

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 21, 2005

Horace R. Collins Conference Room
ODNR Repository, Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The April 2005 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and discussion of priority ground water activities for the next biennium.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: John Kessler, Ted Lozier, Rick Pavey

ODH: Rebecca Fugitt

PUCO: Sue Daly

NRCS: John Armentano

USGS: Jeff DeRoche

OSU Extension: Cindy Folck

REVISIONS of FEBRUARY DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY (March meeting cancelled)

None requested.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey, Rick Pavey announced:

-The Petroleum Geology Group is renamed the Energy Resources Group. All coal-related investigations are assigned to this group under the supervision of Larry Wickstrom. All oil-and-gas investigations will remain in this group. Robb Watson and Charles Banks are reassigned to the Energy Resources Group.

- The Geologic Mapping Group is renamed the Geologic Mapping and Industrial Minerals Group.

- Mark Wolfe is reassigned to the Geologic Mapping and Industrial Minerals Group under the supervision of Mac Swinford.

- When Ron Rea retires under the current ERI on June 30, 2005, his responsibilities for oversight of the Collins Laboratory operations will be assumed by Greg Schumacher, who will be transferred to that field office. He will continue his geologic mapping assignments under the supervision of Mac Swinford.

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

- The Ohio House recently passed its version of the SFY'06 budget. Ohio EPA has some concerns about the potential effects of proposed changes to the wetlands program.

- A meeting was held last Friday to consider candidate sites proposed by eight Ohio counties for the federal Department of Energy's (DOE) "zero-emissions coal-fired power plant" project—a prototype for burning high-sulfur coal with a reduced environmental impact. DOE is expected to send out a Request for Proposal in September, 2005. Other states are interested in this project and Illinois currently is considered to be the leading candidate.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- For the next fiscal year, the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) contracts must be completed 180 days from the awarding of the contract. Contractors must be registered as Technical Service Providers. Registration can be made online at <http://techreg.usda.gov>.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- Commissioner Rhonda Fergus has been reappointed for her third five-year term.

- The Ohio Water Resources Council's (OWRC) Education Workgroup is developing a logo. Also, they are working on providing Storm Center Communications with Ohio watershed information that can be packaged (by Storm Center) into media that mid-Ohio TV newscasters can include in their broadcasts

- A draft report on the OWRC Water Portal will not be ready till May. It is expected that Operations and Maintenance will be the main concern.

The Ohio State University Agricultural Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- Extension's training load has escalated due to a revision of the Ohio pesticide law last July, which expanded licensing of individuals using even general-use (nonrestricted) pesticides in certain types of establishments, such as schools and restaurants.

- The 2005 Farm Science Review is scheduled for September 20-22. An even bigger attendance is anticipated from neighboring states (especially Indiana), since competing Midwest exhibitions have been moved to more distant states.

- Vector Control Workshops, to assist applicators in calibrating mosquito misters, are being scheduled around the state.

- A court battle between CWA and FIFRA proponents has made it to the federal level.

This involves the use of pesticides on open water. CWA proponents want to require users to obtain a permit for any spraying over open water, even though the pesticide label, under FIFRA, permits application to water.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Department of Soil and Water Conservation, John Kessler announced:

- The Nonpoint Source Plan revision is still open for comment until April 29th.

- The Department is working on a top-to-bottom review of the Watershed Coordinator Program, with the goal of launching an improved program in February 2006. Constructive comments would be welcomed at this time.

- Three one-year planning grants will be initiated this year for the Upper Mad River , the Lower Mad River, and Salt Creek watersheds.

- The department's budget has been improved somewhat by the increase in tipping fees for Construction Demolition and Debris landfills. Twenty-five cents from that fee goes to the Department of Soil and Water Conservation.

- "Water quality trading" projects will be initiated in the Great Miami and Olentangy watersheds, with a \$411,000 USEPA grant. This is an innovative effort to improve stream quality by shifting funds into the upper watershed to reduce the loading there, rather than focusing on further load reductions by wastewater treatment plants, where incremental improvements are far more costly. Miami Conservancy District is the broker for the Great Miami project. Soil and Water Conservation district staff will be the key delivery mechanism for improvements in the upper watersheds. Tasks will include implementing CREP, widening channels, and conducting extensive water quality monitoring.

United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline, Jeff deRoche announced:

- At the national level, restructuring is well underway (see February SCCGW update).

- The USGS Water Resources Discipline has been renamed "USGS Ohio Water Science Center". According to USGS Director Chip Groat, "These changes are partly the result of USGS efforts to implement a consistent naming convention among all USGS science centers (e.g., USGS National Earthquake Information Center or USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center). This will ensure that the names of our centers more accurately reflect their role. In addition, we have come to recognize that the term "District Office" is an impediment to the public's understanding of our mission. Confusion with entities such as "Conservation District," "Irrigation District," or even "Congressional District" is common. Our new name more clearly conveys our role: we focus on water science in a specific State, and we are part of the USGS."

Ohio Department of Health, Rebecca Fugitt announced:

- Rebecca distributed a 3-page description of the plan for developing new on-lot sewage treatment rules, as authorized by House Bill 231. A new Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) will serve as a broad-based stakeholder group to provide comments and recommendations. The first draft rules will be distributed in September 2005 and the final draft will be presented to the Public Health Council in January 2006, followed by JCARR hearings. The rules should be in place by May 2006. Anyone with questions can contact staff at BEH@odh.ohio.gov.

- Currently the private water well program at ODH is severely short-staffed.

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

- The Division, working with ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Conservation, has been awarded an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant to establish Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEETs) state-wide. Each 3-5 member team includes a SWCD member, and will receive a sand-tank model to enhance the team's outreach. The teams will focus on adult education and are expected to assist communities, as requested, with the educational portion of their Drinking Water Source Protection Plans.

- The Division is working with the Division of Surface Water on preparing a Request For Proposal for the next 319 grant cycle. This time, up to three grants will be available for planning and implementation of contaminant reduction strategies in drinking water source protection areas with high nitrates. The goal is to implement nitrate-reduction strategies and document the results via extensive water quality monitoring. DDAGW will solicit interest by sending letters to systems with nitrate levels greater than 5.0 mg/l.

- The Division will be working on revisions of Construction Demolition and Debris rules. Some possible changes include the requirement of ground water monitoring wells, with possible prioritization based on a site's geologic sensitivity.

DISCUSSION OF OWRC ACTION ITEMS

Tom Allen opened by noting that some of the needs SCCGW was created to address are being met by the various workgroups of the Ohio Water Resources Council. Many SCCGW members currently serve on these workgroups. Therefore, starting in July, SCCGW meetings will be bimonthly instead of monthly (i.e., meetings will be held in July, September, and November 2005).

The goal of the current discussion was to brainstorm what the members considered priority ground water activities for the next biennium, and decide whether a SCCGW workgroup is warranted for any of them. It is anticipated that most items are being addressed already in an OWRC workgroup, and it will be sufficient simply for members to communicate progress and issues at the SCCGW meeting.

There were some questions regarding whether 'action items' had to be limited to those planned for the next biennium, or could include more long-range goals. Items listed were of both types, and included:

1. Ohio EPA: Source Water Protection Program's goal of 50 percent of municipal public water systems in areas of high susceptibility to have Protection Plans by 2008.
2. Ohio EPA: Identify ground water quality impacts (what and where) on a statewide basis, especially from less traditional sources, such as septic systems.
3. ODH: Implementation of on-lot septic system rules.
4. ODH: Establish an Ohio well sealing program (longer-range).
5. ODH: Revise private water well rules.
6. ODNR: Finalization and maintenance of Ground Water Metadata Project.
7. ODNR: Improve understanding of surface water-ground water interaction in Ohio.
8. ODNR/OEPA: Finalization of Nonpoint Source Management Plan.
9. ODNR: Process for resolving water-use disputes, such as the (currently proposed) water use legislation (longer-range).
10. ODNR: Identification of areas where quantity and quality of water is stressed; development of authority to address these stresses.
11. ALL: Consistency in rules
12. USGS: All agencies develop a more regional approach to water use; for example, to enable an effective response to future projects to channel water from water-rich areas to water-poor areas.
13. ALL: Provide a more stable funding mechanism for maintaining critical data collection and monitoring infrastructure (e.g., the USGS stream gauges, ODNR's ground water monitoring network, etc.)

Tom Allen requested that SCCGW members go through the matrix to see if there are other items listed there that need to be carried over into the next biennium, and **e-mail him by May 12th with the list of additional items.**

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

Will be held May 19th, at the Horace R. Collins Conference Room, 8:30-11:30 am.

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May 19, 2005

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

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