

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

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Ohio Public Utilities Commission
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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 17, 2003
Horace R. Collins Conference Room
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building
3307 South Old State Road
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The April 2003 meeting consisted of Agency updates and announcements and a presentation by Craig Smith, OEPA, on public water system security.

ATTENDANCE

ODH: Rebecca Petty
OEPA: Tom Allen, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger
ODNR: Paul Spahr, Mac Swinford
ODA: Larry Berger
PUCO: Sue Daly
Extension: Cindy Folck
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Jeff DeRoche

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

Sue Daly requested minor edits of her announcement about the meetings attended in Washington, D.C. (page 2).

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- The West Nile Task Force's Fact Sheet on wetlands will go to OEPA's Director for review in a day or so. The next statewide meeting will be held on April 24th.
- Representative Colliers' office is working on language for Home Sewage legislation. The current proposal calls for oversight by ODH of all systems discharging 2500 gallons/day or less. (Ohio EPA has authority over larger systems.) This would bring a number of small commercial sites under ODH oversight, for the first time.
- The State Budget passed out of House and is in the Senate now. Most of the fees and general revenue funds are still intact.

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

- ODH met with Trumbull County a week ago to discuss experimental sewage systems.
- ODH is sampling private wells in Sandyville (Tuscarawas County), where elevated levels of thallium and arsenic have been detected.
- A meeting will be held April 30th to design a monitoring network to sample for pesticides and possibly degradation products in Fulton County's Oak Openings shallow aquifer. ODNR is delineating the boundaries of this aquifer. ODA has agreed to fund analysis of 100 samples.
- The May 8-9 outdoor well drilling demonstration will feature well logging, GPS locating, and drilling with foam.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- National Drinking Water Week is May 4-10.
- Ten terms on the Ohio Water Resources Council's Advisory Council are due to expire this year. The organizations/agencies represented, and the individuals who act as representatives, will be reviewed. [Sue distributed copies of the list of representatives.]
- The State of Ohio Directory of Water Programs is being updated. It was last updated in 1998.

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

- The Survey has just published two reports:

- Trace Elements and Synthetic Organic Compounds in Streambed Sediment and Fish Tissue in the Great and Little Miami River Basins, Ohio and Indiana, 1990-98, Water-Resources Investigations Report 02-4305, by Stephanie D. Janosy
- Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Streams of the Great Miami River Basin, Ohio, 1998-2000, Water-Resources Investigations Report 02-4297, by David C. Reutter

- On May 12 Jim Morris will start as the new District Chief, replacing Steve Hindall, who recently retired.

- The Survey is interested in assisting ODH with studies of radionuclides in ground water. Staff at OEPA's DDAGW are also interested in such studies, from the perspective of ambient ground water quality and as a public health concern for public drinking water systems.

- ODA is approaching the manufacturers of Balance Pro about USGS completing a Crop Research Agreement to study how Balance Pro's active ingredient (isoxflutole) behaves in surface water and ground water.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- Applications will be accepted through May 19th for Farmland and Ranchland Preservation grants.

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Mac Swinford announced:

- Several maps have been released:

- Land subdivisions map (in paper and CD) which replaces the 1925 Sherman maps. CD costs \$25.00; call the Ohio Geological Survey's Records office.
- Shaded elevation maps (paper and CD).

Currently in process are the following maps:

- Bedrock topography - in review
- Drift thickness (1:5,000)
- Bedrock geology - the cross-sections are finished and the 40+ lithologic units are being joined together.

OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- Cindy distributed a flyer for a Community Mosquito Management Conference on May 2, 2003, at the Agriculture Administration Building at OSU. This conference is intended not for applicators but for community leaders and public officials charged with overseeing local mosquito control programs.

- The best defenses against mosquitos and the diseases they transfer are getting rid of

stagnant water and wearing repellent with DEET (up to 30% for adults, 10% or less for children). Wetlands tend to be regarded as a threat, but mosquitos have numerous natural enemies there, primarily birds and fish who eat the larvae.

- A Stream Channels Restoration Conference will be held in October.

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

- A form is being developed to evaluate 319 grant proposals for Source Water Protection planning activities. Planning by communities for developing strategies to protect their drinking water sources is a fundable item this year, and is designed for community public water systems that have Source Water Protection assessments.

- The Ground Water Quality program is designing a monitoring network and sampling plan for the GW Rule sampling program for microbial contaminants.

- USEPA Region V recently informed DDAGW that interested parties are proposing to redelineate the Great Miami River sole source aquifer boundaries in Clark County, based on new ODNR aquifer mapping. They intend to include a 0.5-1.0 mile buffer around the boundary, as was done during the original delineation.

- The Ohio Water Resources Council Advisory group has determined that critical issues for Ohio's water resources are: improving data and information; improving environmental education and outreach; and coordination of water issues via a watershed framework. The watershed issues will be discussed in detail at the advisory group's May 2nd meeting at ODA.

PRESENTATION

Craig Smith (Ohio EPA, DDAGW) gave a presentation on public water systems security. The Public Health Security and Bio-Terrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 provided for amendments of the Safe Drinking Water Act that require community public water systems serving more than 3,300 people to complete a vulnerability assessment and update their contingency plans. Copies of both items must be sent to U.S. EPA within specified deadlines (ranging from March 31, 2003 to December 31, 2004, depending on system size).

Vulnerability assessments must characterize the public water system, assess the likelihood of sabotage/terrorism, evaluate existing countermeasures, and develop a prioritized plan for risk reduction. This plan should be integrated into the system's existing contingency plan. Because the vulnerability assessments will be treated as classified documents, only USEPA will review and maintain copies; Ohio EPA will not handle these documents. The role of Ohio EPA (DDAGW) will be to provide technical assistance and training, and to update the State's Drinking Water Supply Emergency Plan, which defines how state agencies respond to emergencies involving a public

water system. More information is available at several websites, including Ohio EPA's (<http://www.sstate.oh.us/odps/sos/ohshome.htm>) and the Department of Homeland Security's (<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>).

MAY 15, 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 by Tom Allen on water resource protection on a local/watershed basis.

The meeting will be followed by the annual SCCGW Representative Appreciation Luncheon (potluck) at Tom Allen's house.

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May 15, 2003

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8:30 - 8:35	CALL TO ORDER - Introductions
8:35 - 8:40	APRIL 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 Water Resource Protection on a Local/Watershed Basis
11:25 - 11:30	AGENDA for June
11:30	ADJOURN

The SCCGW Representative Appreciation Luncheon will be held at Tom Allen's house immediately following the meeting.