

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

June 17, 2010

Horace Collins Classroom

ODNR Alum Creek Facility – Delaware, OH

The June 2010 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Brent Huntsman (Terran Corporation) on ground water-surface water interaction, Great Miami River at Dayton

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Scott Heidenreich, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger, Aaron Shear
ODNR: Ted Lozier, Greg Nageotte, Rick Pavey,
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODOT: Doug App, Erica Schneider
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Ralph Haefner
OSU Ext.: Cindy Folck
Visitors: Brent Huntsman (Terran Corp.) and Anthony Sasson (Nature Conservancy)

Storm Center. WTOL's Storm Center/ECOTRACK Web site is back up. A second Storm Center project will launch on August 1st in southwest Ohio.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

Washington County Unsafe Water Investigation. In response to ongoing high nitrate levels in the community of Devola's drinking water, the Washington County Health Department has formally requested that Ohio EPA conduct an unsafe water supply investigation. In Devola, approximately a third of the homes are connected to sanitary sewers; the remainder have septic tanks that discharge primarily to dry wells. The investigation will attempt to determine if nitrate levels are related to seepage or agriculture or both.

Underground Tank Cleanup. Over \$8 million in ARRA funds is available to the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) to clean up abandoned tank sites. Ohio EPA has assisted BUSTR in prioritizing sites where volatile organic compounds have been identified in nearby drinking water wells.

Harmful Algal Blooms. The division is drafting a policy for responding to detection of microcystin or

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCCGW Chair:

New Chair. Rebecca Fugitt has agreed to fill the role of SCCGW Chair upon Tom Allen's retirement at the end of June.

Priority Action Items. The updated priority action items for the Ohio Water Resources Council--including items of special interest for SCCGW--are posted on the SCCGW Web site <http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>.

other algal toxins in public water supplies. Harmful algal blooms in water bodies used for drinking water and recreation are a growing concern in Ohio.

Deep Injection Well. The deepest injection well in Ohio (14,000 feet deep) is being drilled in Belmont County, across from Wheeling, WV. It will be used largely for disposal of frac water and other wastes related to mining activities.

Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Landfill Fires. The division is conducting a leachate migration study at Countywide Landfill (Stark County), where a landfill fire caused slope failure. To determine whether the liner was compromised, additional monitoring wells have been installed.

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

Response to Complaints. The division is clarifying in its rules the role of ODNR staff vs. local Soil and Water Conservation District staff in responding to complaints about agricultural practices.

Grant for Grand Lake. A Conservation Innovation Grant of \$1.2 million has been awarded to the Grand Lake St. Marys/Wabash River watershed.

WMAO Conference. The Water Management Association of Ohio's fall conference will be held November 17-18. Currently the planning team is soliciting nominees for the various awards that are given out at this conference. (See the WMAO website at <http://www.wmao.org/>)

Climate Change Study. A study has been proposed for Central Ohio to perform a hydrologic model for climate change planning (i.e., how to respond to droughts, floods and other weather-based disruptions predicted by climate change models). This study was proposed jointly by USGS and Brown & Caldwell, with funding requested from the Ohio Water Development Association. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has agreed to facilitate the effort.

Midwest Ground Water Conference ... will be held October 5-7 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington.

Great Lakes Compact. The Compact Advisory Board for Ohio has been working through criteria for regulating large withdrawals of water within the Lake

Erie basin. There is some consensus on withdrawals from streams and lakes, and members are still discussing how to regulate ground water withdrawals.

Ohio Department of Transportation Staff Changes.

- Erica Schneider has replaced Andrea Stevenson as the new Assistant Environmental Administrator of the Policy Section of OES.
- Amber Hewitt has backfilled Kevin Davis's old position as an ES-2 Document Coordinator/Reviewer in the Policy Section of OES.
- Mike Pettegrew took over as the Ecological Systems Coordinator Environmental Supervisor position in the Eco Section of OES.
- Adrienne Smith backfilled M. Pettegrew's old position and is now Permits Coordinator Environmental Supervisor in the Eco Section.

The Ohio State University Agricultural Extension Office:

NPDES Permits for Pesticide Application. Recently authority over pesticides sprayed on water was transferred from FIFRA to the Clean Water Act, and now a NPDES permit is required. U.S. EPA has released the draft Federal permit for comment. It will apply to mosquito spraying, algae control, weed control, invasive species of fish, and Gypsy Moth spraying.

United States Geological Survey:

Observation Well Network. A \$500,000 capital improvement fund from the ODNR will be used to upgrade the automated data recorders in Ohio's ground water level monitoring network and improving the well shelters (from wooden structures to steel enclosures). USGS and ODNR also hope to include water quality sampling and geophysical logging capabilities in some wells, and to install new wells.

Bellevue Ground Water Levels. In response to the recent heavy rains, water levels have risen about 35 feet in Well E-10 since February 2010. This well is located in the Bellevue area (Erie County).

Columbus Storm Water BMPs. The Survey is talking to the City of Columbus about its storm water BMPs for Hoover, O'Shaughnessy and Griggs reservoirs. A total of \$4.7 million will be used to create rain gardens, permeable pavements and

bioswales in the developed areas around the reservoirs, to slow and filter runoff. However, plans currently lack any means of monitoring changes in water quality or quantity.

WMAO Lunch. The next WMAO lunch will be held July 20th.

Ohio Department of Health

Household Sewage Rules. Senate Bill 110 recently passed, and will become effective in mid-September, 2010. This bill restores, with some changes, the new regulations that were rescinded two years ago. ODH now is developing information on SB 110 implementation for local health districts, the regulated community and interested parties. ODH will also be convening a rules advisory committee to develop new rules. SB 110 has a provision stating that new rules cannot be adopted until after January 1, 2012. Other changes to the law also occur on July 1, 2010. The provisions of ORC Chapter 3718 that were suspended by uncodified law from HB 363 remain in effect until new rules are adopted. The current version of OAC Chapter 3701-29 (sewage rules) and the local health district rules remain in effect until new rules are adopted. More information can be found on the ODH website at:
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/sewage/sewrules.aspx>.

Upgrading Septic Systems. Ohio has been nationally recognized for its success in using ARRA funds to replace and repair failing residential septic systems. A sum of \$3.5 million was used to upgrade approximately 500 systems in over a third of Ohio's 88 counties. Staff in other states are contacting ODH, looking for guidance on how to administer a similar effort in their own states. ODH hopes to work with the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance at OEPA to make this type of funding available each year based on new changes to the SRF loan requirements authorized by Congress to continue the set aside for Green Reserve Projects.

Conference. The combined conference for the National Environmental Health Association, the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association and the State Onsite Regulators Alliance will be held in Columbus on June 15-18, 2011.

General Permits. Under the 2007 general permit for household discharging septic systems, homeowners are required to sample effluent annually and report the results to local health districts. ODH and OEPA have requested that local health districts submit the system sampling data by July 1st, 2010. This data will be used to evaluate the performance of approved replacement discharging systems and identify challenges and barriers to sample collection. To date only 300 sample results have been received from the 3,000 permit-holders.

Private Water Rules. A draft of the rule revisions was prepared and widely circulated for public comment. Just prior to submittal to the Public Health Council, concerns were raised about the statutory authority to require testing and CEU requirements for private water systems contractors. The Ohio Water Well Association tried to obtain an amendment to an existing bill moving through the general assembly before the summer recess to allow this change but was unsuccessful. Another issue that has been raised by a few local health districts is the feasibility and availability of the use of colony count methods at approved labs and new bacterial water quality standards using colony counts. ODH is continuing to work with stakeholders to resolve this issue.

Geothermal Workgroup. The group is developing recommendations for the construction and documentation of geothermal wells. These recommendations should be drafted by October, when they will be provided to the Ohio Water Resources Council.

PRESENTATION

Brent Huntsman (Terran Corporation) gave a presentation on ground water trends in Dayton, Ohio, 1949-2004, followed by a presentation on ground water/surface water interactions, Great Miami River at Dayton.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... will be held August 19th at the Horace Collins Classroom, 8:30-11:30 am.

REMINDER: Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site:
<http://www.wapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>.