a stepping stone in the context—DNR has been having conversations with quite a few tribal representatives about draft HDD standard.

Standard updates - See details on attached Staff Report; supplemental information below.

- **DNR standards**
 - **1060 Storm Drain Inlet Protection for Construction Sites** (modified) – Broad Review in September.
 - Written responses emailed to each reviewer in January 2022.
 - Standard has been approved by DNR management and final publication is imminent.
 - **1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling** (Full) – Initial Review September; team addressing comments now. Broad Review anticipated Q1.
 - Written responses to Initial Reviewers will be sent out this week.
 - DNR management team has approved for public review. Broad Review (for the public) is imminent, expected next week.

DATCP	WDNR	NRCS	UW Div. of Extension	County LCDs	WI Land+Water	WisDOT
Bart Chapman (Chair)	Shannon Haydin Bernard Michaud	Steve Becker Eric Hurley	Chad Cook	Matt Albright Amy Piaget (Vice Chair)	Matt Krueger (Treasurer)	Hans Hallanger Christine Krall

- Team will work via email to respond to comments and there is a team meeting scheduled for April to hopefully finalize responses to Broad Review, depending on quantity and magnitude of comments.
- **1011 High Performance Dry Storm Water Basins (Full)** – Team confirmed and kickoff meeting in October.
 - Team is bringing in experts who have researched the topic for input on some key issues. Positive side effect of remote meetings is participation by these experts, sometimes in other states.
- **NRCS standards**
 - **CPS 380 Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (Full)** – Team kickoff meeting in January.
 - Primary resource concern is for wind erosion control but there's also living snow fence, odor and other purposes.
 - This standard had been decreasing in usage so this team is hoping to revitalize interest.
 - **CPS 328 Conservation Crop Rotation (Full)** – Team confirmed and kickoff meeting in December.
 - Very challenging but very needed. Underutilized standard.
 - Changing rotations can solve a lot of resource concerns beyond soil health – e.g., nitrate in groundwater, erosion control.
 - The team may be creating a template/form for future crop rotation ideas to allow flexibility for options.
 - Will this have NR151 Part 2 implications? Not sure but Kate and Eric will keep in mind.
 - **Waste group (Modified)** – Heavy Use Area Protection (CPS 561); Waste Separation (CPS 632) Waste Transfer (CPS 634); Waste Treatment (CPS 629); and Waste Treatment, Milk House (CPS 627).
 - Team leader is preparing responses to Initial Review comments. We had 5 reviewers for each standard for the following total comments:
 - CPS 561 - 42 comments
 - CPS 627 - 24 comments
 - CPS 632 - 15 comments
 - CPS 634 - 38 comments.
 - **Training - NRCS CPS 395, 580, 582, and 584**
 - On February 23 and 24, WI Land+Water is hosting 2 webinar training sessions for 580 and 582 respectively. The other 2 standards will get folded in to that training.
 - Bart may help Steve with review of draft presentation.
 - There may still be improvement to the companion documents for 580 and 582. The old documents are still usable and not obsolete, though updates may be warranted. The SOC team, or a subset of the team, can help support that work, when the time comes.
 - WI Land+Water Technical Committee has discussed how to support this training and standardize implementation.
 - Eventually, NRCS would like to do a more functional in-field training on how to get things done. SOC has budget to help support in person training. NRCS and other organizations still have restrictions on in-person gatherings and travel so this is not scheduled yet.
- **Future standard work** – Discuss timing and steps for upcoming standard updates.

- Eric Hurley will be looking at quite a few standards to prioritize based on new national standards, new technology, how frequently they are being used, new/adjusted priorities, whether they have heard problems with the standard. Under consideration:
 - Conservation Practice Standards that have a newer national standard.
 - Alley Cropping (311)
 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Contour Farming (330)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
 - Forage Harvest Management (511)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Stripcropping (585)
 - Cross Wind Ridges (588)
 - Pest Management Conservation System (595), formerly Integrated Pest Management
 - Vegetative Barrier (601)
 - Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities (643)
 - Conservation Practice Standards WI NRCS is considering to adopt
 - Hedgerow Planting (422) - May be another agroforestry option
 - Soil Carbon Amendment (336) - Potential value will be for biochar amendments
 - Waiting for a soil testing standard - Useful for urban cropland or pasture, expected to include things like testing for land being reused for urban gardens (e.g. metals?).

WisDOT PAL updates

- DOT has an Erosion Control Product Acceptability List (PAL) that was put together about 10 years ago with very few updates and Christine is working on these updates.
- Some info will be moved into the specs.
- The newer lists will be products that have the correct testing and she contacted the manufacturers before removing them. For products that have testing in the works, she has included them.
- Updated list will go into effect in on Feb. 28, 2022, but no broad announcement.
- She has already talked to Amy Minser to coordinate some details (like micro plastics).
- DOT announced in 2019 that there was a large-scale testing requirement so this is overdue.

Financials & Budget – Review 2021 year-end expenses with budget comparison, and final 2022 budget.

- The final total of the 2021 actual expenses was around \$500 less than budget at year-end. Some line items were over budget and some under budget, which is typical, but this has been accentuated with remote meetings and other shifts due to the pandemic.
- The 2022 budget is slightly different than the version we reviewed in November. The net income-expense deficit is the same, and is intentional in order to meet NRCS 5-year contract obligations. We are shifting toward greater spending to account for the excess income from the past 2 years.
- Kate will post the final 2022 budget on the SOC website per handbook requirements.

SOC Handbook – Review proposed edits for revised SOC Technical Standards Process Handbook.

- Kate emailed some proposed Handbook revisions to Council with meeting materials. Council discusses these and possible additional edits.

- There isn't clarity that SOC Program Manager is a staff person of WI Land+Water with a role there as well. SOC was initially designed as an autonomous program, but the handbook and even the position description aren't clear as to the integration with WI Land+Water. Some administrative changes to the position description in the Handbook would be more consistent with how the Program Manager role functions, and wouldn't change the intent or autonomy of the program. Matt will make suggested edits to the handbook in redline for Council review.
- Annual Report is not included in current handbook and it is an expected deliverable. Bart will prepare suggested language to include an annual report.
- There are corrections related to DATCP department titles.
- Army Corps of Engineers is listed as a partner but haven't attended or responded to review requests for at least 4 years.
 - Current Council representatives aren't aware of what Corps participation would be on the Council level and doesn't seem necessary. Before removing them, we should confirm they don't have an interest and a new representative to add.
 - Kate will also look at historical documents to see if she can find context of any past participation.
 - MOU doesn't include Corps. If we reinstate the MOU in the future, we could reach out again to see if they want to participate.
 - Hans or Christine will reach out to their contacts (Bridge Department) and see if there is interest, and/or referral for someone to include. If no interest, they will be removed.
 - If a specific standard could use input, the team leader could help seek out a specific ACOE technical representative for team participation or document review.
 - Add topic to our next agenda, too.
- Matt, Bart and anyone else that has suggested edits should send them to Kate by March 15. Kate will compile all edits as redlines and send to Council for final review and comment by March 30. Council should send any final comments/edits by April 15 and Kate will publish before the end of April.

Other Discussion Topics

- WI Land+Water offices (and therefore SOC offices) have moved a few blocks from the old location. New address is 121 S. Pinckney, Suite 420, Madison. Staff aren't at full in-person capacity, and plan is to eventually return to a hybrid office/home schedule. Details are still evolving on schedule.
- SOC has new website! Suggestion made to make the mission statement more prominent. Kate will look at handbook and recent MOA for possible template language.

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

Action Items from this meeting:

- Kate will post final notes from Nov. 2021 meeting on SOC website.
- Kate will post 2022 budget on SOC website.
- Kate will draft notes from today's meeting and circulate to the Council members for review.
- Revised Handbook:
 - Hans and Christine will help with US ACOE outreach to see if their contacts can connect SOC with a representative (or confirm non-participation). Kate will look into historical participation of ACOE.
 - Council members should send Kate any edits in redline by March 15. Matt and Bart both mentioned they would write up some suggested edits related to WI Land+Water integration and annual reporting, respectively.
 - Kate will send compiled redlined draft version out to the Council for final review by the end of March, then Council members should respond with any further edits by mid-April.
 - Kate will finalize the revised handbook and post online around April 30.

- **Repeat Action Item:** Kate will look into WTCAC and see if they would want to disseminate invitation for more tribal reps to stay informed via SOC listserv. After HDD interaction more complete.
- Kate and Bart will prepare agenda for next meeting on **May 10, 2022**.

4:00

End

Supplemental Meeting Materials: Q4 Staff Report with 2021 Budget Update
Revised Draft Technical Standards Process Handbook

Staff Report for 4th Quarter 2021

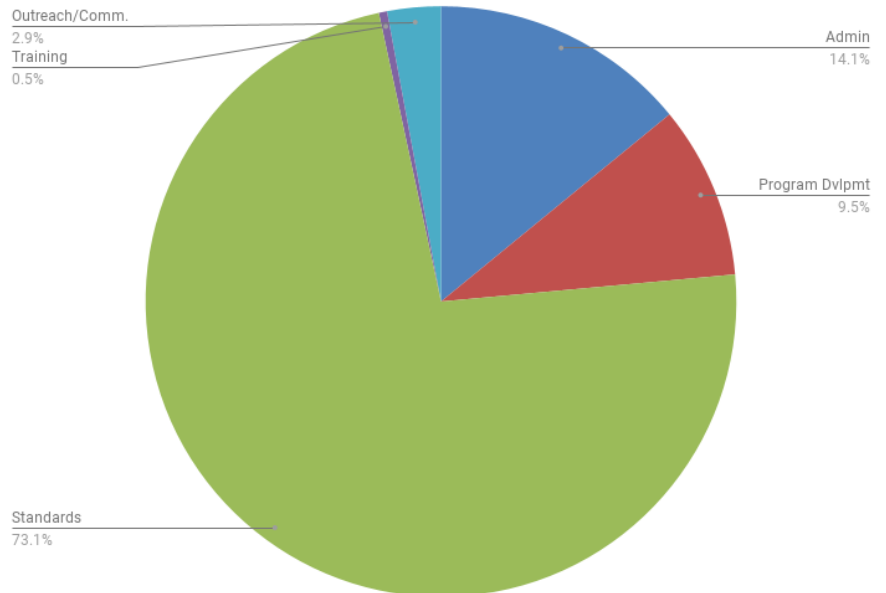
Activities of SOC Program Manager Kate Brunner

Standards

Conducted preparation, facilitation at meetings, and follow-up tasks related to the following standards:

- **DNR 1060 Storm Drain Inlet Protection for Construction Sites:** Modified process. Reformatted Response to Broad Review and revised draft for DNR review and approval.
- **DNR 1072 Horizontal Directional Drilling:** Full process, new standard. Supported team meeting 12/8 to address more substantive Initial Review comments. Completed formatting and editorial changes to Comment-Response version and the cleaner version of text working toward Broad Review.
- **DNR 1011 High Performance Dry Storm Water Basins ("Dry Pond"):** Full process, new standard. Monthly team meetings to discuss topic background and research, identify key issues, and clarify steps to address the issues.
- **NRCS CPS 328 Conservation Crop Rotation:** Full process. Kicked off team meetings in December to identify issues with the existing standard and a plan to start discussing the issues.
- **NRCS CPS 380 Windbreak -Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation:** Full process. Released team application and confirmed team members. Conducted initial project coordination with team leader.
- **NRCS Waste/Milkhouse standard group:** Modified process. The NRCS national office added CPS 627 Wastewater Treatment, Milk House. CPS 629 Waste Treatment is being eliminated with the content moved to CPS 561 Heavy Use Area Protection; CPS 627 Wastewater Treatment, Milk House; CPS 632 Waste Separation Facility; and CPS 634 Waste Transfer. Coordinated with Initial Reviewers, performed final editing, then released draft document for Initial Review (12/3/21 to 1/3/22).

4th Qtr - SOC Program Manager Labor Summary



SOC Program Development

- Coordinated and attended quarterly SOC advisory committee meeting on 11/9/21;

- Acted as a liaison between agencies, county land conservation departments, and other partners regarding technical standard issues through the NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting (10/21/21), and WI Land+Water Technical Committee meeting (including preparing a colleague participating as a surrogate at the 12/9/21 meeting).
- Presented on the purpose and scope of SOC at the Conservation Partnership Training on 11/30/21.

Outreach

- Attended several sessions at the WI Land+Water virtual County Conservation Meeting on 12/16/21;
- Prepared SOC update for the WI Land+Water winter E-Note newsletter;
- Worked with external marketing consultant for redesign of SOC website;
- Updated SOC website content on homepage news items and team webpages;
- Published SOC announcements with LCDs, LCCs, and SOC stakeholders – publication of standards, public comment periods, creation of teams, and standard-related training; and
- Maintained SOC listservs for standard-related announcements, added new members and corrected/updated information for inactive email addresses.

Training & Conferences (Professional Development)

- None.

Administration

- Tracked expenditures against 2021 budget;
- Completed 4th Quarter expense reports and time sheets;
- Completed 3rd Quarter reports for funders;
- Provided support information and pursued DNR contract; and
- Participated in WI Land+Water staff meetings.

2021 Budget Update

SOC 2021 Budget and Actual Expenses	Q1-Q4 2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Income			
45000 - Interest Income	\$ 24	\$ 60	\$ 50
52000 - Standards Oversight Council			
52110 - SOC DATCP Grant	\$ 35,304	\$ 38,000	\$ 40,000
52210 - SOC DNR Grant	\$ 45,619	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000
52310 - SOC NRCS Grant	\$ 47,200	\$ 47,200	\$ 47,200
52400 - SOC County Dues	\$ 5,410	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,250
Total 52000 - Standards Oversight Council	\$ 133,533	\$ 132,200	\$ 133,450
Total Income	\$ 133,557	\$ 132,260	\$ 133,500
Total Income MINUS County Dues	\$ 128,147	\$ 127,260	\$ 129,250
Expense			
60000 - Audit	\$ 568.00	\$ 568	\$ 750
62000 - Business Licensing & Insurance	\$ 401.93	\$ 800	\$ 600
63000 - Rent	\$ 4,623.36	\$ 6,250	\$ 10,000
Total 64000 - Professional Services	\$ 3,275.88	\$ 3,127	\$ 3,337
Total 65000 - Office Expenses	\$ 3,358.69	\$ 2,652	\$ 6,200
Total 66000 - Payroll Expenses	\$ 99,615.09	\$ 97,752	\$ 101,290
67000 - Prof. Development (L+W Staff)	\$ 281.17	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
74000 - SOC Team Meetings	\$ 6,350.19	\$ 6,120	\$ 7,000
Total 80000 - Conference	\$ 5,675.00	\$ 5,916	\$ 5,416
86000 - Training Events (excl. conference)	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
90000 - Networking (Partner Events)	\$ -	\$ 768	\$ 770
Total 95000 - Outreach	\$ 4,682.03	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,300
Total Expense	\$ 128,831	\$ 129,353	\$ 140,963

Notes:

2021 Actual Income is based on amount billed, not amount received.

SOC reserve funds as of 12/31/2021:

SOC Endowment	\$ 24,191
SOC Dues Reserve	\$ 59,581