



# Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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## NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard Team

### MEETING AGENDA

Thursday 26 June 2025 ▲ 9:00am – 2:30pm ▲

McMillan Memorial Library - 490 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

#### 9:00 Brief welcome & settling in (Jamie & Carl)

##### Notes:

- Formatting discussion - which formatting option is best for purposes today
  - Decision to use format without numbered & lettered breakdown

#### 9:05 Meeting Notes Review (Carl)

Review and approve 09 June 2025 meeting notes.

- Will revisit once folks have had more of a chance to review the notes

#### 9:10 Review outstanding items from 09 June 2025 virtual meeting (Jamie)

##### Notes:

- Decision to hold this material until we've had a chance to review the entire draft

#### 10:30 Break

#### 10:45 Resume line reading of tech standard at "Early Fall Application" (Jamie)

##### Notes:

- N-restrictions -
  - Mapping & updating N-restriction designations
    - Map update needed -
    - What data feeds these maps?
    - Who would do this updating?
    - Previous work of this team regarding these maps was shared by Andrew Craig
    - Could this data be added as a data layer within Snap Plus – and updated as needed going forward
  - Question regarding process
    - Role of the 590 team vis a vis enforcement, guidance, rules
    - Enforcement is down to counties typically
    - Role of the team is coming up with the guidelines for nutrient management planning
  - Discussion regarding the weight of manure vs fertilizer in terms of what's causing the most problem

- Fertilizer is a lot less accurately reported compared to manure – e.g. a farmer will have a recommended fertilizer application rate, but what is actually applied is not reported.
- Increase buffer size around wells?
- Suggestion that with additional data, revisiting this in future years (when the new national standard is released) would be a good approach
- Spring and/or summer N applications
  - Language was previously edited to designate ‘growing season’ as ‘early season applications to non-frozen and non-snow-covered soils through post-crop harvest or Sept 1, whichever is earlier).
  - Question regarding difference between ‘nitrification inhibitor’ and ‘enhanced efficiency fertilizers’ or whether this could be a single bullet point covered by EEF.
  - “Pre-plant” language was added to nitrification inhibitors
  - “Controlled release fertilizers before or at planting” was also added and needs to be defined within the glossary
  - Expand to include R & W soils
- Early fall N application
  - Effort was made to define ‘early fall’ – post-crop harvest until Oct 31, or between Sept 1 - Oct 31 and when the 2-inch soil temp is above 50°F
  - Wordsmithing for clarity
  - 10 days was specified for N application for establishment of a fall crop
  - Discussion regarding whether fall application on sandy soil should be OK under any situation
  - “Blended commercial fertilizer” was suggested to be specified for 36 lbs N per acre bullet – “compound commercial fertilizer” was later suggested as the most specific language
  - Application rates were divided into manure and blended fertilizer options
  - Shallow bedrock soils (<5ft to bedrock)
  - Discussion of exceptions for fall seeded crop needs - grass, pasture, fruit crops (blueberry, cranberry), etc.
- Late fall N applications
  - Table 4 discussion
    - Reduction of rate for P < % dry matter intersection (down to 90 lbs / acre or 7,000 gallons)
  - Rates used within existing table 4 might be unrealistic to achieve
    - Suggest removing gallons restriction and limiting the application based on rate alone (pounds N/acre)
  - Phone call to Kyle Much
    - Is the suggested rate doable?
      - Can only be surface spread – not incorporated
      - CAFOs have to follow this rule
    - Kyle restricts the farms he works with to 120 lbs/acre
    - Cover crops in Kyle’s region don’t get large enough to meaningfully impact the uptake
  - Discussion regarding differentiation needs between early, mid and late fall
  - Temperature discussed as main driver of approach – above and below 50°F soil temperature (2-inch)
    - Cover crop question - over-wintering cover crop
      - Encouragement

- Table to pivot to a written section now that specifics of P, R, W soils and manure moisture content aren't going to drive changes in N application rates
  - This change may need to be revisited following public comment
- Considerations
  - PI index language moved into this section
  - Dewatering cranberry bogs – add language regarding flooding being used as a management technique, flood water can be reused on crop fields (aiming to create a more closed loop), rather than discharging into surface waters
  - Compost - needs to be further addressed within glossary
  - Manure irrigation?
  - How do we document nutrients that are sold or used off-farm?
    - Instruction is for a farm to document such sales, however there is no longer jurisdiction once this transfer happens
- Plans and specs
  - Maps need to be scale-appropriate
    - Field boundaries
    - Restrictions legible
  - Crop rotation portion
    - See glossary - 8-year time period
    - Crop sequence versus crop rotation
  - Fields that never got planted, but received nutrient applications - too wet perhaps
    - Prevent plant
      - Language was added to describe this scenario
  - Rescue N language edited
  - Yield map discussion

**12:00 Lunch****12:30 Line reading of Considerations (Jamie)**

[adjusted to Review outstanding items from 09 June 2025 virtual meeting during this time]

**Notes:**

- Manure / compost / biosolids
  - Composted biosolids was an issue previously
  - Compost vs composted manure
    - Compost (not containing manure) will be organized within organic by-products
    - Composted manure will be organized within manure
- Language adjustment for soil sampling to specify sampling soils from fields within a nutrient management plan. Compositing was also added to this language
- Irrigation water testing & accounting
  - MN guidelines were reviewed (only considered above 10 mg/L)
  - Discussion regarding whether this fits best within criteria vs considerations due to scientific uncertainties as well as practical challenges.
  - Suggestion to move existing language to considerations, add a new criteria point to start data collection regarding the scale of the issue for a given farm/operation
    - Bullet point number two regarding sand and loamy sand accounting remains within criteria
  - Scale of problem – reporting of levels of N in wells of Portage County (Dan Smith)

- Testing is costly – \$68 / sample through Stevens Point
- Team settled on testing irrigation water as a good starting point for future approaches to irrigation water nitrogen accounting.
- Long-term no-till question
- Spreading restrictions reformatting
- Glossary
  - Planned rotation - 8-year question – is 8 years too much time, hard to gather data
    - Discussion regarding what period is best to consider
    - 3 year minimum was suggested (year 2 is current, one backward and one forward)
  - Silurian dolomite is no-longer referenced in the text
    - Added to considerations a note regarding these settings
  - Treated manure - remove from glossary, not mentioned in standard text
  - Predominant field slope - glossary definition accepted
  - Documented yield - 3 year minimum
  - Ephemeral Erosion -
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**1:30 Glossary** (Jamie & Carl)

**2:15 Next Steps** (Jamie & Carl)

**1. Review action items**

- a. Revise and circulate this draft (Jamie & Carl)
- b. Review the final draft with an emphasis on the glossary over the next two weeks (all team)
- c. Schedule next meeting for mid-August (Carl)

**2:30 End**