

# 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

February 19, 2009  
Horace Collins Classroom  
ODNR Repository  
Delaware, Ohio

The February 2009 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Wayne Jones (ODNR) on ground water-surface water interaction along Hell Branch Creek (western Franklin County).

\*\*National Ground Water Awareness Week is March 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Please provide comments on draft press release to Mike Eggert by Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Also, provide specific program information for SCCGW web site by February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Scott Heidenreich, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger  
ODNR: Mike Angle, Ted Lozier, Greg Nageotte, Rick Pavey, Jim Raab  
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt  
ODOT: Doug App  
USGS: Ralph Haefner  
NRCS: John Armentano

cases of juvenile cancer have occurred in recent years. Samples were collected in January and February, and an internal meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, to review the results received to date.

New Sole Source Aquifer. An application has been filed with U.S. EPA Region V to designate as a "sole source aquifer" the extensive sand unit underlying northwestern Ohio (Williams County) and portions of Michigan and Indiana. The proposed designation is called "MICHINDOH".

### AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

New Water Well Rules. These are currently undergoing fiscal analysis. The package should be ready to propose by March.

Clyde Cancer Cluster. Ohio EPA, in cooperation with ODH and Sandusky County, is investigating drinking water in the Village of Clyde, where 18

**United States Geological Survey:**  
Stimulus Money. USGS still has no budget but has been told that it may receive \$125-200 million from the federal stimulus package.

Ohio Water Monitoring Network. USGS is working with the Ohio Water Development Authority to provide funding for the statewide monitoring

network, which recently lost about \$150,000 of its funding due to agency budget cuts.

Storm Water BMPs. USGS is studying the effectiveness of storm water BMPs (such as rain gardens) in attenuating contaminants and recharging ground water. The study site will be a large rain garden being installed next to the parking lot for USEPA's Cincinnati Research Lab.

Alleged Brine Dumping. USGS has been asked to geochemically "fingerprint" brine from the Marcellus Shale, to facilitate investigations of alleged brine dumping into the Monongehela River (in Pennsylvania), which is a major tributary to the Ohio River. The brine is believed to be a byproduct of natural gas operations in Pennsylvania, southeastern Ohio, and West Virginia. The natural gas wells are completed in the Marcellus Shale.

Geauga County Monitoring Program. USGS will sign another agreement with Geauga County to continue countywide ground water monitoring. One particular concern for the county is underground migration of methane gas, which has caused several home explosions in recent years.

Captina Creek. USGS is following the discussion of how to manage the Murray Company's Belmont County coal mining wastes that are currently stored in a dammed reservoir above Captina Creek. (USGS maintains a gage in Captina Creek) Among the options under discussion: injecting the wastes into mine voids.

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

Report on 2008 Bellevue, Ohio Flooding. This report is drafted, and should be distributed soon. Copies will be e-mailed to SCCGW members.

SWC Districts Cut Staff. Budget difficulties have led some county Soil and Water Conservation Districts to cut or phase out staff.

Pollution Abatement Task Force. This task force is trying to provide recommendations for better controlling sediment and nutrient runoff at the state's 25,000 unregulated livestock operations.

Ohio Conservation GIS System. The division has been developing a Web-based GIS system for watershed work, with funding from an OWDA grant.

Captina Creek. The division just signed an agreement with Belmont County to fund a watershed coordinator for Captina Creek. In addition to being threatened by mining wastes, the creek is the only place in Ohio with breeding hellbender salamander.

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

Fees. The Division of Mineral Resources Management (MRM), the Director's Office, and the Ohio Geologic Survey are looking at replacing the Mineral Industries severance tax with a new set of fees based on extraction of materials. We are hoping to get increased amounts from oil and gas and potentially coal and salt as well.

Surficial Mapping. Currently the STATEMAP mapping project for surficial stack mapping is the Marion 1:100,000 quadrangle.

Karst Mapping. Using funds from the Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition, the Division is partnering with the Delaware County/Upper Scioto SWCD on a karst mapping project along the Scioto River in western Delaware County. Newly acquired Lidar data and aerial photography will be used to check for new karst areas and recheck previously mapped areas. New maps of this area will be created and field checked, and the statewide karst database will be updated.

Energy Group Projects. The Division's Energy Group is focusing on three main projects:

- a) the MidWest Regional Carbon Sequestration Project (MRCSP) is characterizing geology and looking for suitable deep formations for potential CO<sub>2</sub> injection. This project is in conjunction with a number of other state surveys, universities, and Battelle.
- b) The East Canton Oilfield (BAARD Energy) project is characterizing a number of sites for either the storage of CO<sub>2</sub> or natural gas.

- c) Scanning and updating the database of Abandoned Underground Mines (AUMs) and providing high resolution imagery for mines over the internet, assisted by grants through the Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

The Division is also looking at hiring a new supervisor for the Energy Group to replace Doug Mullet, who passed away in early January after a long battle with cancer.

Coastal Erosion Areas. The Division is working to finish editing maps and creating background materials for Coastal Erosion Areas (CEAs) on the Lake Erie Shoreline. Currently staff are working with the Office of Coastal Management (OCM) to finalize rules before they begin the process of going through JCARR.

Stimulus Projects. The Survey and ODNR in general are trying to tap into a variety of stimulus-related projects that range from CO<sub>2</sub> test wells for carbon sequestration projects to dollars for upgrading and increasing the capacity of our core repository and classroom at the Collins Laboratory.

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

Staff Changes. The Division of Water's new acting chief is Cathryn Loucas. Also, Derek Anderson, former chief of the Real Estate and Land Management Division, has taken a position with the Ohio Treasurer's Office. Gene Wells is now acting chief.

Al Walker. The Division paid tribute to Al Walker, one of the division's 'founding fathers' who recently passed away.

Great Lakes Compact Advisory Board. The 28-person board will have its first meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. In preparation, ODNR staff are drawing up a list of existing water withdrawal facilities that will be exempt from water withdrawal regulation required by the Great Lakes Compact.

Water Resources Monitoring Workgroup. This workgroup of the Ohio Water Resources Council typically meets annually in March, but this year they are considering an electronic meeting (to save costs

and effort) or rescheduling the meeting for later in the year.

Well Log Filing Fee. To help free the Division from its dependence on GRF, a \$20 well log filing fee on permitted wells has been proposed.

***Natural Resources Conservation Service:***  
Farm Bill Programs. The agency is preparing to roll out the new Farm Bill programs by March.

Audit. Last fall the agency was subjected to a lengthy audit of all its contracts.

Staff Changes.

*New Hires:*

- Randy Jordan - Assistant State Conservationist – Operations
- Mike Laughrey - State Resource Conservationist
- Ta Trecia Wesley- EQIP Program Manager on the programs staff

*Open Positions:*

- Assistant State Conservationist - Programs
- Assistant State Conservationist - Field Operations in Chillicothe and Zanesville

***Ohio Department of Health:***

Private Well Rules. ODH will be revising its private water well rules as part of the 5-year rule review obligation. Planned changes include streamlining; adding voluntary certification training and testing; and adding a ten-dollar increase to the permit fee (from \$50 to \$60).

Advisory Council. Appointments to the Private Water Systems Advisory Council expire on March 17<sup>th</sup>, but the current appointees may be asked to serve another term.

Cooperative Inspections. Due to understaffing, a number of counties cannot effectively implement the private well program, and have proposed contracting with the health departments of neighboring counties for assistance with private well inspections.

Sewage Rules. The changes to the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3718, which were suspended for two years, are scheduled to be reinstated on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Stimulus Bill. To replace failing septic systems, ODH hopes to make federal stimulus money available to homeowners (up to \$8 million in grants and \$12 million in loans). However, the agency is not set up to pass through federal funds. One county has proposed having the Auditor's Office take on this role.

***Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management:***

C&DD Rules. The Division has been working on new Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill rules since 2005, dealing with over a thousand issues raised by reviewers of the initial draft rules.

Ground Water Monitoring Rules. In conjunction with the C&DD landfill rule development, the Division has been revising its ground water monitoring rules to provide consistency across the various landfill programs as well as consistency with other hazardous waste programs. A meeting will be held on March 2, 2009 for interested parties to provide comments on these rules.

C&DD Leachate Reports. Division staff recently drafted two reports: one on the nature of C&DD leachate and another on how it compares to leachate from other types of landfills. Upon finalization, the reports will be available on the Division's Web page.

**PRESENTATION**

Wayne Jones (ODNR, Division of Water) gave a presentation on "Ground Water/Surface Water Interaction along Hellbranch Creek."

**DISCUSSION**

Regulation of Well Drilling. SCCGW members debated whether the agencies should proactively initiate tighter regulation of well drilling, especially the proper abandonment and sealing of monitoring/observation/investigatory wells, as requested by some leaders of the drilling industry. Currently, wells drilled for drinking water purposes, oil and gas development, and underground injection are subject to regulation, but this is reportedly a small subset of all the wells that are drilled in Ohio each year. Allegedly, some drilling firms ignore best practices to cut corners, and the deficient wells they leave behind pose a threat to ground water quality.

It was noted that SCCGW agencies will evaluate the need to develop new regulations and propose to OWRA State Agency Coordinating Group (SACG). Any changes in regulations will need justification from credible data supporting the presence of the alleged environmental threat.

**NEXT SCCGW MEETING:**

...will be held April 16th at the Horace Collins facility

Please provide comments on Ground Water Awareness week press release (by Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>) and associated items for the SCCGW web site (by Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>).

Also, please let Tom Allen know of any ground water storylines for the WTOL/EcoTrack Program.

**REMINDER:** Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are 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)