

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

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
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Ohio Public Utilities Commission
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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
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

December 20, 2001
Dutch Kitchen, Plain City, OH

ABSTRACT

The December, 2001 meeting was devoted to Agency updates and announcements as well as presentations on the USGS metadata database project (Ralph Haefner, USGS) and the status of new livestock rules (Kevin Elder, ODA).

ATTENDANCE

ODH: Rebecca Petty
ODNR: Michael Hallfrisch, Rick Pavey, Rosida Porter
OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, John Kessler, Barb Lubberger
ODA: Larry Berger
PUCO: Sue Daly
OSU-Ext: Cindy Folck
USGS: Ralph Haefner, Jeff DeRoche

NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

No comments.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

US Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

-USGS recently published Water-Resources Investigations Report 01-4202, "Evaluation of Ground-Water/Surface-Water Relations, Chapman Creek, West-Central Ohio, by Means of Multiple Methods", by Denise Dumouchelle. Printed copies are limited, but the report can be downloaded in various formats from the USGS Web site.

Ohio EPA, DDAGW, Michael Eggert and Tom Allen announced:

- USEPA has a new guidance document on treating arsenic in drinking water. It can be downloaded from their Web site at [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/treatments and costs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/treatments_and_costs.pdf).

- Over the last year or so DDAGW has been working with other divisions and agencies to restrict or prohibit the application of septic wastes (untreated sludge, manure, etc.) in drinking water source protection areas (wellhead protection areas).

- Due to potential security issues, the Source Water Protection Program is evaluating alternatives for making assessment reports available. Staff still provide maps of protection areas and public water system locations on request, but precautions are being taken.

- The pilot phase for completing source water assessments is nearly complete, with assessment reports written for all ground water-based public water systems in three of five pilot counties. One outcome of the pilot was the creation of a new condensed report designed for the small public water systems. Also, following USEPA's lead, the Program will shift its priorities to completing assessments for community and noncommunity-nontransient systems first, then going back to complete the transient systems.

- The Division's revised rules on well standards will be filed with JCARR by December 24 and will go into effect by March, 2002. New standards for well construction are proposed; also, the "sanitary isolation radius" around a well now is calculated from the pumping rate, and varies from 50 to 300 feet. The rules can be viewed at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/oac.html>

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

- An update on the well log database backlog: 42 counties are up to date, and 46 counties are about a year behind. New well logs are currently being entered into the database.

- A new observation well is being added to the statewide network, located in the City of Lancaster's wellfield.

- The Division's planned move to a new building is delayed two years due to budget issues.

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

- The third draft of revised household sewage rules is out for comment till December 28th, and can be viewed on the Web. The rules will go to the Public Health Council in February.

- Representative Niehaus is interested in sponsoring legislation that would give the state authority for establishing a state-mandated program for household sewage treatment systems. There is some concern over how this legislation will affect the new private water well rules.

- Currently the Bureau is busy with annual renewal of contractor registrations.

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic Survey, Rick Pavey announced:

- Progress continues on the new bedrock geology map. The Geological Survey recently took delivery of the draft GIS coverage for the new bedrock geology map. Geo Survey staff are performing QA/QC on the coverage and preparing a cross-section for eventual publication of a new product to replace the 1920 bedrock geology map.

- With another retirement, the division now has a staff of 35, down from a peak of 74.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, John Kessler announced:

- Last week it was confirmed that the 319 grant awarded for FFY 2002 is a little over \$7 million.

- USEPA is pressuring states to focus on producing TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) reports. Federal funding is weighted toward the TMDL program, and the 319 program also must give priority to projects that are connected to TMDL analysis.

- Lisa Morris is expected to return as chief of DSW in late February, after serving as Acting Executive Director for the Ohio Tobacco Settlement Task Force.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- Proposed revisions of rules for investor-owned water and sewer companies went out for comment on November 27th. Comments are due December 28th.

- PUCO is working on legislation to allow investor-owned public water systems to recover distribution improvement costs, to finance ongoing line updates rather than waiting until a major line break to apply for financial assistance.

- PUCO is hosting a seminar sponsored by AWWA on water system security. The seminar will be held this spring.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water, Rosida Porter announced:

- On December 11th the watershed coordinators and staff assessed their strengths and weaknesses. One conclusion was that they should try to mentor with other state agency staff working on ground water issues.

- Farmers are expressing concerns to OSU Extension and SWCD staff about the potential impacts TMDL efforts may have on their farming practices. Staff try to assure them that the recommendations are phrased as best management practices, and do not focus on individual farms.

Other SCCGW members noted that TMDL reports are posted on the Web as they are completed, and can be viewed at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/tmdl/index.html>. Currently 17 TMDL projects are in development; five draft reports are available online.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Registration Section, Larry Berger announced:

- The Section recently overhauled the database that tracks licensing of pesticide applicators. Some changes were made in licensing types and the fees charged for each type.

- The Lake Erie Commission recently awarded ODA a research grant to develop a database for tracking when and where pesticides are applied, based on records kept by farmers and commercial applicators. The grant does not cover the costs of populating the database. The software should be ready by the end of January.

- USGS has reported detecting tiny amounts of Round-up (parts per trillion) in the Big Miami River basin, via sampling done for the Big Miami NAWQA study.

- Data from ODA's monitoring well network is still being entered, but new sampling is on hold due to budget cuts. So far there have been no detects in the 78 wells in the network.

The Ohio State University Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- Extension is facing a 6% budget cut for next year. OARDC's budget was cut 5%.

- Two of the four winter training sessions for pesticide applicators are complete; about 600 people attended each one.

- Wood Destroying Insect (WDI) Training is being offered as follows:

- 1/14/02 Cleveland, Cuyahoga Community College East
- 1/15/02 Columbus, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture
- 1/16/02 Toledo, University of Toledo

- 1/17/02 Cincinnati, Claremont College
- 2/11/02 Akron, University of Akron
- 2/12/02 Zanesville, Ohio University, Zanesville Campus
- 2/13/02 Dayton, Crowne Plaza Hotel
- 2/14/02 Columbus, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture

- An in-service on Nonpoint Source Pollution Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) will be offered on Thursday, January 3, 2002 at OSU's Agricultural Engineering building. More information is available at <http://nemo.osu.edu>.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ohio Water Resources Council

A meeting of Agency Directors was held on December 4th, and another is scheduled for Council representatives on December 21st, to discuss the objectives and action items.

A portion of January's SCCGW meeting will be devoted to evaluating an OWRC proposal to establish an information-sharing forum like SCCGW for agencies that handle surface water issues.

Ground Water Strategy

Tom Allen reiterated that the process for revising the Strategy should be to review the OWRC objectives and action items that are ground water-related. A workgroup will deal with issues that require more discussion, such as standards for wells other than public and private drinking water wells, and coordination on water quality issues. Tom will evaluate the original Strategy and format it into the Goals, Objectives and Action Items of the OWRC-Water Resource Strategy. These items will be discussed in January.

Next Year's SCCGW Meetings

-The Horace R. Collins Conference Room is reserved for SCCGW meetings for each month in 2002 except February (when the meeting will be at ODNR Building D, 3rd Floor) and in December. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, 8:30 to 11:30 am.

- Tom Allen agreed to continue as Chairperson through 2002.

PRESENTATIONS

"Ground Water Metadata Project", Ralph Haefner, USGS

Ground water data in Ohio are collected and maintained by many agencies. These data are generally available to the public but a single repository of information to review

data types, coverage, and format (i.e., “metadata”) does not exist. Under a 319 grant, USGS will develop a metadata database that will identify, characterize and document ground water data available in Ohio, and identify data-collection gaps and data needs. Over \$183,000 has been committed as in-kind services (personnel) from ODNR, OEPA, PUCO and ODA. Another \$274,500 will come from Federal 319 funds, for a total project cost of \$274,500.

The three-year project formally began on December 1, 2001 and will conclude November 30, 2004. A kickoff meeting open to all interested parties will be held at the USGS on Friday, February 1, at 9:00 am. SCCGW members or designees are expected to attend.

“Development of New Livestock Rules”, Kevin Elder, ODA

Senate Bill 141 established a broad-based committee to develop new rules for confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) with 1000 or more animal units. (Facilities with fewer animals are not regulated by this program.) The rules establish guidelines for the permitting process, facility inspection, and enforcement. In Ohio there are 130-some facilities that fall under the rules and ODA expects to conduct two inspections per year at each facility. However, USEPA proposes extending the rules to smaller facilities, which could increase significantly the number of facilities to be regulated.

Under the new rules, water quality regulation is transferred from Ohio EPA to ODA. Other issues addressed include nutrient management, best management practices, economic viability, public participation, local interests, certifications, applied research, enforcement, biosecurity, and compliance with statutes and policies .

The rules will be submitted to JCARR in mid-January. They can be viewed on the Web at www.state.oh.us/agr/LivestockRegIndex.HTML.

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January 17, 2002

Horace R. Collins - Conference Room

8:30 - 8:35	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40	DECEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:30	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous
10:30 - 10:40	BREAK
10:40 - 11:00	PRESENTATION: Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water TMDL Program Trinka Mount, Ohio EPA-DSW
11:00 - 11:25	OWRC Discussion
11:25 - 11:30	AGENDA
11:30	Adjourn