

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
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
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

October 17, 2002

Horace R. Collins Conference Room
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building
3307 South Old State Road
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The October 2002 meeting included Agency updates and announcements and presentations on watershed programs and networks by Jerry Wager (ODNR) and Joe Bonnell (OSU Extension)

ATTENDANCE

ODA: Bill Goodman

ODH: Rebecca Petty

OEPA: Tom Allen, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger, Julio Perez

ODNR: Ted Lozier, Rick Pavey, Jerry Wager

BUSTR: Charles Zepp

PUCO: Sue Daly

ODOT: Rob Lang

OSU: Cindy Folck

NRCS: John Armentano

USGS: Jeff deRoche

SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

No revisions proposed.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Health, Rebecca Petty announced:

-Representative Niehaus hopes to introduce on-lot sewage legislation in January 2003.

-Lake County filed a verified complaint against Ashtabula County regarding on-lot sewage problems, which may result in the state withholding its subsidy to the Ashtabula County Health Department.

-Trumbull County is issuing permits for septic systems on very small lots, in soils that are inappropriate for leachfields.

-ODA's legal staff recently stated that a voluntary program for certifying well drillers is inappropriate and recommended drafting rules to require competency testing for new registrants. Voluntary testing is still considered appropriate for existing registrants.

-A statewide variance will allow for use of fiberglass casing in residential water wells until the rules can be changed to include this type of casing.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Bill Goodman announced:

-The agency is working on getting farmers to install secondary containment (specifically, dikes around storage tanks) within the next five years.

-Due to budget issues, twelve staff will be laid off in the next week or two.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

-For FY03 NRCS will be implementing a third party vendor system to carry out its conservation planning and application activities. This is to help implement the programs authorized and funded in the FY02 Farm Bill, as NRCS will not be able to hire new people to do the work.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Julio Perez announced:

-About 20 proposals have been received for 319 grants for SFY'03. The review period for these will run through mid-November.

-A Request for Proposal for SFY'04 will be issued in late December or early January. Proposals must be received by late May, and will be reviewed in June for federal appropriations in autumn.

-The 319 program is trying to align itself so that it supports the needs and priorities of the TMDL program. [Julio distributed state maps showing the watersheds and their schedules for TMDL studies.]

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Jerry Wager announced:

-The Livestock Technical Committee will meet three times to make recommendations concerning farms with less than 1,000 animal units, which currently are not subject to oversight by either ODA or OEPA.

-The Division is working to improve its complaint tracking process.

-An MOU with ODA has been proposed.

-A technical group is looking at ways to reduce liquid manure discharges.

-Under the CREP program, buffer strips, wetlands, and other riparian corridor enhancements will be developed for 35,000 acres of the Scioto River corridor, 75,000 acres in the Lake Erie basin, and 7-8,000 acres around the Hoover Reservoir in Delaware and Morrow Counties.

-The Division is developing watershed assessment procedures with OSU, placing more emphasis on floodplain protection.

State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Registration, Charles Zepp announced:

-BUSTR has moved back out to the Fire Academy outside Reynoldsburg.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

-New Jersey has become the first state to require well testing before a home can be sold. Ohio may consider such legislation. (In Ohio, there is a requirement that a well be tested when a home is constructed, and mortgage companies usually require well testing before they issue a loan.)

-An attorney from the City of Columbus recently called to report that developers were putting in master water meters and then re-selling water from a public water system. Sue referred the attorney to Michael Baker (Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters).

OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

-OSU has a new president, Karen Holbrook, who is also the first woman to hold this position.

-At Farm Science Review this year there was near-record attendance, and attendance at the Conservation area was the highest ever.

-A five-state beef initiative is encouraging farmers to raise cows/calves in areas that are not suitable for crops, and is also encouraging tobacco farmers to move from tobacco to beef.

-Several pesticides are going off the market for homeowners and commercial residential applicators, including CCA, Dursban (already gone), and diazanon (will be removed next year). However, these pesticides are still available for agriculture.

-Extension is planning to hire a soil fertility specialist.

-Applicants for a pesticide-applicator license are now asked to have a photo ID. This has caused problems with some Amish farmers, as their culture is opposed to photography.

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

-Work has started on the surficial geology map (1:100,000 scale) for the Lancaster area.

-The Division is writing a proposal to USGS, to complete the Springfield map on a 50-50 cost-share basis.

-Seismic surveys and detailed 3-D mapping are underway near the Huron River, for the Central Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Ted Lozier announced:

-Approximately 75 staff will leave ODNR this year via a two-year buyout offer and retirement.

-The Director recently issued a directive that ODNR-owned/operated lands can not be leased for the sole purpose of withdrawing ground water.

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

-The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) fall conference will be held next Wednesday and Thursday.

-OWWA's annual conference will be held November 21-22 at the Jeffersonville outlet on I-71.

-The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program has completed assessments for approximately 20 percent of the community public water systems statewide. Contracts are ongoing this fiscal year with ODNR-Division of Water for potentiometric mapping and with Great Lakes RCAP for assistance with potential contaminant source inventories, but additional contracts for the next fiscal year are not planned.

PRESENTATIONS

Jerry Wager (ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation) discussed the watershed coordinators program. One primary goal has been to provide for sustainability of coordinator positions by developing local funding of the positions. Each position is supported by a 6-year grant, with the position funded 100% by the federal grant money during the first year, but tapering to 50% grant-funded by the sixth year. Typically it is NGOs that step in to contribute the other 50%. By this method, it is hoped to institutionalize local support of watershed coordinators, enabling the state to support more coordinator positions. There are now 30 watershed coordinators around the state. [Jerry distributed a state map showing which watersheds had a coordinator, when the watershed project was initiated, and the names of the coordinators.]

Coordinators' responsibilities include (1) preparing a watershed plan within the first year; (2) enhancing public participation and education; and (3) coordinating between various state and federal programs, such as Ohio EPA's TMDL and SWAP programs, ODNR's reclamation programs, farmland preservation, etc.

Joe Bonnell (OSU Extension) described the Ohio Watershed Network, which provides educational programs and communication networks for local watershed groups, government

agencies, educational institutions, and other organizations involved in the management and protection of Ohio's water resources. This is realized through three initiatives: (1) the Ohio Watershed Academy, which is a six-month distance-based education program for watershed coordinators; (2) the Ohio Watershed Network Web-site, which provides access to information on watershed management and directory of watershed groups; and (3) the OHWatersheds Listserv, which facilitates the exchange of information and ideas related to watershed management.

The Web-site can be accessed at: <http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu>

To subscribe to the listserv, send an e-mail to listserv@postoffice.ag.ohio-state.edu with the two line message: subscribe ohwatersheds, then click on "quit".

For more information, Joe may be contacted at:
Joe Bonnell, Program Coordinator
Ph: 614/292-9383; e-mail: bonnell.8@osu.edu

November 21, 2002 SCCGW Meeting

The meeting will be held at the ODNR Repository Building, Horace R. Collins Conference Room in Delaware, Ohio from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. The meeting will consist of agency updates and announcements and a presentation by Donald Stoeckel of USGS on "Recent Advancements in Microbial Source Tracking".

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8:30 - 8:35	CALL TO ORDER - Introductions
8:35 - 8:40	OCTOBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:15	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous
10:15 - 10:30	BREAK
10:30 - 11:25	PRESENTATION by Donald Stoeckel, USGS
11:25 - 11:30	AGENDA for December
11:30	ADJOURN