

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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

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

Ohio Department of Transportation
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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

September 16, 1999
USGS - new location
6480 Double Tree Avenue

ABSTRACT

The September 16th meeting was devoted to updates and announcements, and continued discussion of ground water issues that need to be prioritized and addressed by SCCGW over the next year or two.

ATTENDANCE

BUSTR: Charles Zepp

OEPA: John Kessler, Julio Perez, Mike Baker, Tom Allen, Kristy Hunt, Vladimir Cica

ODA: Larry Berger

ODNR: Rick Pavey, Mike Hallfrisch

ODH: John Wells

ODOT: Juliet Denniss

PUCO: Sue Daly

USGS: Jeff de Roche

AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

Two corrections were made to the August draft meeting notes. The Drought Assessment and Executive Committees was incorrectly referred to as the Drought Task Force under the Ohio EPA Agency Updates. Also, Bob Vanhorn provided announcements 1-5 under the ODNR Agency Updates instead of Mike Hallfrisch as indicated.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Rick Pavey announced:

- 1.) An open house for the Horace R. Collins Laboratory the new location of the ODNR Repository will be held on October 12th, 1999.
- 2.) The next SCCGW meeting will be held at the new facility which is located in the Alum Creek State Park. Please see attached map for directions to the facility.

U.S.G.S, Water Resources Division, Jeff de Roche announced:

- 1.) Provided a handout describing all of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program studies conducted in Ohio, USGS Fact Sheet 036-99, July 1999.
- 2.) The Jackson County Board of Health has accepted the USGS proposal to conduct a county wide study to look at the extent of arsenic occurrence within the ground water as well as to understand why it is a problem and what is causing it.
- 3.) The USGS will be participating in the Farm Science Review and their booth will be located at the Gwynne Conservation Area.
- 4.) The USGS will be holding an open house of their new office building located at 6480 Double Tree Avenue on October 14th. All Agencies present should have received an invitation. The open house will include a host of different demonstrations that will provide an understanding of what technological capabilities the USGS possesses.

ODH, Bureau of Local and Environmental Services, John Wells announced:

- 1.) Private Water Rules 3 (permits) and 20(Registration/Bonding) were sent back to the Public Health Council which will meet on September 30, 1999. All rules will be effective January 1, 2000, except for rule 20 which will take effect as soon as it is signed.
 - Two training sessions for the new rules are planned for the first and second weeks of October 1999. These training sessions are planned through December 10, 1999.
- 2.) A tentative rule revision time line for the Home Sewage Disposal Rules is scheduled to take place between November 1, 1999 through April 2001.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch announced:

- 1.) ODNR's Well Log database is now on the internet. The database can be accessed on ODNR's Division of Water's front home page under the Whats New category. Information available through this database includes pump test data, geologic information, and addresses. This database does not contain picture images of the well logs.
 - A contractor was hired to update the database to Windows NT and that should be completed in 4-5 months (according to the contractor).
- 2.) ODNR is responding to a dewatering situation in the City of Trenton located in Butler County. Mike will be going to Trenton on September 17th, 1999.
 - So far 5 older shallow wells are being effected. It is fortunate that there are 3 monitoring wells in the area. At the end of July these monitoring wells observed water levels at an all time low.

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

1.) A portion of the Kirby Tire Pile (largest tire pile in the country, 40 million tires) caught on fire a few weeks ago. In the beginning USEPA took over the emergency until within two weeks it had spent its Emergency Management Budget of 2 million dollars. Once the USEPA budget was spent, Ohio EPA DSIWM took over the emergency. The burned area is now buried.

- There is a temporary treatment system set up to handle the surface water contamination that occurred as a result of the fire. The fire also caused the release of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's).

- The owner's of the property have no money. They have been under enforcement for a few years. A court order has been issued to remove the tires. Ohio EPA is paying for the tire removal. The tires will be used for engineering materials.

- Mike Baker added that the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters did some sampling on area ground water wells in order to establish baseline levels for ground water quality. Ground water sampling will continue in this area to monitor any changes in the ground water quality. Sycamore is the largest PWS in this area.

2.) House Bill 473- Siting Criteria Rule Review Workgroup received comments on the May 12, 1999 Concepts and Recommendations Report. The Workgroup has met twice to discuss the comments, some changes will be made based on the comments received. The next meeting should completely finish addressing all comments as well as determine a statement of the Workgroups use.

- The current rules are not planning on addressing Surface Water SWAP areas.

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

1.) Ohio EPA is continuing its Y2K preparation work. Completing detailed risk analysis and comparing contingency plans. Looking at the types of Y2K risks that Public Water Systems face. A fall staff training is planned to prepare Ohio EPA staff in assisting PWSs with Y2K needs. Continuing outreach to PWSs to help them prepare for Y2K. A Region V mass mailing effort to PWSs is part of the Y2K educational outreach. On October 7th Ohio Water Management will hold a Y2K exercise. The 9/9/99 date passed with no report failures.

2.) DDAGW worked closely with other Ohio EPA divisions to make sure that the Freemont and Tiffin PWSs were kept safe.

3.) The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program work continues. A database has been created to store the Resource Characterization data. A recent 3 day meeting with the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Inc. discussed a statewide Agency Architecture for storing and capturing GIS data. Presently, Ohio EPA is evaluating the best approach to addressing its GIS needs, which includes getting a effective GIS structure within each district office.

- The Ohio Department of Administrative Services is working with Ohio EPA to develop a Right For Proposals (RFP) so that Ohio EPA can consider proposals for having all non-community PWSs geocoded to sub-meter levels (error of less than 3 feet). Progress is being made on equipment needs.

PUCO, Sue Daley announced:

- 1.) She has not heard anything on the future of the Ohio Water Resources Council.

BUSTR, ODA, Ohio EPA DSW

- No Agency updates.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

- No work group updates.

MISCELLANEOUS (Special Coordination Issues)

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

1.) Ohio moved into a Level 3 Drought Alert and as a result created the Public and Private Water Wells Drought Task Force. The Task Force met for the first time on September 1, 1999. The Drought Task Force has 3 objectives: Review the status of Public and Private Water Well impacts, review what responses have been made, determine if there is a need for further action. If the need for further action is identified then what steps will be taken and what the trigger mechanisms that will implement these steps.

- 56 PWSs have implemented some drought protection measures. Approximately 20 of these PWSs have implemented mandatory water use restrictions.

- This time of year you typically begin to see decreasing water demands. This July had the highest demand but with continued drought conditions the water demand lessened, as many gave up watering lawns, etc.

- Currently the biggest concern is decreasing water levels with a possible mild winter that would not provide efficient aquifer recharge. This case would cause water shortage problems next year due to continued low ground water levels, therefore, PWSs are encouraged to continue the mandatory water use restrictions in order to prepare for possible low water levels during the summer of 2000.

DISCUSSION OF SCCGW GROUND WATER PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

1.) Tom Allen went through the process to identify the work plans of other state agencies involved with SCCGW to prioritize future SCCGW activities. Categories of activities that have potential for a SCCGW Work Group, include:

- A. Revising the Ohio Ground Water Protection & Management Strategy.
- B. Data Management and Information

- What information are agencies compiling into databases.
 - C. The coordination of special studies having environmental or health threats.
 - Such a work group could help identify the need for certain special studies as well as determine who should coordinate the identified studies.
- 2.) Members support a one day workshop to share information on arsenic. It was suggested that each agency would provide a knowledgeable representative on arsenic to speak at the seminar.
- SCCGW is very interested in organizing this seminar and anyone who would like to assist with the organization of the seminar or who would like to speak or provide a speaker is welcome to contact Rebecca Petty at ODH.
- 3.) Tom Allen provided a handout (attached) of the Ohio Ground Water Management and Protection Strategy, dated October 1986. SCCGW needs to consider revising the strategy or developing a new strategy. Tom suggested that SCCGW develop a plan of action for how the different agencies would like to revise or rewrite the strategy and think of a possible time frame to have a new or revised strategy developed.
- Tom Allen suggested that a SCCGW work group be developed to deal with the revision of the strategy, noting that all agencies would be considered in the final strategy document. It is too late to submit any revisions to the strategy for the next biennium budget, however, edits or revisions should be scheduled for completion for the biennium budget for 2001 to 2002, which has a deadline of September 2000. Possibly a given deadline of July 2000 to have the document complete to allow time for set backs to make the September 2000 deadline more of a reality.
 - Tom Allen mentioned that it would be good for SCCGW to identify all that has been achieved towards the strategy since it was outlined in the October 1986 document. A document that shows achievement has more power.
 - Tom Allen suggested to hit more of the strategy highlights in an abbreviated form. In other words, keep the topics brief and to the point. This type of document may be more appealing to read and more understandable. The document revisions could also be made by cutting and pasting things that have already been put together, such as information that has already been compiled in an annual activity or work plan.
 - Anyone interested in forming or being a part of the work group to revise or rewrite the Ohio Ground Water Protection and Management Strategy or has possible suggestions for revisions to the strategy, please see Tom Allen.
- 4.) All Agencies present agreed to re-elect Tom Allen as the SCCGW Chair.

JULY AGENDA

The meeting will be held at USGS's new location, 6480 Double Tree Avenue, Columbus, OH 43229-1111 , 8:30 to 11:00 AM. The meeting will include Agency updates and further discussion of SCCGW activities. The goal of this discussion will be to set priorities and create a schedule for activities, as well as to discuss updating the ground water strategy.

The August 19th SCCGW meeting will be held at the new USGS location on Double Tree Avenue.

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) USGS Document - “The Quality of Our Nation’s Waters-*Nutrients and Pesticides*”, U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1225.
- 2.) USGS Document - “The Quality of Our Nation’s Waters-*Nutrients and Pesticides-A Summary*” USGS Fact Sheet 116-99.
- 3.) State of Ohio, OHIO GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, October 1986.

