

STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2001

DATCP, Room 172

Present: Ed Odgers, Gordon Stevenson, Gail Puzach, Perry Lindquist, Robin Shepard, Rebecca Baumann, and Kim White

Review November 30 meeting minutes and action register

- Discussed transferring custodianship of Standard 390 to DNR from NRCS.
 - Practical, much of expertise for standard lies with DNR staff.
 - More diversity, good to spread custodianship among different agencies.
 - SOC proposes to shift custodianship to DNR.
 - SOC requests a formal, written response from NRCS regarding changing the custodianship of Standard 390 to DNR.
 - **AR: Gordon** will check with DNR legal staff about the status of DNR being custodian of technical standards, is there a conflict with Rules?
 - **AR: Kim** will ask Tom Thrall/John Pingry to send a letter of response to WLWCA office and copy Gordon. In letter, SOC would like NRCS to address any limitation there might be to cost sharing money by using a state standard which doesn't have a corresponding national standard. Also, letter should address the reason why the custodianship is being changed.
- Some Polyacrylimide team members interested in continuing to work with the team to develop a new dust control technical standard, but action will be put on hold for now. The team wants to see how long it will take to finish work on the Polyacrylimide standard.
- Perry reported that a Resolution had already been presented last year at the WLWCA conference regarding support for SOC. The Resolution received very favorable floor discussion at the conference.
 - Discussion about funding for SOC. Funding will possibly be discontinued from DATCP. Discussed the possibility of funding from the counties. WLWCA will try to continue to work with DATCP to continue funding SOC.
- Rebecca wasn't able to talk with NRCS and DNR about covering SOC funding if DATCP pulls out. However, after discussion, there was a feeling by SOC that this might not be fair to those agencies. SOC would like to try to get more funding from the counties for SOC.
- Robin Shepard will be attending SOC meetings in the future in Pat Walsh's absence.

Other Discussion – Promoting SOC

- Discussed SOC presentation at MECA (Minnesota Erosion Control Association) Conference in Minneapolis/St. Paul on March 8-9.
 - There was a strong interest in attending and presenting information about SOC process, as Gil Layton (WDOT/Wisconsin Rapids) had requested of Kim. Gil asked Kim to share his presentation time, during which he will be discussing the revisions currently underway on the Polyacrylimide technical standard.

- SOC agreed conference would be a good opportunity to promote SOC process.
- Perry would like to go. If he is unable, Mary Anne Lowndes should be the backup.
- **AR: Perry** will get in touch with Gil Layton at WDOT about details of MECA conference.
- **Note:** Suggestion was made that there should be an addition to the SOC Coordinator job description about working on publicizing the SOC process statewide, regionally, and nationally.
- Perry mentioned that about 2 years ago SOC was nominated for a national “hammer award” on reinventing government from Vice President Al Gore’s office. However, Perry never heard back from the office after being informed of the nomination.
- Should make an announcement about the SOC presentation at the MECA conference in the Thursday Note, to help further publicize and promote SOC.

Discussion about filling SOC Coordinator position

- Deadline for applications for the position is February 2.
- Interviews for the position will be held on February 9 and 13. Gordon and Perry or Ed will help with the interviews.
- Discussed transition to the new SOC Coordinator.
- **AR: SOC** will review position description and provide comments, and will suggest questions to ask in the interview.
- Suggestion to somehow test applicants’ written and computer skills during the interview process. For instance, after interview, give questions to applicants and ask them to provide written answers while at WLWCA office (ie. not take-home assignment).
- Kim needs to explain to the teams what they need to do to cover what is usually provided for them, to help give teams direction during the transition period.
- **AR: Kim** will check SOC web page for status and availability of technical standards.
- **AR: Kim** will distribute to SOC the technical team update which will be provided for the WLWCA office during transition time.
- SOC needs to try to anticipate future needs for standards when work planning, to supplement requests from SOC Surveys.

Agency Reports

- DNR will be going to Board with Redesign Rules at the end of January.
- Joint DNR/DATCP Board meeting on January 23. Issue of technical standards will be discussed, including the development process.
- Gordon and Ed are currently participating on the statewide biogas team. The issue could require a new technical standard, but not soon.
- WALCE is in the process of an internal reorganization.
- Robin reported that UWEX is in the process of filling 2 positions: a basin educator in Black River Falls, and a volunteer monitoring coordinator.
- UWEX is hoping to provide more training at the county level to satisfy broad county needs. Basin educators have formed four program teams to address various issues:
 1. urban
 2. shoreland and wetlands

3. agriculture
 4. forestry
- UWEX will be organizing listening sessions, then provide recommendations for educational needs based on the listening sessions.

Future SOC Meetings

- Tuesday, March 13 from 9:00-12:00 at DATCP
- Tuesday, May 15 from 9:00-11:00 at DATCP

Action Register

Gordon will check with DNR legal staff about the status of DNR being custodian of technical standards, is there a conflict with Rules?

Perry will get in touch with Gil Layton at WDOT about details of MECA conference.

SOC will review SOC Coordinator position description and provide comments, and will suggest questions to ask in the interview.

Kim will ask Tom Thrall/John Pingry to send a letter of response to WLWCA office and copy Gordon regarding request to change custodianship of Standard 390 from NRCS to DNR.

Kim will check SOC web page for status and availability of technical standards.

Kim will distribute to SOC the technical team update which will be provided for the WLWCA office during transition time.