

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
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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 20, 2007
The Dutch Kitchen
Plain City, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The December 2007 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and two presentations: "Water Resources/Watershed Education Program" (Anne Baird, OSU Extension) and "Holistic Planning: Implementing the Principles of Balanced Growth in the Blacklick Creek Watershed" (Matt LaMantia and David Rutter, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission).

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen (SCCGW Chair), Bob Knipmeyer (Directors Office), Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, (DDAGW), Mike Gallaway (DSW)
ODA: Bill Goodman
ODNR: Rick Pavey (OGS), Greg Nageotte (DSWC)
ODOT: Andrea Stevenson
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Ralph Haefner
OSU Ext.: Anne Baird
Visitors: Matt LaMantia, David Rutter (MORPC)

Children's Water Festival. Ohio EPA is initiating a Value of Water Campaign that will culminate with a Children's Water Festival during National Drinking Water Week. The Water Festival will take place on the State House Lawn on May 5.

Balanced Growth Initiative. The Ohio Water Resource Council is evaluating the Lake Erie Commission's balanced growth pilot projects, to determine the potential for taking these land use concepts statewide. The resolution of findings will be presented to the OWRC Agency Directors on January 31st.

Ohio Health Commissioners Conference. A joint conference sponsored by Ohio EPA and ODH will be held February 27th at the Dublin Embassy Suites.

New Advisory Board. The Environmental Health Science Advisory Committee is proposing creation of an Ohio Science Advisory Board (OSAB). OEPA and ODH have provided comments on the proposal, expressing concern over possible perception of

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Allen, SCCGW Chairman:

C&DD Rules. The new Construction and Demolition Debris rules will probably be filed in the Spring.

Storm Center. Storm Center will be launched on Toledo's Channel 11 for Northwest Ohio in March.

conflict of interest related to participation by some entities that ODH and OEPA regulate.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

Home Sewage Study Commission. Michael Eggert will assist Ohio EPA's representative, Paul Novak, on the Science and Technology subcommittee.

New Well Standards Rules. Michael Eggert is coordinating revisions to Ohio's water well standards rule, OQC 3745-9. The revisions will include restrictions on siting new wells near certain regulated waste management facilities. They also will require the development of Source Water Protection Plans as a condition for siting new wells for a specified subset of systems. The revised rules should be out for interested party review in the Spring.

305b Report. DDAGW is drafting the Ground Water Section of the 2008 integrated Water Quality Report (305b).

National Conference on Home Sewage. OSU's Karen Mancl is organizing a national conference on home sewage, to be held in Columbus in February.

Monitoring at Solid Waste Sites. The Ground Water Program is working with the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste to analyze ground water related data at construction and demolition debris facilities. This will be used to develop and support impending rules.

Dye Trace Study. DDAGW is considering conducting a dye trace study in the western Sandusky County area, to support delineations of source water protection areas in near-surface karst settings of northwest Ohio.

Aggregate Mines. Public water operators continue to express concern over proposed and current sand and gravel mining next to wellfields. DDAGW has consulted with USGS, seeking water quality data from wells located near aggregate mines.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water:

Darby Creek Stormwater Permit. DSW is implementing the Darby Creek stormwater permit, which requires anyone installing impervious surfaces in the watershed to compensate by providing for an equivalent amount of ground water recharge. Some developers have responded by proposing stormwater injection wells, preceded by a series of basins intended to filter the stormwater prior to injection.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:

Lake Erie Office. After 60 years of operation, Geological Survey's Lake Erie office in Sandusky is closing on Jan. 4, 2008. However, Geological Survey has been offered space at ODNR's Office of Coastal Management to continue its research presence on Lake Erie.

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

Watershed Coordinator Grants. Only about 3-5 grants will be offered this year.

Water Portal. The Division would like to reinvigorate the OWRC "water portal" initiative and is studying some impressive work along these lines done by a group in the State of Missouri.

Rural Drainage. A rural drainage advisory group has reached consensus on rural drainage policy, based on watershed size. They will be issuing a 12-page publication shortly, and the results will be published in the *Ohio Farmer* journal.

U.S. Geological Survey:

Budget. A budget was passed yesterday providing USGS with essentially the same funding as last year.

Water Level Site. A real-time "active water level" site is being made accessible electronically. It includes data from all wells in the state that are outfitted with continuous water level recorders.

Biofuels. The National Academies' National Research Council has released a new study, *Water Implications of Biofuels Production in the United States*, which predicts considerable water quality

deterioration if the U.S. continues to expand corn-based ethanol production without new environmental protection policies.

New Reports. The following USGS reports were recently published and can be accessed through the internet:

“Hydrogeologic Settings and Ground-Water Flow Simulations for Regional Studies of the Transport of Anthropogenic and Natural Contaminants to Public-Supply Wells—Studies Begun in 2001” (edited by Suzanne S. Paschke, Professional Paper 1737-A)
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/2007/1737a/>

“Water Budgets: Foundations for Effective Water-Resources and Environmental Management” (Richard W. Healy, Thomas C. Winter, James W. LaBaugh, and O. Lehn Franke, Circular 1308)
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2007/1308/>

Natural Resources Conservation Service:
Budget. The NRCS still has no budget. However, they are taking sign-ups for EQIP and disbursing payments for CSP.

Ohio Department of Transportation:
Business Plan. ODOT’s Business Plan has been posted on the Web. They are refocusing project development and prioritizing projects approved previously to deal with a budget now constrained by the high costs of gas and construction materials. The business plan also puts greater emphasis on multi-modal approaches to transportation and “green” technology, including use of recyclable products and alternative-energy transportation.

Recycling Plan. ODOT is working with DAS on a statewide recycling plan that would include materials such as scrap metal, asphalt and concrete.

PRESENTATIONS

Anne Baird of OSU Extension Watershed Programs gave a presentation titled “Water Resources/Watershed Education Program”.

Matt LaMantia and David Rutter, of MORPC, gave a presentation titled “Holistic Planning: Implementing the Principles of Balanced Growth in the Blacklick Creek Watershed”.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

The next SCCGW meeting will be held at the Horace Collins Conference Room on February 21st, 8:30 – 11:30 am.

The SCCGW meetings for 2008 have been scheduled at Horace Collins as follows:
February 21, 2008
April 17, 2008
June 19, 2008
August 21, 2008
October 16, 2008

The date and location of the December 2008 meeting will be decided later in the year.

REMINDER: Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries will be posted on the SCCGW Web site:
www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.html