

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

March 20, 2003
Horace R. Collins Conference Room
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building
3307 South Old State Road
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The March 2003 meeting consisted entirely of Agency updates and announcements. A presentation on public water system security was rescheduled for April.

ATTENDANCE

ODH: Rebecca Petty
OEPA: Tom Allen, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger,
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Ted Lozier
ODA: Larry Berger
BUSTR: Lynn Carghell
PUCO: Sue Daly
ODOT: Rob Lang
Extension: Cindy Folck
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Jeff DeRoche

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

Two corrections were provided. In the ODH announcement, a cessation of *discharging septic systems* has been ordered. In the ODNR announcement of the omnibus bill, well drillers are required to submit latitude and longitude or State Plane Coordinates.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- OEPA's Legal staff and Division of Surface Water enforcement staff met with the Attorney General's Office to discuss findings and orders (F&Os) for Trumbull County. Since there are 19 areas of failing septic systems, staff questioned whether it was reasonable to address all of them in one F&O. OEPA Director Jones will decide on this next week.
- The West Nile task force, which meets monthly, is putting together Fact Sheets with OSU and ODH, targeted to outdoors people (farmers, fishermen, boaters, etc.)

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

- The Woodland Trails Wildlife Area gave the neighboring community of Lakengren permission to drill test wells (for public drinking water) in the wildlife area, but cannot grant them permission to install permanent wells. Lakengren then asked to purchase the land, and was turned down. The wildlife area was established in part with federal and private funding and ODNR is obligated to keep the area free of development.

Ohio Department of Transportation, Rob Lang announced:

- ODOT has submitted its Notice of Intent and Storm Water Management Plan to Ohio EPA in accordance with the NPDES Phase II storm water regulations. (ODOT is regulated as a "non-traditional" MS4.) They have established a web site that describes the Plan (www.dot.state.us/stormwater).
- ODOT is also beginning a pilot study of their storm water system outfalls in the regulated (urbanized) portion of Clark County. Eventually, they will examine all storm water system outfalls in the Phase II regulated areas.
- ODOT is in the early stages of planning a southwest Ohio multi-modal transportation project that unavoidably crosses the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer System. ODOT has prepared a Sole Source Aquifer Preliminary Screening Report for USEPA. An Environmental Impact Statement likely will be required.

OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- Approximately 2500 people attended the winter training sessions for certifying pesticide applicators.
- Extension is funded as a separate line item in the State budget, separate from The Ohio State University, and is suffering from the State budget shortfall. County extension offices are supported by both the State and their counties, and if local funding is also cut, many positions statewide could be lost.

- The West Nile virus is a major issue this year, and a satellite conference on the topic yesterday attracted a wide audience. Last year there were 441 human cases in Ohio, and 31 documented deaths, with the highest toll in metropolitan areas. Many public health workers believe that last year may have been the peak year in Ohio, and the coming season will be milder (presumably because of increasing immunity to the virus). The virus appears to be migrating westward. Last year, the epicenter of the virus was Illinois.

- West Nile virus has taken an even greater toll on horses. In Texas, a thousand horses died from the virus. In Ohio, 600 horses were lost, many of these from Amish communities in Holmes County. April 15th is the deadline to vaccinate horses for the coming season.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Larry Berger announced:

- Dr. Bill Pound has been appointed to replace Bob Wulfhorst, who recently retired. Dr. Pound was formerly a turf specialist at The Ohio State University, and more recently has headed up ODA's gypsy moth program.

- The pesticide disposal and container recycling programs are being restarted for summer 2003, although it is uncertain to what degree they will be funded by this year's ODA budget, which is still unknown.

- Sampling of ground water wells at agricultural production facilities is currently underway for the 2003 fiscal year.

- On March 27th, the Syngenta corporation (atrazine manufacturer) will give a presentation to State water quality staff from various agencies detailing its Memorandum of Agreement with USEPA regarding a nationwide atrazine sampling program of public water systems using surface water. The results of this five-year program will determine whether and to what degree atrazine use is restricted in affected watersheds.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- A hiring freeze remains in effect, until the new budget is sorted out. The Service is advertising positions but cannot interview applicants.

- Conservation Reserve Program sign-up is expected to start the last week of April and run through the end of May.

The Request for Proposal for Farmland Preservation Program grants should be issued next week, and applications will be accepted for 30 days thereafter.

- The Service is moving forward with the "competitive sourcing" initiative, selecting positions that are not 'inherently governmental', and estimating the cost for a government employee to do that job. Contracts may be awarded to private companies as early as December. Positions most likely to be outsourced are secretarial, mail

sorting, and soil mapping. At the national level, geologist and civil engineering positions may be outsourced.

- The Service is also developing a third-party vendor list. Six private firms have been certified by federal authorities for doing conservation planning and construction in Ohio.

US Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline, Jeff DeRoche announced:

- District Chief Steve Hindall will retire on May 3rd. His position has been advertised, and there are 16 applicants. It is expected that his replacement will start sometime between May and July.

- The Survey also is subject to the federal competitive outsourcing initiative. Positions most likely to be outsourced appear to be lower-graded hydrologic technicians and administrative staff, Reports staff, and computer staff.

- Although the Survey received a slight increase in funding this year (\$7 million over last year), this does not match inflation, and next year is expected to be a very difficult year in terms of funding. The Survey expects to lose \$25 million agency-wide; the Water Resources Division will lose \$7 million.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- PUCO Commissioner Mason has been reappointed for another five-year term.

- The Commission is revisiting its confidentiality procedures for investor-owned water systems, in view of the tightened security for public water systems.

- Sue attended the NARUC meetings in Washington, D.C. Several topics included determining water use issues on a watershed basis, educating water customers about their water, recycling water, providing "one-stop shopping" for the permits needed to build and run a water system, and moving to federal oversight of *all* water systems, including the investor-owned systems.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- ODH is reviewing Trumbull County's response to an ODH letter addressing that County's on-lot sewage problems. Staff have already started working with the County on draft sewage rules.

- The sampling of private wells at Kiwanis Lake (Geauga County) is complete. The \$32,000 effort detected no compounds of concern other than naturally-occurring arsenic. Due to the high costs of such studies, ODH is considering revising the policy for when it will initiate a study to address allegations of 'cancer clusters'.

- ODH has received a request for a statewide variance on fiberglass casing in domestic wells.

- Five companies are approved to provide ultraviolet systems for treatment of private water supplies.
- More information on the May 8-9 outdoor well drilling demonstration is available at the Ohio Water Well Association's web site: owwa.org

Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations, Lynn Carghell announced:

- BUSTR is developing a new rule that would deal with orphan tanks.
- Region V is pushing for a greater focus on the leak audit program, which is meant to identify the main source of product leaks (for example, from the piping, tanks, dispensers, or from fills and overfills), and the cause of those leaks (for example, manufacturing flaws, installation errors, damage by customers, etc.)
- BUSTR is developing an enforcement process for their release prevention and corrective action programs.

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

- Jackson County Water System is siting a new water system in the Scioto River valley on a former 150-acre farm. They would like to enroll the property in NRCS's Conservation Reserve Program as a drinking water source protection area, but Ohio EPA must first delineate the protection area, and this cannot happen until the system plans are approved. Currently OEPA is waiting for Jackson County to respond to OEPA comments on the proposed plans.
- The City of Dayton has requested that portions of the Great Miami River and the Mad River be designated as drinking water use, which would place restrictions on upstream wastewater dischargers. This is innovative in that this use designation was originally intended for streams that supply conventional surface water systems. However, Dayton's source of drinking water is ground water that is recharged by surface water pumped from the rivers to infiltration lagoons. The drinking water use designation would extend from the intakes to 1500 feet upstream of the intakes.
- USEPA has released the National Water Resources Strategy, now available on their Web site. The strategy features a watershed approach. Any comments on it should be forwarded to Tom.
- The Ohio Water Resources Council advisory group had a productive meeting several weeks ago dealing with the collection and dissemination of water-related data and information, and education. The advisory group will meet on May 2nd to discuss the watershed initiative.

DISCUSSION

The group discussed concerns of the Fulton, Lucas and Henry County Health Departments about the numerous shallow wells that have been installed in the Oak Openings Sand, a productive but shallow aquifer in those counties. Most older homes have wells that are shallower than would be permitted under current standards, and developers are applying for variances so that they can install shallow wells for new homes. The County is concerned about liability if the wells should become contaminated and is considering collecting water quality data to determine if more stringent setback distances (agricultural, septic, etc.) should be applied to these shallow wells.

Local wells have been sampled for bacteria and nitrates, but not for pesticides. SCCGW members discussed combining their agencies' resources to conduct a sampling program for pesticides. ODA may be able to provide some funding for analysis, and ODH may be able to provide staff to conduct the sampling. A meeting was scheduled with representatives of the Fulton, Lucas, and Henry County Health Departments in Wauseon the following day, and it was agreed that representatives from ODNR, OEPA, ODH and ODA would attend.

APRIL 17, 2003 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 on public water system security by Craig Smith, DDAGW, Ohio EPA.

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

April 17, 2003

Horace R. Collins - Conference Room

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building
3307 South Old State Road
Delaware, OH**

- 8:30 - 8:35 **CALL TO ORDER**
 - Introductions
- 8:35 - 8:40 **MARCH 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** on Public Water System Security by Craig Smith,
 Ohio EPA
- 11:25 - 11:30 **AGENDA** for May
- 11:30 **ADJOURN**

The SCCGW Representative Appreciation Luncheon at Tom Allen's has been rescheduled for after the May 15th meeting.