

## Standards Oversight Council

Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2005  
DATCP, Madison

Present: Ed Odgers, Bruce Olson, Pat Murphy, Mark Jenks, Bruce Webendorfer,  
Mike Murray, Lynita Docken  
Absent: Gail Lisse, Gordon Stevenson, Rebecca Baumann

### **New meeting scheduled for 9:00 – 12:00 on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at DATCP.**

The August meeting minutes and action items were reviewed.

#### 2006-07 Work Plan

The work plan will be finalized and published by the end of the year. The standards previously selected are appropriate. A few changes in their order were discussed.

Standard 393 Filter Strip is the top priority for the NRCS and DNR and forming the work team in January was requested. There are technical and political implications associated with this revision. Incorporating ideas from the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative (WBI) findings will be part of the revision. The WBI is proposing a new GIS tool for determining concentrated flow paths, and a methodology relating a Phosphorus Index number to the need to install a buffer the entire length of a stream compared to only buffering the concentrated flow channels. Differences between buffers in urban and agricultural settings will also need to be addressed (possibly two design approaches). The sources of contamination from sediment and urban runoff are different and should be dealt with separately.

It was decided to move the potential Liquid Manure Application standard to the first phase. This project will be linked to the completion of the Joint Manure Management Taskforce. Recommendations from the Taskforce could lead to multiple standards being addressed. NRCS plans to update the 590 Tech Note with Taskforce recommendations. The work plan will note the Taskforce link.

There was little additional input regarding the direction of the work plan.

- DATCP and NRCS engineers suggested the following:
  - Stormwater sediment basin that does not require a permanent pool. The Channel Team is finalizing Standard 1064, Sediment Basin, which provides criteria for dry and wet basins.
  - A standard for farmstead stormwater management was requested. It will be put on the work plan's long term project list. The form the standard will take is open for discussion.
  - Bank stabilization (not streambank) somewhat falls through the cracks in the other standards. This topic was added to the long term project list.
- The WALCE Technical Committee is ok with the suggested work plan. There was interest in creating an agroforestry standard. Mainly a farm diversification issue. The National NRCS has recently released a (somewhat generic) standard for this practice. It is thought the standard can it be adopted with minor polishing.  
**AR: Pat** check into possibly adopting the new National agroforestry standard.

Newly released National NRCS standards are spurring the need to update WI standards. It is thought Pat and JR will evaluate the changes, form a small team if necessary, and prepare revised versions for public review through SOC. SOC will obtain public input by soliciting for comments from members of the SOC distribution list and posting drafts on its website. A hotlink between the NRCS and SOC websites can be established to direct viewers to the standards up for review. The WALCE Technical Committee will be sent versions for review.

- The Prescribed Grazing Standard needs to be renamed. Brian Pillsbury is also proposing edits.
- **AR: Pat and JR** review standards for minor revisions, and of those which require public review.
- The NRCS has adopted the Nation Constructed Wetland Standard for Wisconsin. It is unclear if it is applicable for urban stormwater. The proposed Artificial Wetland (for stormwater) Standard will remain a long term project.

**AR: Mike** finish Work Plan and send to SOC.

### Active Work Teams

#### NRCS Standards

590 – The standard is finished and published by the NRCS.

Milking Center Wastewater - The Team is in the midst of updating another draft of the companion document. The design spreadsheet is almost completed. Trainings are expected.

580 – Three new specifications are being developed (Soil Bioengineering, Structural Measures, Pollution/Erosion Control). The Engineering Field Handbook companion documents are being updated to reflect changes to 580 and the expected publication of the new NRCS Streambank Restoration Design Guide.

Feed Storage Leachate – The group is struggling with determining how much leachate and runoff needs to be collected. Input from UWEX and private engineers has proven useful for the group.

313 – Minor changes are being made related to HDPE liners. There is a teleconference this afternoon to discuss.

#### DNR Standards

Turf Nutrient Management – A draft was sent for initial review. An issue that is somewhat unclear is qualifications for a turf nutrient management planner. In the near term DNR is not expected to develop a self certification training program similar to that for 590 planners. Models for certification programs exist (i.e. pesticide training, ag nutrient management) and this issue may need to be resolved outside the context of the technical standard.

Channel/Sediment – Five standards have been finalized and published by DNR since the last SOC Meeting. Standard 1064 Sediment Basin was sent for Broad Review. Because significant changes were made, the Team will send a new draft for review to those that submitted comments. Standard 1061 Dewatering was sent to Initial Review and only two individuals commented. The standard remains politically charged; currently little guidance is given related to any dewatering activities in the state. WisDOT is unhappy with how this standard is proceeding and has been working with

the team to reduce potential conflicts. On the other hand the City of Madison has been using a portion of the standard the team developed (the practice selection matrix) for over a year and contractors and the city are both very happy with the guidance provided.

#### Comm – DNR Standard

Proprietary Stormwater Devices – The first meeting was held in October. This rather large team (13 members) will in some capacity deal with filtration, potentially a separate standard will be developed. The ad hoc industry and research committees will be involved throughout the process. It is expected industry representatives will be invited to meetings in the near future.

#### Other SOC activities

- The policy manual was completed.
- A mailing was sent to members of the hardcopy distribution list requesting conversion to email, asking if they are interested in ag, urban or both types of standard, and if they are willing to review drafts. As of today 11 members converted to email, three asked to remain on the hardcopy list and six wanted to be removed from the mailing list.
- The SOC Brochure needs to be updated to reflect the addition of Comm. The text is fine but some pictures of urban practices (detention, subsurface infiltration device) should be added. New brochures should be ready in December, so copies can be distributed at this winters Comm trainings. **AR: SOC** send suggestions and photos for the brochure to Mike. **AR: Mike** update brochure. **AR: Mark** is the original SOC brochure in your office?

#### Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

The draft MOA is acceptable to all the SOC member organizations. The language suggested by Russ Rasmussen will be inserted into the final version. The signature process will start with the NRCS. The signed copy will then be sent to the other organizations in the order they appear on the MOA. **AR: SOC** have the MOA signed by your organization and forwarded to the next. All signatures by mid December.

- Comm funding equivalent the other agencies contributions is being requested in their next year's budget

#### Technical Standards Process Handbook (TSPH) Revision

A few minor edits suggested by John Ramsden will be added and then the TSPH will be ready for publication. **AR: Mike** Publish the TSPH, and update the SOC website when the MOA has been signed by all SOC members.

#### Agency Reports

Comm – The erosion control and stormwater section of their rules are going to public hearing. In advance of the hearings Comm will attempt to meet with environmental groups to relieve tensions and better direct potential comments.

WALCE – The agenda for their conference is set. **Parking Lot:** SOC report For WALCE conference.

DATCP – The DATCP board will make their decisions about the ATCP 50 revision and 590 Standard in January/February. The siting legislation has been sent to the

legislature. The Manure Taskforce is expect to complete their report in Jan./Feb. The Secretary is pushing alternative manure management, a conference will be held on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> in Madison. **AR: Ed** send info regarding the alternate manure management conference. Sites are being established with grant monies to run tests concerning odor and air quality. A potential ATCP 50 revision will be made to add non-traditional ag practices. This would open funding sources to deal with things such as stormwater and forestry.

NRCS – The NRCS is also involved with the Conservation Innovation Grant and the air quality issues. A manure technology cost sharing standard was added because of a push at USDA to be involved with this. EQUIP funding stayed about level. More watersheds were selected for CSP, the budget will likely limit this program.

UWEX – Old EQUIP funds are being used for education brochures. A publication considering what farmers need to know about 590 planning was suggested.

WLWCA – Their annual conference is Dec. 7-9 in Eau Claire.

Next meeting – Initial charge for the Filter Strip Team. Chair of SOC.

### **Action Register**

**SOC** have the MOA signed by your organization and forwarded to the next. All signatures by mid December.

**SOC** send suggestions and photos for the brochure to Mike.

**Ed** send info regarding the alternate manure management conference.

**Pat** check into possibly adopting the new National agroforestry standard.

**Pat and JR** review standards for minor revisions, and of those which require public review.

**Mark** is the original SOC brochure in your office?

**Mike** finish Work Plan and send to SOC.

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### **Parking Lot**

**Parking Lot:** SOC report For WALCE conference.