

# 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

October 16, 2008  
Horace Collins Conference Room  
Delaware, Ohio

The October 2008 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements, presentations on Ohio EPA's Ground Water Quality Impacts Database and its Technical Guidance Manual on Hydrogeologic Investigations and Ground Water Monitoring, and a discussion of the unusual flooding event in Erie and Seneca Counties in Spring 2008 .

### ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke  
ODNR: Mike Angle, John Kessler, Jim Raab  
ODA: Bill Goodman  
ODOT: Doug App  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
USGS: Ralph Haefner  
OSU Ext.: Cindy Folck

### **Public Utilities of Ohio:**

The documentary "Liquid Assets" will be aired Oct. 28th at 9:00 pm on PBS - WOSU Channel 34. More information is at <http://www.liquidassets.psu.edu/>

### **Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:**

New Water Well Rules. A draft of rule revisions was sent out in July for internal and external comments. Proposed changes include:

- Additional definitions
- Clarification of exemptions
- Siting restrictions for proposed public water wells within specified distances from existing waste facilities
- A requirement for community systems to develop (or update) a Source Water Protection Plan as a condition for receiving new well plan approval.

The proposed rules should be filed with JCARR and available for public comment in November.

Stable yield. An attempt to better define 'stable yield' in the new well rules was unsatisfactory to many internal and external reviewers. No new

### AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **SCCGW Chairman:**

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>).

WMAO Water Luncheon. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. The presenter will speak on models for predicting hurricane storm surges. Such models can be applied to floods in Ohio. ([www.wmao.org](http://www.wmao.org))

definition is likely to appear in this rule package, but efforts to develop a better definition will continue.

Statewide Ground Water Model. Michigan DEQ funded Michigan State University to develop a sophisticated GIS-based flow model for the entire state using its water well records. It supports source water assessments and ground water flow investigations at various scales, and matches the results of previous individual modeling efforts. SCCGW may wish to approach the Ohio Water Resources Council about obtaining funding to create a similar statewide model for Ohio.

Statewide DRASTIC Layer. DDAGW GIS staff are working on creating a seamless statewide GIS layer for DRASTIC scores for the 74 counties with completed DRASTIC mapping.

Home Sewage Treatment System Commission. Recent legislative proposals put forth to the Commission included defining a “public nuisance” criterion to be based, in part, on the primary or secondary contact water quality standard, which allows a relatively high level of bacteria. If this holds, an individual whose water well is contaminated by sewage may not be able to charge a ‘public nuisance’ until the bacteria levels in their water greatly exceed safe drinking water levels.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water:***

Midwest Ground Water Conference 2010. Ohio has been asked to sponsor the Midwest Ground Water Conference in 2010. Tom Allen agreed to bring the idea to the Ohio Water Resources Council at their next meeting.

Ground Water Complaints. Private well owners in Fayette County are complaining that their wells are drying up due to a new ethanol plant’s withdrawals of up to 700 gallons per minute. The Fayette County Engineer’s office is measuring water levels in about 100 private wells.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic Survey:***

Glacial Maps. 3-D glacial mapping is complete on the Findlay 1:100,000 sheet and the Marion map has been initiated.

Funding. The Division hopes to obtain some mapping funds from the “Water for America Initiative”. However, this program is targeted primarily for surface water in Western states.

Modeling Assistance. The Division is seeking input from modelers in various agencies on what kinds of Division services and work products would be most useful to them. Geostatistical mapping has been identified as a possibility.

Other Projects. In addition, Division staff continue to assist in the carbon sequestration project and the Lake Erie Office of Coastal Management.

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

Watershed Coordinator Grants. A new round of grants will be announced shortly.

Funds Distributed. The division just finished distributing funds to the Soil and Water Conservation districts.

Stakeholder Advisory Group. A stakeholder advisory group has been convened for the agricultural livestock program to make recommendations on improvements for small and medium animal operations.

***Ohio Department of Agriculture:***

Permit Renewals. ODA is accepting public comments on draft Permits to Operate for nine poultry CAFOs in Mercer County. Two of these additionally include swine operations.

Emerald Ash Borer. The quarantine for the emerald ash borer now covers the northwest half of Ohio, from Cincinnati to Cleveland.

Farmland Preservation. In 2008 the Office of Farmland Preservation received 198 applications to enroll nearly 31 million acres in Farmland Preservation. Of these, 18 offers were accepted and 3,199 acres will be enrolled for a total of \$3 million.

***United States Geological Survey:***

Continuing Resolution. The federal fiscal year 08 ended on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and USGS is now on a

Continuing Resolution until March 2009. This primarily limits spending to no more than last year's during the same time period.

Personnel. Jim Morris was assigned to be the interim director of the Great Lakes Science Center. In his absence, Ralph Haefner is acting director for the next 120 days.

Hellbranch Run. The report on the ground water/surface water interaction study of the Hellbranch Run will come out by December.

Issue Three. Issue Three on the ballot for November asks Ohioans to vote for an amendment to the Ohio constitution that states a landowner's right to the "reasonable use" of water on or running under their property. Proponents fear the Great Lakes Compact threatens this right; opponents say the right is already stated in Ohio case law and a constitutional amendment is unnecessary.

#### ***Ohio State University Extension:***

Training Season. Extension is gearing up for the winter training season, when approximately 6,000 Ohio farmers attend educational conferences. In addition, there are 30,000 licensed applicators in Ohio (many of them also farmers) who must obtain continuing education credits to maintain certification. The environmental fate of pesticides is one of the topics on the training agenda.

Study Guide. Extension just finished developing a Field Crops Study Guide that addresses the use of atrazine.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Michael Eggert (Ohio EPA) gave a presentation on the Ground Water Impacts Database, which DDAGW has developed to analyze and map locations of ground water contamination documented in reports maintained by the Ohio EPA divisions that administer the programs for landfills, regulated hazardous waste facilities, and other entities conducting ground water monitoring.

Jeff Patzke (Ohio EPA) gave a presentation on the Technical Guidance for Hydrogeologic Investigations and Ground Water Monitoring, which has recently been extensively updated.

#### **DISCUSSION**

John Kessler (ODNR) led a discussion of the various investigations relevant to the unusual flooding event that occurred in the karst areas of Erie and Seneca Counties in Spring 2008, when continuous heavy rains overwhelmed the drainage capacity of the karst bedrock network. This led to extensive property damage due to flooded basements and surficial ponding.

The following state entities have been involved:

- The Erie County EMA held a conference call with the Governors Office and ODNR in May, 2008.
- ODOT completed aerial reconnaissance of the area this summer, and the aerial photography is now being used by ODNR for base maps. (Tim Farley)
- In September, ODNR Division of Water and Division of Ohio Geological Survey staff measured 28 wells for ground water levels, created a potentiometric map, and mapped areas of flooding in conjunction with sinkholes and other karst features. (Jim Raab, Mike Angle)
- USGS was contacted by the Erie County Board of Health to do a separate ground water investigation at a larger scale, incorporating ODNR's work. (Denise Dumouchelle)
- ODH is working with the Seneca and Erie County Health Departments on sampling the water quality in private wells. (Rebecca Fugitt)

Concern was voiced at the last SCCGW meeting that these various efforts were not being systematically coordinated. The group agreed that John Kessler could be the point person for state technical assistance, and could coordinate via the SCCGW e-mail group. John's counterpart, who will act as liaison to the various local officials, is Erie County's Eric Dodrill.

#### **NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

... will be the traditional SCCGW Holiday meeting at the Dutch Kitchen, and is tentatively scheduled for

December 18<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will include an update on the Spring 2008 flooding event.

Please RSVP by October 30<sup>th</sup> on whether or not you will be attending the December 2008 meeting and if you will be staying for lunch.

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