

Minutes

State Technical Guide Committee Meeting

Conducted November 15, 2005

Marysville Service Center

In attendance were Tom Perrin, Rich Gehring, Mike Monnin, Charlie Frazier, Dennis Bunger, Rick Ellsmore, Mark DeBrock, Art Brate, Mark Smith, and Jon Gerken.

Tom started the meeting at 9:00 AM and introduced Rick Ellsmore as the new State Resource Conservationist and welcomed him to Ohio. Tom Perrin led the discussion.

Old Business

Draft Practice Standards

Fencing 382 was discussed. Art stated that changes in the standard had been highlighted, that it had been reviewed by a group consisting of civil engineering technicians, engineers, resource conservationists, and district conservationists that it had been revised after receiving good input and has been posted for a 30 day review period. He said that the practice standard is 2 pages long and with construction specifications for ten different types of fence. He said that there will be job sheets made on 8 1/2" x 11" and 11" x 17" paper that can be assembled with a construction specification and a scaled toolkit planning map to make the job plan. The pull and corner post assemblies are based on the post embedment. All comments that were made were addressed. The standard allows the use of steel posts weighing 1 1/4 #/ft.

Mark asked if the number of strands of barbed wire had been changed. Art stated that he didn't think so he should check the standard. Rick stated that he would like for the standard to be reviewed again and art said that he would send it out to the same group that reviewed it the first time but that he doesn't want to send it out to the state again in the interest of time. Rich advised the group that, according to policy, the state technical committee has the last review and that a 30 day state review had already been made.

Jon, Tom and Mark asked if fencing is an engineering practice and why is an engineering plan needed. Art responded that the engineering discipline in Ohio was given the responsibility of maintaining the Fencing 382 Conservation Practice Standard. Art stated that fencing drawing details, specifications, and installation locations are given to a landowner so that the fence can be built in the planned location and built correctly. He said that the information given to a landowner for fence construction is done for the same reason that seeding specifications and plan location(s) are given for a critical area treatment practice.

Tom stated that he wants to establish a time line for completion of the fencing standard. It was decided that all comments will be sent to Art by December 1, 2005 and the standards and construction specifications will be available to the field by December 16. It was noted that all new or revised standards go out under Terry Cosby's signature.

Mike discussed standards 313 Waste Storage Facility and 359 Waste Treatment Lagoon. Mike is reviewing these standards to make the water quality components consistent with other agencies water quality standards.

Mike said that he was putting covered HUA in 561 Heavy Use Area Protection. The discussed the type of floor used in covered feeding facilities. The question was asked, do covered feeding facilities need concrete floors? Art responded that concrete is not necessary if scraping is not frequent. Mark cited research from Cornell University that suggests gravel is better than concrete. Mike stated that he is putting covered HUA in 561 with the concrete floor option.

Mike said that he is changing the national standard for Constructed Wetlands for use in Ohio by changing the length: width to fit more sites. Mike also said that he is working on a vegetative treatment standard for waste water treatment.

Mike asked if there is a gap between items on the cost list and standards that apply to them. I.e. waste transfer.

The group held discussion on the cost list. Mark S. stated that we are not supplying enough information on the cost list to the field to survive an OIG audit. Mark D. said that we are moving toward one cost list for all programs. Mark Scarpitti sent out a draft cost list on email 11/14/05 and asked for comments with no deadline. Rick stated that he wants a deadline for completion of the cost list.

The group took a break from 10:30-10:40.

New Business

Mark D. stated that the Conservation Practice System is available now and asked “what is the designation of data stewards and what are their roles?”

Rick asked what standards need to be reviewed and wants a list by the next meeting. Art responded that each standard is reviewed every five years.

Tom stated that Doug Zehner is making a timeline for due dates for tasks. Tom said that he would like to have a mini business plan for the technical guide committee. The following meeting dates were set.

February 26, 2006	9:00AM	Marysville SC
May 16, 2005	9:00AM	Marysville SC
August 15, 2005	9:00AM	Not Determined
November 21, 2005	9:00AM	Not Determined

Mark S. stated that the field needs a design for roofs over manure storage structures. Art responded that the A&E firm that has been tasked with making standard designs and drawings is nearly finished with a stand-alone roof and timber manure storage with roof.

Art said that they have submitted a preliminary design for a concrete wall manure storage structure with an attached roof but he is uncomfortable with the size of the wall and doesn't think it is practical to build. Art said that he may recommend that owners use a consultant to design concrete walled, roofed manure storage structures. Art stated that we will not deviate from industry standards for concrete walls and roof designs.

Rick asked if we are using ACI code in Ohio and Art responded that we use ACI 318 for R/C retaining walls.

Dennis stated that there is a conflict between FSA and NRCS over mowing waterways. FSA wants owners to wait until bird breeding season is over but the waterway was designed with a specific grass height that requires timely mowing 2-3 times per year.

Tom asked if the technical guide committee could be restructured to include plant materials technical issues. There were no dissenting comments made.

Art stated that he is on a national task force on drainage water management and they have revised the drainage management standard to address how to manage drainage water for nutrients and manure. Art said that not many people have used the practice and that he is working with Larry Brown and Nom Fausey (Ohio Task Force) to make or identify demonstration projects where DWM is being used.

Mark S. asked if there is research on manure solids from drainage systems. Research done at Wooster OARDC was mentioned.

Jon stated that we are going to a coordinated source for soils data and wants to know how people in the field are formatting soils data. Jon said that soils data is available and soil scientists are available for assistance to the field. Jon will ask Resource Soil Scientists to talk about soils data at area meetings.

Submitted by Charlie Frazier