



Summary of Meeting Outcomes

Public Standards Board Meeting

September 18, 2020

The following represents a staff summary of the outcomes of a public meeting of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB). Meeting outcomes may include final decisions made by the Board in accordance with the SASB [Rules of Procedure](#), preliminary Board decisions that are tentative and subject to change until they receive final Board approval, or other outcomes resulting from Board discussions or staff updates.

The meeting recording, materials, and a schedule of upcoming meetings are available at the [Standards Board Meeting Calendar & Archive](#).

The current SASB standards are available at [Download Current Standards](#). Information on projects can be found on the [Current Projects](#) page. [Subscribe](#) to receive standards-related updates or [provide input](#) on SASB Standards.

Agenda Planning

- Staff presented an overview of the current project pipeline, including brief updates on ongoing standard-setting and research projects that were not on the agenda for discussion.
- Staff presented a brief update on the Rules of Procedure and Conceptual Framework projects, including the launch of the public comment period for the exposure drafts of the proposed revisions to these documents. The comment period was initiated on August 28, 2020 and concludes on November 30, 2020.
- Staff additionally provided an update on ways that stakeholders can remain apprised of SASB's project work as well as how to engage with SASB on projects of interest, including subscribing for project alerts as well as a newly initiated series of blog posts focusing on market feedback.



Standard-Setting Projects

Tailings Management in Extractives

- Staff presented metrics developed for the two disclosure topics under the project's scope—Waste & Hazardous Materials Management and Tailings Storage Facilities Management. The metrics presented by the staff were centered on the Metals & Mining Industry and would be modified for Coal Operations Industry appropriately.
- The Board discussed open issues related to metrics development, such as the lack of globally accepted definitions of hazardous waste and materials; the preferred format of disclosure for the Tailings Storage Facilities Management topic—aggregate per company vs. tabular per site; and options for defining “material findings” that may result from companies’ dam safety reviews.
- Next staff and Board discussed steps in the project that will consist of developing exposure drafts for both industries and submitting those to the Standards Board for review in the near future.

Content Governance in the Internet Media & Services Industry

- The Board unanimously agreed to add a project related to Content Governance to the standard-setting agenda.
- The project will evaluate the financial impacts on companies, and the management activities used by companies, related to harmful online content and user freedom of expression in the Internet Media & Services Industry as it prepares for the development of an exposure draft.
- Next steps in the project include additional research and consultations with market participants.
- The staff and Board discussed that the existing research project will continue forward, as it will continue to assess issues that are out of scope of the standard-setting project, such as issues related to workforce health impacts associated with content moderation.



Research Projects

Human Capital

- Staff presented a project update on the Human Capital research project, providing detail on key outcomes and insights from the targeted consultation phase. Additionally, staff shared the objectives and scope of the current framework revision phase. Next steps were also shared, specifically on the target date for the public consultation period.
- The Board provided comments on renaming the term “Alternative Workforce” to “Workforce Models” to more objectively reflect a company’s human capital strategy and suggested providing interim guidance based on the US Securities and Exchange Commission’s recent decision on human capital disclosure.
- Next steps in the project will consist of revising the human capital framework based on key findings and developing materials for the public consultation period. The Board will be kept apprised of new developments ahead of the release of any materials intended for public consultation.