

## Standards Oversight Council

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2003

NRCS State Office, Madison

Present: Rebecca Baumann, Bruce Olson, Russ Rasmussen, Mike Murray, Bruce Webendorfer, Ed Odgers, Pat Murphy  
Absent: Perry Lindquist, Gail Lisse, Robin Shepard  
Guests: Marry Ellen Vollbrecht DNR, Paul Cunningham DNR

The next meeting is 9:00 – 3:00, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> [This meeting was postponed] at the DATCP Office in Madison

Paul Daigle is stepping down from his post on SOC and has asked Bruce Olson, La Cross County to replace him as the WALCE representative for agricultural issues. The WALCE board must confirm Bruce's appointment to SOC.

### Proposed Team - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

It is thought that updating NRCS Standard 580 is the best option to accommodate actions deemed necessary by the DNR. Corresponding changes to the Tech Note (planning documents et. al.) will be done at this time as well. Reducing conflict between engineering and biological methods, and the inclusion of better biological assessment and bioengineering criteria are major reasons for the revision.

The DNR is in the process of updating NR 328, the code that code impacts inland lakes, streams and flowages. The intent of NR 328, when promulgated, is to have consistent location determinations. No technical standards are contained in the code. A statewide standard with consistent design options will streamline review times.

- Potential impacts of the Jobs Creation Act bill were discussed. SOC could potentially be offered to the legislature as a solution.

Standard 580 is intended for individual site design. It is nearly impossible to include location information for the entire state without having overkill or insufficient requirements for portions of the state.

- Evaluating the whole picture in a broader engineering assessment is needed.
- The majority of DNR streambank and shoreline projects fall within the size limitations contained Standard 580. In the rare instance when flows exceed 2000 cfs the NRCS State Office reviews the project with national level personnel. The NRCS does not conduct a lot of lakeshore work. DNR border waters and the great lakes may have different issues and go beyond the scope of 580.
  - The option of setting a design cutoff (i.e. velocity in streams, 3ft wave height in lakes) that would tell users to upgrade to another standard was discussed.

- The relation of rules and cost share options to 580 were talked about. The DNR desires their short form process to mirror 580. The shoreline rule is not very specific about design. The short form can be modified as needed.

The general scope of the revision is required prior to soliciting volunteers. The work team will refine their mission at the first meeting. **AR: JR, Ed, Mike** establish the scope for the 580 revision and work team objectives. The charge will include:

- Assisting with the NR 328 short form and siting requirements.
- A more consistent approach than what is in Chapter 16
- Sideboards and guidance for bioengineering
  - To speed up the process it may be possible to split the work into stream and lake portions once the general criteria have been agreed upon. The science is different for streams and lakes so this option would also better focus the technical experts. The sub-groups would review both portions and then jointly participate in the review periods.

Team members. It is important to have representation from all pertinent interests. We need to go outside the traditional SOC participants for proper input. Education about the SOC process may be necessary. Political advocate groups can send technical experts. It is important to keep the team focused on the technical, not political aspects. The team needs to be kept small. Those interested in participating, but not selected as team members can be involved in the initial review. **AR: JR, Ed** establish 580 team leader. Scott Mueller, NRCS was suggested.

- Who to solicit – Both DNR stream and lake personnel (Scott Panke was suggested), Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), Trout Unlimited (TU), River Alliance (Denny Ceneff), tribal organizations, GLIWFC, lake groups, NRCS, DATCP, LCD, consultants, builders, and municipalities. **AR: SOC, Marry Ellen** send Mike people/organizations to contact for the 580 revision.

**AR: Mike** solicit for 580 work team volunteers.

#### Proposed Team - Nutrient Management (590)

The revision is not expected to be a lengthy process and is part of an agreed upon two year evaluation of 590. The first meeting may be as far out as March, earlier if possible. Completion by June or July is requested. The phosphorous criteria need to be evaluated. Snap Plus is expected to be ready at the end of the month. **AR: Pat** expected impacts to 590 resulting from Snap Plus and the P index.

**AR: Pat, Russ** determine scope of the 590 revision.

**AR: Mike** solicit for 590 team in Jan - old team members plus SOC distribution list.

#### Companion Document Protocol

The process to more formally involve UWEX with work teams is being drafted by Bruce W. The SOC handbook will be revised once this process is agreed upon. **AR: Bruce W.** draft companion document requirement checklist and send to Mike.

- The DNR has an agriculture journalism major assisting with the polymer companion document. The TMDL workload may reduce their time spent on companion documents. **AR: Russ and Bruce W.** coordinate Nina's work.

### Work Team Review

The progress of the work teams was reviewed. The DNR teams are expected to be completed by summer. The 313 revision team will be entering the initial review phase in January. The Milking Center Waste Team is concerned about the interim nature of the new NRCS standard, but it is expected the NRCS will keep the new standard longer than 18 months.

### 2004 -2005 Work Plan

The work plan will be set to the calendar year, not the fiscal year. The technical standards assessment consumes a significant amount of time and a large volume of revisions are requested. It is thought conducting the survey every two years is adequate. The length of time needed to revise a standard is typically longer than a year.

- **Parking Lot:** Revise work plan every other year. Establish a 2-year work plan.
- **AR: Mike** edit and finalize work plan and accomplishment report.

### Budget

Increases in the WLWCA administrative fee were implemented to bring the fee in line with what other organizations charge to administer grants. The salary cap for the SOC Coordinator was also questioned. [Note: Agency MOU's do not limit either of the above items] An operational reserve of 6 months was suggested.

32 Counties paid dues for 2003, including one partial payment. 34 Counties paid dues 2002, including one partial payment.

- It is important to stress that products produced by the SOC are joint ventures between the counties and the agencies. SOC must be better promoted to the counties to keep their involvement. Rebecca can promote SOC at WLWCA Area meetings. The Technical Roundtable and business meeting at the WALCE conference is another venue to highlight SOC accomplishments.
- **Parking Lot:** promote SOC to counties. Improve awareness of SOC in administrative personnel.

### NRCS Report

The NRCS was asked to support the National NRCS Dry Hydrant standard. Pat expects this will be done because it is a fairly standard design. **AR: Pat, JR** review National NRCS Dry Hydrant standard for use in Wisconsin.

### Agenda for the next meeting:

- 580 follow-up: Mission for team, start up, team lead etc.
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- Organization, timeline and process for the technical standard assessment.
- Companion document work order request.
- Finalize 2004-05 work plan

### **Action Register**

**SOC, Marry Ellen** send Mike people/organizations to contact for the 580 revision.

**Bruce W.** draft companion document requirement checklist and send to Mike.

**Bruce W. and Russ** coordinate Nina's work

**JR, Ed, Mike** establish the scope for the 580 revision and work team objectives.

**JR, Ed** establish 580 team leader. Scott Mueller, NRCS was suggested.

**Pat** expected impacts to 590 resulting from Snap Plus and the P index.

**Pat, Russ** determine scope of the 590 revision.

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**Mike** solicit for 580 work team volunteers.

**Mike** solicit for 590 team in January - old team members plus SOC distribution list.

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