

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
1800 WaterMark Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1099

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Fountain Square
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of Commerce-SFM
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ohio Public Utilities Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399

Ohio Department of Development
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of Transportation
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

TO PROMOTE AND GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE STATE OF OHIO

June 18, 1998

**Ohio EPA, 1800 WaterMark Drive
Conference Room 1B**

ABSTRACT

The June 18th meeting was devoted to agency updates and announcements and Work Group updates, followed by a presentation/discussion on county and local planning by Larry Long, County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Michael Baker, Tim Christman, Vladimir Cica, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Scott Kell, Bob Van Horn

ODA: Larry Berger

USGS: Jeff deRoche

PUCO: Sue Daly

MAY MEETING SUMMARY

The May meeting summary was approved as written.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OEPA, Division of Emergency and Remedial Response, Tim Christman announced:

- 1.) Jeff Hines (Assistant Chief at Southwest District Office) currently is Acting Chief of the Division.
- 2.) A Task Force is developing guidance on how to use ORC 6111 for cleaning up ground water problems. Their report is due out by the end of August.

ODNR, Division of Geologic Survey, Bob Van Horn announced:

- 1.) His office has revised their 1975 educational leaflet on coal [Bob distributed copies].
- 2.) Dennis Hull presented an update on the Division's various mapping efforts at the June Ground Water conference of the Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO). [Bob distributed copies of the summary.]

OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:

- 1.) The 1999 319 Request For Proposal period closed at the end of May. Altogether, 23 applications were received, requesting a total of \$5.6 million in funding. The Division will be able to fund only \$3 million worth of these. Only one application concerned ground water--a project concerning well sealing submitted by the Cuyahoga Health Department. Only two applications concerned statewide projects; the rest were local. The Selection Committee was scheduled to meet on July 8th.

ODA, Pesticides Section, Larry Berger announced:

- 1.) The Agency's new GPS tower is working well. Training of Division staff will begin in June. The next investment likely will be in GIS software.

USGS, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

- 1.) The Division recently bought a "plugger", which is a military version of a GPS system, providing latitude and longitude to an accuracy of 5 meters. The Division is looking at buying a Trimble GPS system for its Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) work.
- 2.) The Division has been approached for assistance with a Brownfields project in Toledo.
- 3.) The Division has been approached to conduct a study of de-icing chemicals in airport runoff at Port Columbus.

OEPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Vladimir Cica announced:

- 1.) The Rule Revision Team's conclusions regarding siting criteria for landfills were distributed with the March SCCGW meeting summary. If SCCGW members have comments, they should forward them to Vladimir as soon as possible.

PUCO, Sue Daly announced:

- 1.) Mike Hallfrisch asked her to report that he had not yet completed the Ground Water report for the Nonpoint Source Management Plan update. He will mail it out to SCCGW members when it's complete.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Mike Baker announced:

- 1.) The June WMAO Ground Water Conference was very successful, attracting about 150 attendees. It is hoped that this conference will be the first of a series of focused ground water sessions.
- 2.) The Division's new relational database, DRINK, is being released for Beta testing. The Division's ground water quality characterization database will be incorporated. A 319 grant is being used to computerize about 10,000 historical ground water quality records from various environmental programs.
- 3.) A great deal of staff effort is dedicated to developing the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program mandated by the 1996 SDWA amendments. In recent meetings with public advisory groups, a detailed analysis of the various stakeholders was conducted. The first draft of the Program is scheduled to be complete by August, at which time it will be distributed to SCCGW members, as well as the various public advisory group members. Peer review will be conducted with other Region V states during a 3-day meeting in Indiana in mid-August.
- 4.) John Sadzewicz recently accepted an appointment to the Ground Water Protection Council's Board of Directors. Mike is his designee. The GWPC is a growing organization, and its resolutions are being heard in Washington, D.C. SCCGW members can channel ideas through it.

OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:

- 1.) Larry participated on a panel discussion at the National Governor's Association meeting on CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) and how they relate to Source Water Protection.

PRESENTATION ON COUNTY PLANNING

Larry Long, with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, gave an informal presentation on local planning authority, and then opened the floor to discussion. Much of the discussion focused on subdivision regulations. By Ohio law, counties and municipalities may regulate how land is subdivided, but townships do not have this authority. The definition of a subdivision is any parcel of land that is 5 acres or less in size. Since such lots are exempt from subdivision regulations, many developers are offering lots for sale that are 5.01 acres in size. Many of these are so-called "bowling-alley" lots--long, narrow lots facing rural roads. For lots of this size, developers are not obliged to provide the kinds of improvements typically required by subdivision regulations: road widening, sidewalks, storm sewers, etc. When problems subsequently arise regarding water supply, drainage and congested roads, the county is called upon to address them. This diverts public money from county-wide maintenance, to provide costly infrastructure to new residents in brand-new homes.

In many counties, the short-term solution to this problem has been to levy "impact fees" on owners of new homes. However, some more long-term solutions would include:

- raising subdivision "right to review" to 20 acres;
- making subdivision requirements more flexible, so that developers would be more willing to comply;
- enhancing zoning authority;
- giving County health departments jurisdiction to do an analysis on water and sewer issues *before* a lot is split.

In response to a question about Farmland Preservation, Larry replied that Representative Gene Kreb's bill is an uphill battle, largely because in order for one locality to change its zoning, the county plan would need to be amended by a county-wide referendum. In other words, the entire county must vote on planning issues that may only concern one community.

Larry also noted that most county commissioners want development, but "not scattered all over the place". Most support planned development. Certain areas in a county simply are not appropriate for certain uses.

One member asked if Ohio was losing prime water supply areas to development. Larry said it's hard to know the answer to that without detailed land use data. Developing a County Plan provides an impetus to collect and analyze the information needed to make such an assessment.

One member noted that many Wellhead Protection areas for municipal water systems are located in unincorporated areas, outside the municipality's jurisdiction. He asked Larry what was the best way to approach the officials in these unincorporated areas, to consider protecting the Wellhead Protection areas. Larry replied that it's best to deal directly with the individual county commissioners and township trustees. Efforts initiated at the state level will not be as effective. Larry also noted that only about a third of the counties are staffed. Whether or not Wellhead Protection will get much attention depends on how well staffed a county office is, and whether anyone there willing to take on Wellhead Protection as a personal project.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1.) There were no Work Group updates.
- 2.) Bob Van Horn was nominated to act as SCCGW chairperson for the next six months (August through December 1998)
- 3.) The SCCGW meeting for July was cancelled. The next meeting will be August 20th, at ODNR, Building D, 3rd floor.

AUGUST AGENDA

The August meeting will include Agency updates and announcements and Work Group updates. No special presentations are planned.

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) "Coal", Educational Leaflet No. 8, Revised Edition 1998, Division of Geological Survey
- 2.) Status of ODNR-Division of Geological Survey's mapping projects:
 - Bedrock topography
 - Surficial materials
 - Quaternary geology
 - Bedrock geology
 - Bedrock structure

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August 20, 1998

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Building D, 3rd Floor Conference Room**

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	JUNE MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:20 am	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous -Work Group Updates
10:20 - 10:30 am	BREAK
10:30 - 10:45 am	WORK GROUP UPDATES
10:45 - 10:55 am	MISCELLANEOUS
10:55 - 11:00 am	SEPTEMBER SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
11:00 am	ADJOURN