

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

August 28, 2008

Horace Collins Conference Room
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The August 2008 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Denise Dumouchelle (USGS) on 'Streamflow Gains and Losses – Hellbranch Run'.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger
ODNR: Ted Lozier, Rick Pavey, Jim Raab
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODA: Bill Goodman
ODOT: Andrea Stevenson
PUCO: Sue Daly
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Ralph Haefner

developed by the Advisory Committee for Water Information Sub-committee on Ground Water, which includes Tom Allen as a member, representing the Association of Safe Drinking Water Administrators.) A draft proposal will be provided to SCCGW members for their comments.

Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO). WMAO's fall conference will be held November 12-13 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (aka the Midwest Hotel, on Sinclair Road). The theme is "Water for a Changing Ohio", and topics include water resource and land use planning, including balanced growth (<http://www.wmao.org/meetings.shtml>).

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCCGW Chairman:

Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC). At the meeting with OWRC directors next Tuesday, recommendations on balanced growth will be presented, and members will be reappointed.

Ground Water Protection Council. The GWPC's annual forum will be held in Cincinnati September 22-24 at The Millenium Hotel.

National Monitoring Network. Ohio EPA is working with USGS and ODNR on evaluating the potential for an Ohio portion of a national ground water monitoring network. (This network is being

Ohio EPA, Directors Office:

Pandemic Flu. A meeting will be held on August 28th to discuss expected comments from the federal Department of Health and Human Services on Ohio's Continuity of Operations Plan.

Ohio Department of Transportation:

Multi-Modal System. The deadline for recommendations from ODOT's 21st Century Priorities Task Force has been pushed back to early December.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water:

Outreach. Together with USGS staff, DOW staff recently conducted a class for State of Ohio upper management about basic hydrogeologic principles.

Presentation. Jim Raab gave a presentation to over 400 residents of Marion and Union Counties, at a public meeting related to Hi-Q Egg Products seeking a permit for a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) for 6 million chickens.

Erie County. Staff in Erie County's Board of Health and Engineers Office and EMA Office are interested in funding a ground water study, claiming that water levels are still high since the heavy flooding in April. The Governor's office has identified the EMA as the lead agency; however, ODNR and USGS have been approached separately for similar services by various county offices. Closer coordination is needed among ODOT, ODNR, USGS, ODH and Ohio EPA.

Spray Irrigation. A complaint was recently made about spray irrigation of egg washing water. The caller was upset with Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water because it supposedly indicated that a NPDES permit wasn't required.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic Survey:

Glacial Maps. 3-D glacial mapping is nearly complete on the Findlay 100,000 sheet and the Marion map will be starting soon. Also, staff are considering mapping the karst along the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers.

Rockies Express Pipeline. This interstate pipeline is slated to cross the Little Darby and the Great Miami Scenic Rivers.

Ohio Department of Agriculture:

Farm Pesticide Disposal Collection. ODA will sponsor a farm pesticide disposal drop-off on Sept. 3 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Miami County Fairgrounds in Troy, Ohio.

Darke County PTOs. ODA is accepting comments on draft Permits to Operate for five CAFOs (four for

poultry, one for hogs) in Darke County until Sept. 2, 2008.

Small Grant Proposals. The Grants Committee of the Lake Erie Protection Fund (which includes representatives from EPA, ODNR, ODH, ODOT, DOD and ODA) has recommended four projects for fiscal year 2009:

- (1) Glyphosate loadings in Lake Erie watersheds (Bowling Green University)
- (2) Ohio harmful algal bloom initiative: outreach (OSU's Sea Grant College)
- (3) Preventing mercury toxicity by thiamine in perch (OSU)
- (4) Brandywine Creek balanced growth watershed plan (Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization).

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

Sneak Preview. On October 3, 2008, the South Campus Gateway Theater will present a sneak preview of Irena Salina's film "FLOW: For the Love of Water". This film takes an unflinching look at the global water crisis, from water shortages in Africa to water contamination and corporate water grabs in the United States. The trailer can be viewed at <http://www.flowthefilm.com/trailer>

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Personnel Changes.

Tom Perrin, ASTC-Programs, is now the State Conservationist in Kentucky
Doug Zehner, ASTC-Operations, is now the State Conservationist in Connecticut.

Farm Bill. The new Farm Bill was passed last Spring and the Wetlands Reserve Program was authorized but new rules are not published yet. They should be out in the next two to three months.

EQIP. Ohio has \$15 million for the EQIP program, of which 60% must be spent on livestock operations. New rules will be published for this program in the next two to three months.

Conservation Security Program. The agency has approved 150 contracts for this program, with many focused in the Sandusky watershed. However, this is fewer than expected, probably due to higher commodity prices this year.

United States Geological Survey:

National Meeting. The national meeting of ground water scientists was held in Denver last month.

GSFLOW Model. The new GSFLOW model addresses the unsaturated flow regime and incorporates it into MODFLOW. It includes improvements in the simulating of precipitation and recharge times and amounts.

CO₂ Sequestration. A USGS representative is working closely with the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Leadership, which is issuing grants to study water quality above the geologic units receiving the CO₂ injectate. (Ohio EPA DDAGW-UIC regulates the CO₂ injection program.)

Water Level Network. Real-time reports of water levels in wells throughout Ohio can be viewed on USGS' website. Miami Conservancy District wants to add another 12 wells to this network.

Bisphenol-a. The Survey finds this plastics compound—which is suspected of health impacts—in virtually all surface waters sampled, including one Ohio city's finished public drinking water.

Well purging. According to a 2007 article by Don Vroblesky, dissolved oxygen convection may occur in shallow wells, similar to seasonal "turnover" of lakes. This implies that casing water may not be as 'stagnant' as previously believed, which suggests that less purging may be sufficient to obtain ground water that is 'representative', at least for most constituents of interest.

Ohio Department of Health:

Household STS Study. Am. Sub. H.B. 119 required the ODH director to conduct a study that included a survey of boards of health in this state concerning household sewage treatment system (STS) operations and the failure rates of those systems. The survey found that 35% of all household sewage treatment systems are failing.

The study also looked at Ohio EPA data, finding that of the watersheds subjected to a Total Mean Daily Load (TMDL) study, 60-70% have been impacted by discharging systems.

Also, permit cost data indicated costs range from \$6,450 for a septic tank with leach lines to \$22,355 for pretreatment with drip distribution. These average system costs were very similar to those reported by ODH in the January 1, 2008 report

The study can be viewed at:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ASSETS/CEDC2CD128054A3E95A3D5C282C5FC26/Rep2.pdf>

PRESENTATIONS

Denise Dumouchelle (USGS) gave a presentation on "Streamflow Gains and Losses in Hellbranch Run".

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

October 16th, at the Horace Collins Classroom, 8:30-11:30 am. The meeting will include:

--a presentation by Jeff Patzke (Ohio EPA) on updates to the Ohio EPA "Technical Guidance Document for Hydrogeologic Investigations and Ground Water Monitoring";

--an update by Mike Eggert and/or Chris Kenah (Ohio EPA) on the ground water portion of the 305Bwater quality report to U.S. EPA; and

--an update by Tom Allen on the OWRC action items related to SCCGW.

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