



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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NRCS 635 Vegetated Treatment Area Standard Team

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 ▲ 9:00am – 12:00pm ▲

Online meeting

9:00 Welcome (Kate, Team)

Attendance: Kate Brunner, Steve Becker, Adam Moris, Chase Brouillette, Emily Micolichek, Justin White, Travis Buckley, Bernard Michaud, Eric Young

Absent: None

Guests: None

9:05 Notes Review (Kate & Team)

Goal: Review and approve 2/7/24 draft meeting notes.

Draft meeting notes from 2/7 meeting were emailed to the team for review. The action items were all completed, including publishing the draft text for public comment, known as the Broad Review.

No team comments or questions raised on the notes; Kate will finalize and post online.

9:10 Broad Review Summary (Full Team)

Goal: Discuss key comments and confirm responses:

Steve attended some NRCS-DATCP regional meetings and they talked about the draft standard for some preliminary outreach and education about forthcoming standard. More outreach will be done closer to publication.

The Broad Review consisted of 128 comments from 17 reviewers. Kate emailed the Team the compiled comments and draft responses along with the agenda for today's meeting. Team reviews the more substantive comments on-screen together, discussing and editing responses. Some points made in the discussion are summarized below:

- Numerous comments in Condition Where Practice Applies related to sizing and caps.
 - Manure stacking areas – removed the language although not specifically prohibited.
 - Team discusses option of including justification why the acreages were selected, similar to responses to comments, but agrees to leave language as-is to be concise and clear.

- Clarifying language added for intent for settling basin sized for a 10-year, 24-hour storm. CPS 632 will need parallel adjustment.
- Team reviews comments related to slope. Some clarification added but slopes kept as-is.
- Team previously discussed concept that multiple VTAs in parallel would be allowed, but didn't add language. Some simple language is added.
- WinSRFR
 - The inputs provide design criteria so it's part of the standard. The details, may be more appropriate in a companion doc but NRCS resources are limited so it is more timely and streamlined to put here.
 - Software is free and accessible to public. Adam plans to record a training video on WinSRFR for VTAs.
 - Team members were able to download and use it.
- Soil classification comments – There is comparability between USCS and USDA systems. The soil evaluation is typically to confirm the soil description in web soil survey which includes both USDA system and USCS tables.
- O&M
 - Monitoring for salt – bullet was simplified and clarifying language added to observe for stressed vegetation rather than implying sampling.
 - Monitoring for P – bullet was in O&M but was lacking specificity on sampling, which concentrations warrant action, and what actions. Alternately could be moved to considerations.
 - Parallel in clay lined ponds – they are accumulating P and maintenance is to remove based on odor and staining.
 - Could sample similar to 590 requirements.
 - Team concludes to keep concept in O&M to evaluate for closure. Sample for P at the VTAs 10-year design life, then close per 360 standard (which would offer cost share assistance).
 - O&M bullet on animal use during non-growing season may not work for all farms per comments; moved to consideration.
- Team discussed option for CAFO prohibition to be adjusted to allow it when pressurized dosing used, but keeps standard to NOT apply on CAFOs. The "Additional Criteria for Pressure Dosing Systems" paragraph will be removed since it doesn't apply if CAFOs removed.

Team is provided opportunity to discuss any other areas of the standard that they'd like to consider changing. No other revisions or comments to discuss.

Break as needed**11:30 Next Steps (Kate & Team)**

Goal: Discuss final steps and identify specific areas of training and outreach. Review action items.

There is no further need for team meeting so subsequent meetings are cancelled. **Kate** will delete the remaining calendar entries. Thank you for your time!

Steve will send Kate final draft and after the national review process Kate could publish draft on SOC website so the file is available in advance of NRCS publication. Publication expected to be

June though timing uncertain. There may still be slight changes after NRCS finalizes the WI standard so is not truly final until file posted on the WI FOTG.

Outreach and Training:

- NRCS has the FOTG notice that announces publication
- Kate will also prepare an announcement for SOC ag email list and county LCDs. She will copy this Team and they should share it out to their network.
- Adam will record a Teams video for training available on-demand on WinSRFR.
- DATCP will also include in their area level training, and could be part of their technician meeting.
- Steve will revisit other training needs after publication (developing content, reaching target audience, identifying when and where). The VTA Team members are available to assist, as are WI Land+Water training staff (and via the State Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM)).

Action Items developed today:

1. Kate will email files from today's meeting to Adam and Steve. Steve will take one last look at the text then NRCS will run it through their national review process. Then NRCS will go through publication steps with goal of June 1, though staffing priorities may shift this later.
2. **Kate** will prepare draft meeting notes from today, to be reviewed by the **Team**.

12:00 Meeting End – Work is completed early; meeting ends at 11:10