

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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

March 15, 2001

Horace R. Collins Laboratory - ODNR Repository
Conference Room

ABSTRACT

The March 15, 2001 meeting was devoted to updates and announcements on Agency activities and a discussion of the Ohio Water Resource Council Strategic Plan update.

ATTENDANCE

ODH: Rebecca Petty

ODA: Larry Berger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Rick Pavey

OEPA: Tom Allen, Patrick Fellrath, Barb Lubberger

OSU: Cindy Folck

PUCO: Sue Daly

USGS: Jeff de Roche

Visitor: Jack Kramer, Heidelberg College Water Quality Lab

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

No changes.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ODH, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- The annual Midwest Sanitarian Conference will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Worthington on March 19-12. Focus will be on alternative sewage systems and source water protection. A drilling demo in Butler County is scheduled for the 23rd.

- Two bureaus at ODH have been merged to form the (renamed) Bureau of Environmental Health. Steve Wagner is chief.

- An Ohio Water Well Association board meeting will be held on March 16 to discuss a proposal to create a voluntary certification program for well drillers. This would involve voluntary certification tests, which opponents call "the first half of licensing".

- The Draft Sewage Rules are up on the Department's Web site now.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- National Drinking Water Week (May 7-11) is near. An excellent educational tool is the CD put out by OEPA's Office of Environmental Education.

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

- Under President Bush's proposed budget USGS faces a 22% cut in federal funding. The Survey is planning a letter-writing campaign.

- A hiring freeze is still on, and the Survey can't even hire students for summer work. Routine promotions are permitted.

- The White-Miami River National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) program is ready to start. Jeff Frey, from the Indiana district, is chief.

- Ground water topics that are of interest to USGS nationwide include ground water transport in induced infiltration systems, arsenic in ground water, and the effects of tile drains on ground water systems.

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

- The official comment period for the 2001 annex to the Great Lakes Charter closed at the end of February; however, SCCGW members can still forward comments to Dick Bartz, ODNR - Division of Water, Assistant Chief.

- Dennis Crist is the new Geology Program Supervisor, and will head up the well log computerization system. He was formerly with the Division of Mineral Resources Management.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Larry Berger announced:

- David Schleich, Chief, announced the following staff changes in the Plant Industry Division:

- Matt Beal has been named Assistant Chief of the Division of Plant Industry. He is formerly with the Pesticide Division
- David Simmons has been named Agriculture Inspection Manager of the Grain Warehouse Section
- Tom Harrison has been named Acting Agriculture Inspection Manager of the Plant Pest Control Section

- Bill Pound has been named Agriculture Inspection Manager of the Gypsy Moth Program.
- Jim Mickey has been named Program Manager for the Slow-The-Spread portion of the Gypsy Moth Program.

- No BSE (“Mad Cow Disease”) incidents have been identified in the United States, but ODA will step up its inspections. The European experience indicates that the disease is related to cow byproducts in feed given to cattle. Animal byproducts in feed is not a common practice in the United States.

- Sludge rules - treatment plants assign values of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. ODA tonnage fees could apply. However, a decision was made that all aspects of sludge will be regulated through Ohio EPA.

- ODA is revising the bulk fertilizer rules, which would require containment of fixed tanks of 5,000 gallon capacity or greater on farms. Now these tanks and containment areas must be inspected and certified.

-Mark Wilson is Assistant Executive Director in the CAFO program.

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Rick Pavey announced:

- Scudder Mackey, head of the Lake Erie Group in Sandusky, has taken a position in Evanston, Illinois.

- The early buy-out offer may result in the loss of about 15% of staff.

- The surficial and bedrock mapping groups have combined to form a Geology Mapping Group.

Heidelberg College Water Quality Lab, Jack Kramer announced:

- The College recently hired a GIS specialist and is applying GIS to its study of land use around the Sandusky River and effects on its water quality. This study was initiated 30 years ago. Maps of water quality results were presented.

OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- The Extension is hosting a conference in Holmes County at the end of March designed for educators who work with the Amish.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

No updates provided.

APRIL 19, 2001 AGENDA

The meeting will be held from 8:30 - 11:35 a.m. at the Horace R. Collins Conference Room in Delaware, Ohio.

DISCUSSION OF OWRC's STRATEGIC PLAN

The main issue to be decided was whether SCCGW wanted to incorporate the Ground Water Strategy (of 1986, revised 1991) into OWRC's Strategic Plan. It was pointed out that the OWRC Strategic Plan will be specifically endorsed by the governor. A motion was made and seconded to incorporate.

It was noted that most of the Ground Water Strategy initiatives are covered in some manner by the OWRC Plan; the issue is whether to highlight certain initiatives by separating them out. Participants agreed to an all-day meeting at ODNR on Wednesday, March 28th, to decide this issue.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tom Allen reminded participants that the May 17th SCCGW meeting will be followed by lunch at Tom's house.

