

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

December 9, 2004
Dutch Kitchen, Plain City, OH

ABSTRACT

The December 2004 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Rebecca Fugitt on the ODH/CDC investigation of South Bass Island.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Ted Lozier, Scott Kell, Greg Nageotte

ODA: Bill Goodman

ODH: Rebecca Fugitt

NRCS: John Armentano

USGS: Rod Sheets

Visitors: Chris Moody and Rachel DeMuth, OEPA-DSW

NOVEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Previously, via e-mail, Mac Swinford provided clarifications of his announcements as follows (edited text in italics):

- The Ohio Aggregates Association has proposed a bill to reduce the aggregate severance tax by 30%. *The severance tax on Ohio's mineral industries funds much of OGS's mapping work and various activities of the Division of Mineral Resources Management-- so this is an additional budget concern for both divisions.*

- *The Division of Geological Survey is tentatively scheduled to move from Building B to Building C during the last week of December.*

These edits have been made to the November draft summary. No other edits were requested.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Health, Rebecca Fugitt announced:

- The Sewage Bill has finally passed! Under its terms, any system handling less than 1,000 gallons of sewage/day is overseen by ODH; systems handling more are overseen by Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water.
- The final report for the ODH/USGS 319 grant study on soils and septic leachfields is complete, and has been turned in to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water.
- ODH plans to revise domestic well rules next year. Items being considered include a voluntary certification program and requiring drilling companies to post a higher bond to receive a drilling registration.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

Norm Widman has been named State Resource Conservationist, replacing Paul DeArman, who recently retired.

- Kevin Brown has been recommended for director of Financial Assistance Program, a position located in Washington, D.C.
- Two District Conservationists (for Hancock and Jackson Counties) are retiring in January, 2005.
- Governor Mike Johanns of Nebraska has been named by President Bush to serve as the 28th U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.
- The preliminary '05 budget reflects a general 10% cut. Deeper cuts are anticipated on discretionary programs.
- Designated Conservation Security Program (CSP) areas for 2005 have been selected. They include the Huron-Vermilion watershed, the Grand watershed, the Little Muskingum-Middle Island watershed, the Hocking watershed and the Upper Maumee watershed.

United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline, Rod Sheets announced:

- The USGS fiscal year '05 budget is not yet approved, but it includes some money for work at the Great Lakes.
- The Ohio Academy of Sciences is accepting papers related to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) for its conference at Bowling Green in April, 2005.

Ohio EPA, Directors Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:

- The Ohio Health Commissioners will hold their annual conference on March 4, 2005. [Bob distributed a draft agenda and requested comments]. Proposed items include a panel on the South Bass Island investigation and presentations on subdivision treatment systems and House Bill 110. This event is typically very well attended by health commissioners across the state.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management, Scott Kell announced:

- The Division, working with Division of Water, was able to put a higher profile on ground water than was originally envisioned in ODNR's strategic plan for the next five years.

- The first meeting of the House Bill 278 Advisory Council was held recently. This bill's intent is to provide the state with more authority over siting of oil & gas wells, and counter a tendency for townships to create local health and safety restrictions so sweeping that no oil and gas wells can be sited anywhere. The council intends to create a menu of stricter land use standards that would apply to the siting and operation of oil and gas wells in urban areas.

- The Division is interested in incorporating GIS into its operations, to provide map-based information on sensitive areas so that staff can know where to avoid permitting oil & gas wells.

- Recently a drilling company filed a "takings" lawsuit, contesting the state's refusal to grant a permit to drill in a sensitive ground water area. The state's position was upheld through several appeals but the Supreme Court has ruled for the plaintiff and ordered arbitration to determine the fair price for loss of this land use. This case involves determining the monetary value of ground water protection and may have major implications for every agency that issues permits of any kind.

- The Department of Interior's Appropriations Bill extended for six months the Abandoned Mines Reclamation Fee—a tax on coal that helps pay for reclamation of mined lands, including remediation of acid mine drainage. This Bill is opposed by Western states because it channels funds to Appalachian states, where reclamation efforts have lagged due to economic hardship. The states have six months to work out a compromise or lose the funds.

- An Applied Research Conference is underway in Athens, Ohio. Some topics include acid mine drainage and mine dewatering impacts on drinking water.

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

- All county Ground Water Resources Maps are now available on-line.

- Water quality data from the Water Inventory Program's monitoring wells is now being made available on the Division's Website.

- Representative Carmichael and Senator Amstutz are still interested in helping Wayne County find a legislative solution to its dispute with the City of Wadsworth over ground water use. In general, water use rights is a topic that will become more urgent with population growth and accelerating use of the resource. One potential approach is to designate "ground water stress areas" and develop regulations for managing them.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation Services, Greg Nageotte announced:

- Watershed coordinators have been hired for sub-watersheds in the Chagrin River and the Maumee basin.

- The Nonpoint Source Management Plan update is ready for Agency review. [Greg passed out instructions for viewing the document and commenting on it via the Internet.] Comments are due by December 31, 2004.

- Tom Linkous (with ODOT) is moving to a position in ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

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

- The Source Water Assessment reports for noncommunity-nontransient public water systems (i.e., mostly factories and schools) are about 80% complete and about 50% of the reports for transient systems are complete.

- A Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) workgroup is developing set of environmental set-back and design standard criteria recommendations to protect water supply wells, public water supply intakes and source water protection areas (aka wellhead protection areas) from contamination related to the management and disposal of human and animal wastes. The workgroup anticipates having a draft report by the end of December or early January, 2005 for OWRC's review.

- As each of the SCCGW agencies begin their strategic planning for 2006-2007 state fiscal years, our priorities need to be aligned with the OWRC Strategic Plan's ground water critical issues. [Tom distributed a matrix of ground water-related units in the OWRC Strategic Plan and requested comments on the format, i.e., are we asking the right questions?]

- Because so many SCCGW members are involved in OWRC workgroups, and are overwhelmed with meetings, some regularly-scheduled SCCGW meetings may be used for workgroup discussion instead. The SCCGW meetings for 2005 are all scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at the Horace R. Collins Conference Room at ODNR's Repository.

PRESENTATIONS

Rebecca Fugitt (ODH) gave a presentation on the ODH investigation into the South Bass Island outbreak of gastrointestinal illness during July-August, 2004. This presentation focused on information obtained from private wells and did not discuss public wells. Of 79 water samples taken, 78% were positive for total coliform and 31% were positive for *E. coli*. Well depth was definitely a factor. Wells less than 30 feet deep all tested positive for *E. coli*, whereas only 18% of the wells greater than 50 feet deep tested positive.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

Will be held January 20th, at the Horace R. Collins Conference Room, 8:30-11:30 am.

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January 20, 2004

**Horace R. Collins Conference Center, ODNR Repository
Delaware, Ohio**

8:30 - 8:35	CALL TO ORDER - Introductions
8:35 - 8:40	DECEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:15	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
10:15 - 10:25	BREAK
10:25 - 11:25	GROUND WATER PRIORITIES in reference to OWRC Strategic Plan
11:25 - 11:30	FEBRUARY MEETING
11:30	ADJOURN