WISCONSIN STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

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NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard Team
MEETING AGENDA

Thursday 23 Sept 2025 ▲ 9:00am – 2:30pm ▲

Food + Farm Exploration Center - 3400 Innovation Drive - Plover, WI 54467

Team attendance: Jamie Patton, Carl Wepking, Sara Walling, Kyle Much, Travis Engels, Andrea Topper, Morgan Kepler, Matt Ruark, Andrew Craig, Aaron O'Rourke

Guest attendance: Hava Blair

Absent: Dan Smith, Cody Calkins, Carl Hahn

9:00 **Brief welcome & settling in** (Jamie & Carl)
Welcome invited guest, Hava Blair (UW-Madison / Snap Plus)
Notes:
- National 590 likely released next month potential government shutdown
- Regional nutrient management training meetings –
    - 590 update news
    - A2809 update news
    - Snap Plus v3 trainings were well attended
    - More education needed
    - Attendance was roughly split between agronomists and county/agency staff
- NRCS – DNR communication question regarding rollout of new 590 standard for Wisconsin
    - Companion document highlighting notable change
    - Discussion regarding best approach for public review period
        - Include granular language related to the changes in this version compared to previous 590 versions
        - 1-page sheet providing a clear 'before & after' table
        - Include team members, as ambassadors – so that reviewers can reach out to an individual they're comfortable with

9:05 **Meeting Notes Review** (Carl)
Review and approve 26 June 2025 meeting notes.

9:10 **Discuss key points from internal review** (Jamie)
Notes:
- Question regarding how SnapPlus handles soil vs field N restrictions, or P, R, or W soils?
- Balance between flexibility and how implementation or application of the guidance will occur. i.e. technicality vs implementation
- Decision to remove 'fields with' language from P,R, and/or W soils section
- Decision to change sentence structure for: 'when a soil meets more than one of the N restriction classifications'

- Question regarding the timing of spring-summer split-applied fertilizer on n-restricted soils:
    - Decision: remove reference to the passage of a set period of time – instead tie it solely to crop emergence
- N-inhibitor question related to efficacy – a future UW-Extension publication will address this
- Early Fall N Applications
    - Soil depth (50˚F temp) – 4 inches (most biology in top 6; Wisconet field stations measure at 2, 4, 8, 20, 40 inches)
    - Decision to change forecast language with soil temperature to 4-inches (from 2) as this gives more reliable temperature trend data
    - N-application for cover crops
        - Overwintering – based on NRCS planting dates
            - Change formatting of cover crop options to a bulleted list
            - Add a date/timing restriction for the planting (planting changed from establishing) of an overwintering cover crops – planted before 15 October
    - Simplify language: "Limit applications to 120 lbs / acre or what's in A2809 for next crop, whichever is less." Choose an application rate and method to minimize smothering and/or destruction of the fall crop;
    - Commercial fertilizer section was further clarified
- Late fall N Applications
    - After the soil temperature is below 50˚F
    - Change forecast language with soil temperature depth changed to 4-inches (from 2) as this gives more reliable temperature trend data
    - As late-fall and early-fall recommendations now seem aligned, these sections can be edited and re-framed.

10:30 Break

10:45 Discuss Tables 1-3 (Pivoted to use this time to talk about phosphorous, and table 1)
Notes:

- Discussion regarding format of the original table 1 vs the new table 1
- Team decided that starter fertilizer (20 lbs. or less of P_2O_5 applied as subsurface starter to corn) can used on all levels of test P soils
- Column 3 of new table will be removed, and its language will be added to the body of the text
- How to handle soil test P drawdown was discussed
    - Snap Plus perspective – inputted scenarios will look positive related to P drawdown, but it's often due to a lack of inputted future crops & their nutrient applications/needs
    - Soil testing variability was also discussed as an issue
    - Based on Discovery Farm research – 100 ppm soil test P is a serious threshold. Ranges are difficult to represent – the difference between 60 and 90 is significant, but within one bin in how we're crafting the management.
    - Characteristics like slope matter for risk – this is captured by P index, but not soil test P.
    - From a practical management perspective, on approach is to bank P (could be above 50) and then draw it down with a crop like alfalfa and not have to apply any more for a while.
    - If drawdown isn't the most important factor for a given situation, can P Index be called on for reducing risk?
    - Team decision to leave as written currently (decision to include 25% drawdown within the 50-100 STP range would need to be supported by research/data)

- Back to drawdown strategy – how should this be documented or accounted for?
- Team decision to use general language

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Discuss N restricted soils (Pivoted to use this time to talk about winter spreading)
Notes:

- Winter spreading
    - Grazing language was discussed as it relates to the specific guidelines of the NRCS managed grazing technical standard (528)
    - Runoff risk language was further clarified
- Decision to change to buffer size for concentrated flow channels – to 200 from 300 ft.
- Language related to guidance for mechanically applying manure was further clarified
- Table 3 – team decided to continue including dry matter cut off for manure spreading
- Miscellaneous:
    - Word choice: by-product versus amendment – team opts for by-product
    - Decision to have manure testing every-other year once a baseline is established
    - Lab testing – leachate/feed – language was edited for clarity
    - Discussion of front-loading P application
    - Rescue N – discussion regarding documentation, making the case for why it's necessary
    - SWQMA Table – team decision to remove manure moisture differentiation

2:15 Next Steps (Jamie & Carl)

- Jamie and Carl will update and circulate draft (depending on government shutdown)

Review action items

2:30 End