

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

ABSTRACT

The October 2006 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and an overview of a typical gain/loss ground water surface water interaction study presented by Ralph Haefner, USGS.

DATE and LOCATION

October 19, 2006
USGS Office, Columbus, Ohio

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen (SCCGW Chair), Brian Hall, Heather Raymond
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Rick Pavey, Chris Kasselmann
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODA: Bill Goodman
ODOT: Doug App
PUCO: Sue Daly
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Ralph Haefner

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Allen, SCCGW Chairman:

- It is the 20th Anniversary of Ohio's Ground Water Protection and Management Strategy. Ohio was an early leader in developing this type of coordinated strategy and we should be proud of our continued efforts to coordinate ground water resource protection in Ohio. We have come a long way in the last 20 years!

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:

- Tom Berg, State Geologist will retire later this month.

- The Division lost 23% of its staff (primarily through retirement). They hope to hire approximately six more people to fill critical positions.

- The 1:100,000 Ashtabula and Youngstown surficial deposits maps are complete, and now 50% of the state has been mapped. Currently working on the mapping of Mansfield and the proposal for mapping the Findlay 1:100,000 quad.

- The printed Bedrock Geology Map of Ohio is now available.

Ohio Department of Agriculture:

- The emerald ash borer infestation has been getting worse. Bill distributed a map of ash tree quarantine areas. Tree material and hardwood firewood are prohibited from leaving the quarantined areas. For more information visit the website:

www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab

- Distributed a map of European Gypsy Moth quarantine areas. The moths do not specialize on a specific species of tree, but they appear to prefer oaks. ODA sprays along the borders of the quarantine areas, and also does spot spraying within the quarantined areas as necessary. John Armentano mentioned that you can apply double-sided tape around the base of trees to catch the larvae and prevent destruction of trees within a small area. More information on the gypsy moth is available at ODA's website at www.ohioagriculture.gov.

- Distributed an official FDA statement on the *E. coli* outbreak linked to packaged raw spinach. The source of *E. coli* was traced back to cattle feces possibly having been spread by wild pigs running through the cattle feedlots and then running into the

spinach fields. More information can be found on this at the FDA website at www.fda.gov.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water:

- Water Quality Trading Rules are out for public comment (November 16 deadline).

- Governor signed the Water Quality Management Plan for Ohio (208 Planning).

- Volunteer monitoring training was conducted this summer (certified data collectors). Currently developing a data management system for volunteer data.

- Olentangy TMDL public noticed on October 13.

- Big Darby Storm Water Permit was public noticed. Chris Jones, former Director of Ohio EPA, is representing ODOT on a permit appeal.

- DSW is considering developing general storm water permits for the Olentangy and Chagrin watersheds (similar to Darby permit). There was concern that general permits would be developed for all TMDL watersheds, but DSW plans to focus only on these three watersheds that face the most development pressure.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

-The Education and Outreach Workgroup for the Water Resources Council has not yet received a commitment from a local TV channel to contract with Storm Center, but Channel 4 has expressed a strong interest. **Tom Allen will e-mail SCSGW members a link to the draft Storm Center website, but the web address should be kept confidential until it is formally made public.** Comments on the website should be sent to Tom or to the workgroup members.

- WMAO Conference: The focus of this year's conference "Go With The Flow" is on storm water and watershed issues. The planning committee is trying to get better contact with academia this year, and encouraging student participation through a student poster session. Local officials and a broader range of participants were invited this year.

- DDAGW is considering conducting a dye trace in Clark County as part of an effort to better understand ground water flow rates in the Dissected

Niagara Escarpment. The information will be used to refine the delineation for source water protection areas located in shallow karst bedrock. The division hopes to conduct the study this year. Heather can e-mail a study proposal to anyone interested in partnering on the investigation.

- Proposed legislation (House Bill 400 and Senate Bill 191) would eliminate the rights of municipalities and local governments to restrict mining activities within their jurisdictional boundaries. The Agency understands that a number of public water systems have concerns about the proposed legislation because it would limit their ability to restrict mining within sensitive drinking water source protection areas.

Ohio Department of Health:

- The Sewage Treatment System Rules (OAC Chapter 3701-29) have been adopted by the Public Health Council and go into effect January 1, 2007. Some sewage system product industries have been very opposed to the rules, but other Ohio industry groups are supportive. In addition, the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners and the Ohio Environmental Health Association are supportive.

- ODH will hold 15 meetings on the STS Rules for local Health Districts and 5-6 evening meetings around the state for other interested parties. Information on the ODH STS meetings can be found at odh.ohio.gov under the sewage program link.

- ODH is partnering with OTCO to provide State exams for sewage treatment system installers, service providers, and septage haulers. ODH has widely distributed brochures on the testing locations and dates. The first round of these tests will be offered November 2006 - February 2007; see www.ohiowater.org for exam dates.

- The STS Rules will be posted online on October 23 and ODH will print copies.

- ODH hosted the Midwest Well Managers Meeting. Nebraska presented an interesting study on how cementitious and bentonite grouts often failed in the vadose zone (geothermal grouts responded better). Clear-cased wells were used in the study. It may not be as big a problem in Ohio, since our vadose zone is not typically as dry as Nebraska's. Ohio has a clear-casing well at the Farm Science Review and there are no problems with the grout there, but that

is only one site (the Nebraska study covered hundreds of wells). Rebecca proposed partnering with the Ohio Water Well Association and Ohio EPA to conduct a similar (but smaller scale) study in Ohio.

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation:

- Ohio's revised Nonpoint Source Management Plan was approved by U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA was pleased to see the first web-based plan to be produced by any state.

- Received two applications for targeted watershed grants. More information on the grants is available on the Division's web site.

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

- Arlen Lancaster was appointed the new Chief of NRCS. He is the first Asian-American chief.

- NRCS selected the Sandusky watershed for inclusion in the 2007 Conservation Security Program. John distributed a handout of all the CSP watersheds in Ohio. From 2004-2006 NRCS has distributed \$11.3 million in CSP payments.

- Ralph indicated that the NRCS Agricultural Research Station's funding is currently in jeopardy.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water:

- Dick Bartz, Chief of Division of Water, is retiring.

- It is the one-year anniversary of the online well filing capabilities. In the last 6 months 58% of all well logs have been filed online.

-There is an effort to pass the Great Lakes Charter in Ohio before Taft leaves office. The Charter has not yet been passed by any other states and it has to be passed (intact) by all states before it can be ratified.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:

- Mark Myers (former state geologist for Alaska) was named the new Chief of USGS.

- Ralph Haefner has been named Chief of Ground Water, USGS, Ohio Water Science Center.

-Rod Sheets was promoted to Regional Ground

Water Specialist (covers several states). He will still be stationed in Columbus.

- The Ohio Water Science Center will post a ground water specialist position.

- Ralph gave a talk to Bowling Green U. and was dismayed at the small size of the geology department. Indicated it might be a trend in many geology departments and may pose a problem when trying to fill positions in the near future.

- Jane Forsythe recently passed away and will be missed. She was a top geologist in Ohio and was nicknamed "Queen of the Pleistocene" and "Don't Build in the Floodplain Jane" by her colleagues. She had many contributions to the body of knowledge of Ohio geology.

- The WMAO Conference will be November 15-16 and the theme is "Go With the Flow."

- A new Streamstats mapping tool should be available online soon. It will enable users to find flow characteristics within user defined watershed areas, and works very fast.

- Currently making final adjustments to the Ohio Ground Water Metadata database website to make it more user friendly. Once the revisions are complete the website will be housed in ODNR under the direction of the OWRC. The site will become the Ohio Water Resource Metadata Database.

- Two new publications are available on the USGS website:

1. Compilation of Regional Ground Water Divides for Principal Aquifers Corresponding to the Great Lakes Basin, U.S. (Survey Report 2006-5102); and
2. Estimate of Ground Water in Storage in Great Lakes Basin, U.S. (Survey Report 2006-5180).

- The City of Columbus is noticing a change in water quality at their South Wellfield (Parsons Avenue) in response to nearby sand and gravel quarrying. USGS sampled the wells for various parameters and will host a brown bag lunch to discuss the results once they are in.

- Finished Phase One of the Tuscarawas River

Basin project (literature survey, sampling, GIS analysis) and trying to obtain \$1.5 million to complete Phases 2 and 3.

PRESENTATION

(This is a continuation of OWRC Action Item: Evaluating Techniques for Determining Ground Water - Surface Water Interaction)

Ralph Haefner, USGS, distributed a handout (attached) that listed the basic components of a typical gain/loss study. The study requires an accurate determination of all surface water inflows to a stream segment, including tributaries, drainage tiles, NPDES discharges, etc. It also requires knowledge of nearby water wells and the amount pumped by the wells. In the headwaters discharge can be measured with a bucket and stop watch (most accurate method), but in stretches with larger volumes, a pygmy meter is used to measure velocity along a cross section of the stream. Discharge measurements are needed upstream of every tributary and within each tributary just upstream of the confluence. Additional measurements throughout the mainstem help to better quantify which sections are gaining or losing. Measurements need to be done during low flow conditions, when there is a higher percentage of baseflow and less error from overland flow contributions. Denise Dumouchelle and Rod Sheets from USGS will be leading a gain/loss study on the Hellbranch. They anticipate needing at least 18 discharge measurement sites.

Gauges are very important for conducting these and other types of investigations. Ralph mentioned that the Division of Surface Water funds some of their existing gauges and they are receiving support from other organizations for new gauges, but they do not have support for some of their long-term gauges and may lose the ability to maintain those gauges.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

December 21, at the Dutch Kitchen, Plain City - south of the new high school. Please RSVP Tom Allen or Barb Lubberger by December 14th if you or any guests will be attending the Annual SCCGW

Holiday Luncheon Meeting.

Preliminary Agenda:

- "Running Dry" DVD
- Ohio Storm Center website will be presented.
- Identifying OWRC 4 year action items for SCCGW to address during 2007.

FUTURE SCCGW MEETINGS

- The February 15th, 2007 meeting will be held at USGS.

-The April 19th meeting will be held in Ohio EPA's new Conference Center (Room A). Please enter through the new Town Street entrance that should be open starting January 2007.

- The June 21st meeting is scheduled to be held at USGS.

- Rick will check on the availability of the Horace Collins Conference Room for meetings through the rest of 2007.

REMINDER: Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries will be posted on the SCCGW Web site. <http://www.ohiosccgw.org/>