

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

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Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
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Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of Commerce-SFM
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Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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

Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
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Ohio Department of Development
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad 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

April 19, 2001

Horace R. Collins Laboratory - ODNR Repository
Conference Room

ABSTRACT

The April 19, 2001 meeting was devoted to updates and announcements on Agency activities. Charles Hickman, the USGS National Mapping Division Liaison, provided a presentation titled "Overview of USGS Geography and Mapping Products and Programs"

ATTENDANCE

NRCS: John Armentano

ODH: Rebecca Petty

ODA: Larry Berger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Ron Rea

OEPA: Tom Allen, Vlad Cica, Kristy Hunt, John Kessler, Bob Knipmeyer

OSU: Cindy Folck

PUCO: Sue Daly

USGS: Jeff de Roche, Charles Hickman

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

Comments from Rebecca Petty on pages 1 and 2 have been revised to the following:

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

- The draft Sewage Rules are now available on the ODH Web site.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Household Sewage Treatment Rules:

Final comments are coming in on the Household Sewage Treatment Rules. All comments will be reviewed and considered. A second draft is scheduled to go through the Environmental Health Council on August 23, 2001.

Still working with Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water on an NPDES permit.

The ODH Director is committed to moving forward with rule revisions.

- Public Water Supply Rules:

The ODH Director sent out a Notice Of Intent to suspend the registration of Clear Water of Ohio Drilling as well as Wall Drilling. ODH is stepping up enforcement on non-registered drillers. Thinking of putting out a Newsletter for the drilling industry and it is possible that these names will go in the Newsletter. According to the rules, counties are not allowed to issue a permit to individual drillers that are not registered. However, a lot of times it is not realized that a permit is needed to do well alterations.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- The Ohio Water Resources (OWR) Council - Coordinating Group accepted all of the comments SCCGW provided to them on the Ohio Strategic Water Resources Goals. The goals are still being reviewed. The OWR Council will meet in May or June 2001.

Rebecca Petty provided that she has copies of the goal revisions.

OHIO EPA - DIVISION OF SOLID AND INFECTIOUS WASTE, Vlad Cica announced:

- Landfill Rule Package is being put together and will be sent to JCARR by June 15, 2001.

- The Division's Chief position is open and interviews are being conducted. (Note: Since this meeting Dan Harris has been appointed Chief of the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management.)

- Two small landfill fires occurred during the week of April 9, 2001. A fire occurred at the Suburban South Landfill because of a lightning strike. The Stoney Hollow Landfill accepted a hot load that started a fire. The two fires were quickly controlled.

- Phoenix Tire Facility - Whole tires at this facility have been removed and taken to a tire monofill facility. There are some shredded tires yet to be removed.

Handouts (2) Notice of Rule Revision letters

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

- Introduced Charles Hickman, the USGS Columbus Office National Mapping Division Liaison.

- Provided a handout explaining USGS proposed budget cuts. The overall Agency cut amounts to 22 percent. The Water Resources Division cut is 21.6 percent while the other division cuts range from 5 to 7 percent. For WRD Programs: Ground Water Resources 40% cut, NAWQA 30% cut, Toxic Substance Hydrology (pesticides, nitrates, MTBE) 70% cut - this program would be effectively wiped out. Water Education and Delivery, 40% cut - this program, which includes the Real Time Stream Flow information as well as support for the Water Resources Research Institutes would be effectively canceled, however, the USGS would likely pull money from other programs to make sure that information programs are not eliminated. Title VIII money, which is used for updating streamflow networks and improving existing gauges, will be eliminated. What all this means for Ohio programs: The Central Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition would be eliminated and students and temporary positions would be lost. Stream gages would not be updated and some gages could be lost. Real time data would no longer be served over the web. If the proposed cuts are enacted, USGS may look at a Reduction In Force of about 5 percent of its personnel. The Great Miami River and the White-Miami River NAWQA's would be scaled back or delayed. The Biological Resources Division GAP Program in Ohio would also suffer cuts.

In total the USGS is taking a \$43 million dollar cut. The budget process is so late this year that there will be no verbal testimony, however written testimony will be allowed. Because of the overall cuts many special interest groups are on Capital Hill lobbying for dollars and it is a concern that USGS, a relatively small agency, will be lost in the shuffle. This is especially serious for water because only 30% of the Water Resources Division's operating money is from appropriations and 70% is through cooperative programs.

Handouts(4)

-AGI Government Affairs Program Special Update 4/10/01 (exerts)

-Water Quality in the Lake Erie-Lake Saint Clair Drainages (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, New York, and Pennsylvania, 1996-98.)

-Comparison of USGS and Ohio EPA Fish-Collection Methods Using the Index of Biotic Integrity and Modified Index of Well-Being, 1996-97 - Water-Resources Investigation Report 00-4255

- What Makes a Healthy Environment For Native Freshwater Mussels? USGS Fact Sheet 124-00 October 2000.

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

- ODNR is helping the City of Delaware conduct a pump test on their wellfield. This will be a 3 week test that will measure water level impacts of domestic wells from the city's wellfield. The well the test is being conducted on will be used to dilute the surface water

supply during times of high nitrates.

- ODH, Ohio EPA, and the USGS expressed concern that ODNR would potentially put portions of their well logs into storage when the Division of Water is moved into its new building. Mike Hallfrisch explained that the data (but not the images) for all the well logs is available on the web. Mike Hallfrisch also stated that the Division of Water is currently reviewing the computerized database for accuracy and completeness and to ensure that there is an image of the well log electronically attached to each log in the database. There are four large file cabinets of paper well logs and the DOW hopes to check the images for the well logs in two cabinets before the Division moves to new quarters in 2002. The well logs that have been checked will be placed in storage. The USGS questioned if there was another state agency that could keep the two files proposed for storage available to the public while ODNR completes its building renovations. Mike Hallfrisch will provide further updates on what ODNR plans to do with these files at the May 2001 SCCGW meeting. SCCGW could send a letter of support to the ODNR Director requesting that the well log files remain available.

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Ron Rea announced:

- Still trying to fill Scutter Mackey's Great Lakes position.

OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- Introduced herself and explained that she works with the OSU Extension's Pesticides Program.

- The Extension currently has a hiring freeze. Some positions have been vacated and it is unknown how soon they will be filled.

- The Extension hired watershed coordinators last year and it would be good to get them working with established groups.

Tom Allen suggested that the extension coordinate with ODNR's Watershed Coordinator Program.

- There is an education effort concerning the elimination of some chemicals for home pesticide use. After 1 year it will be a waste disposal issue for all those still holding on to products that contain the eliminated chemicals. Part of the education effort is to encourage people to use these products before a year is past. The registration for a lot of household pesticides, which children can be exposed to, is being reviewed. If these products are not used up within a year a large amount of the eliminated products could eventually go into landfills.

Tom Allen suggested that if the disposal of these products becomes a waste issue, maybe there could be some coordination with Ohio Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Disposal Program.

Handouts (1) Ohio State University Extension - District Personnel, Watershed Management.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

-Budget: The WHP, WRP and CRP programs have been zeroed out under the new Federal Budget. These are popular programs and the NRCS hopes that special interest groups will lobby for the money to keep these programs going.

- Vacancies: Research and Development for Northeast Ohio Western Reserve Area, District Conservationist for Clark County, and Public Affairs Specialist at the state level.

- Completed all EWP contracts from previous years. There are officially no open programs at this time.

- Dam Rehabilitation Program: Ohio is the pilot state. Receiving \$ 2 million dollars. Presently looking for 4 new sites. Had 3 sites from last year and once the plans are completed they will be sent out for bid. This is a 65/35 split.

-Southwest Conservation Assistance Program: Giving NRCS \$20 million to do conservation practices. It sounds like a modified EQIP program. This money is required to be used in non-priority counties. Nationally there has been a lot of complaints from non-priority counties. The final rules on this program are not out yet. There is no determination on what Ohio will receive in terms of money. Once money is out it has to be obligated within 5 - 6 months by the end of 2001.

- WRP: Cap raised to \$200.00/acre. Had a lot of interest in WRP this year. This program is a 30 year perpetual use easement that allows hunting, fishing, and other limited use. No farming is allowed in the easement. In 2000 NRCS converted 18,000 acres. Overall Ohio interest in this program is pocketed throughout the state.

Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, John Kessler announced:

- John is now the Manager of the Division of Surface Water's 319 Program and no longer works in the animal feeding and permits-to-install section.

- Met with USEPA Region V in Chicago this week to discuss NonPoint Source Pollution. USEPA wants to enhance the monitoring at CWA Section 319 sites in order to quantify the reduction in pollution as a result of 319 funding.

Tom Allen provided that USEPA wants to begin quantifying measurable results of a lot of programs to take back to Congress. This is the case with the SWAP program.

- John's section hopes to have the 2002 Request for Proposals out by April 30th or May 7th.

- There will be a workshop scheduled in Southeast Ohio to provide training on applying for 319 funding. Invitations will be sent out.

Rebecca Petty would like to coordinate a workshop with Ohio EPA and the Local Health Districts.

- 401 and 404 Programs: Governor approved the Emergency Wetlands protection rules. That gives Ohio EPA 90 days to do some permit changes. The Supreme Court ruling took away some of Ohio EPA's review criteria.

Ohio EPA, Director's Office Bob Knipmeyer, announced:

- Ohio EPA's Assistant Director Barb Brdicka is resigning. She will be at Ohio EPA through early May, 2001.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen announced:

- Watershed Conference sponsored in part by AWWA and WMAO to be held May 1, 2001 in Columbus. There will be a lot of topics on TMDLs.

- DDAGW is preparing comments on Senate Bill 83 - Instream Mining. The comments are related to how instream mining relates to drinking water wellfields. These comments are being coordinated with Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water as well as the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance.

- Presently doing Strategic Planning for 2002 and 2003 Fiscal Year. Will provide a draft of DDAGW's goals and biennial plans to share with SCCGW.

- Pressing for the completion of SWAP assessments in the pilot counties of Greene, Sandusky, Fairfield, Coshocton, and Medina. It is the first priority for the SWAP Program. Presently coordinating with the Division of Surface Water on 319 funding as it relates to SWAP.

Kristy Hunt provided that all SWAP staff have been working rigorously, for the last several months, on developing the report format that will be used to disseminate Ohio EPA's Drinking Water Source Assessment Reports to the Public Water Systems. The group had the challenge of developing a report that is technical enough to document Ohio EPA's assessment work but easy to read and comprehend so that it would speak to not only the Public Water System Operator but also to the public, as well as to environmental professionals who will be referencing the assessment reports. A report format is currently in use by all district SWAP staff and many reports are close to being mailed to the Public

Water System Operators.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

No updates provided.

May 17, 2001 AGENDA

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

Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC): Ohio Strategic Water Resources Goals:

- Rebecca Petty provided a handout - Draft revised goals and objectives from 1998 strategic plan (unreleased) March 29, 2001.

- Chose to take all of SCCGW's comments. Did some minor wording changes to make the language more consistent. SCCGW members will be provided a copy of the Strategy when all of the changes are incorporated.

- OWRC - Coordinating Group wants to schedule a joint meeting with the OWRC and the Advisory Council in late Spring 2001.

- Once the Advisory Group comments are received by OWRC, then SCCGW and other groups will be tasked with identifying action items. When revisions to the goals are provided, SCCGW members should begin thinking of specific action items that relate to their respective agencies. Tom Allen also asked that SCCGW members begin thinking of 319 ground water priorities for their agencies with respect to the OWRC's strategic goals. SCCGW members agreed to try addressing OWRC's Strategic Goals at each SCCGW meeting. At times it may be necessary to have separate all day meetings.

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8:30 - 8:35 am CALL TO ORDER
-Introductions

8:35 - 8:40 am APRIL DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

8:40 - 10:45 am AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
-Legislation/Rules/Policies
-Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires
-Miscellaneous
-Workgroup Updates
- Ground Water Strategy
- 319 NonPoint Source

Break

10:55 - 11:25 am DISCUSSION: Ground water priorities as it relates to the Water Council's
"Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan" goals and objectives.

Discussion Lead - Rebecca Petty

11:25 am AGENDA

11:30 am Adjourn

Lunch at Tom Allen's House