



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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WDNR XXXX Urban Soil Health Standard Team

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday 03 Nov 2025 ▲ 9:00am – 2:30pm ▲

Virtual – zoom info below.

11:30 Brief welcome & introductions (Pete, Christina & Carl; 15 min)

Notes:

- Attendance: Pete Wood (WDNR, storm water engineer, team co-lead), Stu Schwartz (research scientist UMBC), Christina Rauh (WDNR, storm water engineer, team co-lead), Bryant Scharenbroch (UWSP), Phil Gaebler (City of Madison Engineering), Doug Soldat (Turfgrass & Urban Soil - UW-Madison), Mark Polega (landscape architect with WIS-DOT), Andy Kaminski (Milwaukee Metro Sewerage District), Neal O'Reilly (UW-Milwaukee Conservation & Environmental Science), Carl Wepking (WI-SOC Program Manager)
- Public guests: Chelsea Corson, Trevor Hornbacher

11:45 Brief overview of SOC & SOC process (Carl; 15 min)

Notes:

- SOC overview
- Quazi-governmental organization
- Open public meetings
- Diverse teams lead to the development of standards with broader buy-in

12:00 Framing the focus of this standard (Pete; 15 min)

Notes:

- Focusing on construction site and municipal permittees
- NR 151 post-construction performance standards
 - o Design goals
 - o Storm water management plans that document compliance
 - o TSS (total suspended solids) are used as a proxy for urban pollution
 - o Lesser standard for re-development
 - o Discharge rate control
 - o Q: city of Madison, post construction phase example b-soil to c-soil bump – is this from NR 151? A: no, but municipalities may have these designations in place, which may need to be accounted for in the tech standard.
- Impaired waterways – TMDL reductions – P and TSS
 - o Under the jurisdiction of municipalities, but private land can contribute to these TMDL issues
- Family of existing tech-standards – post-construction (see WDNR website, or PPT)
- DNR must develop tech standards to help groups deal with NR 151 regulations

- Tech standard is made so that adhering to the ‘musts’ within the standard leads to an understanding that the practice will do what it’s intended to do
- Like all tech standards, it’s not set-in-stone – meant to be updated as needed in future years
- Benefit:
 - Reducing runoff from a given area (pervious area runoff reduction)
 - Construction site permittees
 - Runoff/infiltration
 - Reduce runoff curve numbers
 - Municipal permittees
 - TSS reduction
 - TP reduction
 - Could include schools, public or private, other open spaces
- Q: TSS, intended to be a surrogate for things that attach to particles (e.g. heavy metals), therefore groundwater contamination could be an issue, so surface soil health is important, but also soil health within infiltration systems.

12:15 Discuss the format for the work of the tech standard team (Carl; 15 min)

Notes:

- In-person / teams / field trips
- Shared drive
- How will this work be incorporated into WinSLAM? We can determine this as the work calls for, and add invited guests if we need additional expertise here
 - Modeling aspect is something that will need some discussion

12:30 Discuss current draft (45 min)

1. Not “set in stone,” but a place to start;
2. Identify areas which need more attention

Notes:

- Discussion regarding format
- Unique in that this standard is likely to feature a suite of practices, not just describe a single practice
- Areas where runoff from other sources – needs more discussion, comment added
- Site evaluation – needs revision, Stu has ‘nut and bolt’ type comments to be added here
 - Compaction measuring penetrometers – misinterpretation based on soil moisture not being accounted for – an example of a down-in-the-weeds type technical
- Soil ‘health’ question – compaction has been discussed – vegetative cover is another desirable component. Clarification that the standard can include aspects beyond compaction.
- Crediting – this will be a challenging section, but it will be good to provide an incentive for someone to apply this standard
- Aside regarding yard-based leaf incorporation work going on in Menominee Falls – can circle back on this in the future if warranted
- Is the tech standard performance based – the goal is that we craft the standard so that following it would ensure the benefit we’re targeting. So, de-emphasized follow-up measurement.
- Carolyn Voter would be good to bring in as an invited guest to share her work – specific work mentioned was regarding rehabilitating 5x5 grids around downspouts for infiltration benefit.

- Discussion of additional beneficial outside input – inviting a construction-associated company representative to provide their perspectives (Phil Gaebler)
- Considerations
 - o Items that don't fit well within criteria
 - o Topsoil management on construction sites as an example
- Operations and Maintenance
 - o Can be broken down specific to various practices
- Plans and specs comments – could request or produce plans for bid documents that shows the entire site and includes land use on site with how land will be compacted (roads more for example), and land that will not be compacted in the future – this way certain land can be planned to not be sacrificed during the construction period. Could help contractors picture the end point.

1:15 Next steps / homework for next time (15 min)

Notes:

- CW will add to shared drive (rain garden materials for reference, pre-tech standard guidance document, other meeting materials)
- CW will circulate email to team regarding next steps, timelines, shared materials, and a scheduling poll
- Team will review the draft and contribute their thoughts / questions or highlight areas thought to need initial attention for the next meeting

1:30 End

Zoom connection info:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86983662049?pwd=GMu90ZpaKvb1CeXw7H357jjpsrGjpu.1>

Meeting ID: 869 8366 2049

Passcode: 195469

Phone details:

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