

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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**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, 2014  
USGS Ohio Water Science Center  
6480 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus**

*The October 16, 2014 meeting consisted of Agency announcements, and  
Jennifer Graham's presentation on Hazardous Algal Blooms.*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke  
ODNR: Jim Raab  
USGS: Rob Darner  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
NRCS: John Armentano

## **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Staff Changes.** Michael Eggert, Assistant Chief of the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, will retire at the end of November. Tim Fishbaugh, the ground water manager at Ohio EPA's Northwest District Office, and Chuck Lowe, lead geologist in Class I Underground Injection Control program, will also retire in the next two months.

**Well Sampling Program.** For two years Ohio EPA has conducted monthly water quality sampling and analysis from several nonpumping wells in ODNR's water level network. Now that a sufficient baseline has been collected, the schedule will be reduced to quarterly sampling. Also, an OSU professor plans to analyze the samples using DNA analysis to study how microbes mediate redox reactions in ground water. DDAGW will arrange to have the water quality data included in USGS' national well network database.

**Ambient Network.** Up to 20 new sampling sites will be added to DDAGW's ambient monitoring network beginning Spring 2015. Sampling frequency will be reduced at some existing wells to accommodate the additions.

**Fact Sheets.** A fact sheet and technical report on strontium is being developed. The fact sheet and technical report on redox are ready to be posted on the web.

Methane Sampling. The Division is discussing conducting a one-time sampling for methane in Ambient Ground Water Monitoring Program wells beginning this Spring and ending next Fall.

UIC Rules. Revised Underground Injection Control (UIC) rules are out for public review.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources:***  
OWWA Convention. The Ohio Water Well Association's conference will be held November 11-12, 2014. Jim Raab will be presenting on the well sealing guidelines.

Well Sealing Guidance. The well sealing guidance document will be provided to the Ohio Water Resources Council for approval during OWRC's February 2015 meeting.

***Natural Resources Conservation Service:***

Staff Changes. Dot Harris, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs retired at the beginning of July, 2014. John Wilson, former State Administrative Officer, is now the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

Reorganization. NRCS is undergoing administrative reorganization. The new approach will consist of various regional teams for specific functions.

Additional Funding. In late August/early September NRCS received 3 million dollars in EQIP funds to treat the Western Lake Erie Basin because of the Toledo water problems related to the algal bloom in Lake Erie. As required, all funds were obligated by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

2015 Planning. NRCS is beginning to plan for Fiscal Year 2015.

RCPP. The following Ohio-based projects have been invited to provide a full proposal for funding by the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

- Clermont County SWCD's East Fork Watershed Nutrient Reduction Initiative
- Delaware County SWCD's project Promoting BMPs for Phosphorus Reduction in the Upper Big Walnut Creek watershed
- Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement (national category)
- Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative

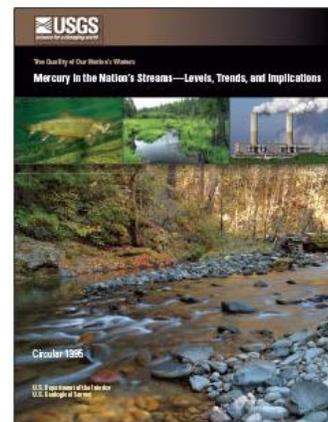
The final selection will be made November 14, 2014 by the NRCS' national office.

***United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:***

Water Well Network. The Ohio Water Science Center is retrofitting several wells in the ground water-level network, installing 10-Watt solar panels to extend battery life for the data recorders. Also, they are working with ODNR to enable water level measurements to be entered into the NWIS database.

New Publication. USGS recently published Circular 1395, titled "Mercury in the Nation's Streams—Levels, Trends, and Implications". One finding of the research was that wetlands tend to convert inorganic mercury to methyl mercury, which bioaccumulates in fish. The 54-megabyte report can be accessed at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1395/pdf/circ1395.pdf>

Earthquakes Related to Hydraulic Fracturing. Research by scientists at Instrumental Software Technologies, Inc. and the ODNR indicates a correlation between small earthquakes (magnitude of 0.1 or greater) and nearby fracking operations. The research, titled



“Characterization of an earthquake sequence triggered by hydraulic fracturing in Harrison County, Ohio,” will be presented in the November issue of *Seismological Research Letters* and can be viewed at <http://srl.geoscienceworld.org/content/early/2014/10/09/0220140127.extract>

***OSU Agricultural Extension:***

Fertilizer Applicator Certification. A copy was distributed of a new brochure explaining certification requirements for individuals who apply fertilizers other than manure to more than 50 acres of agricultural production.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Jennifer Graham, a Research Hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, Kansas Water Science Center, gave a presentation titled: “Spatiotemporal Variability of Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms with Respect to Changing Environmental Conditions”. This was part of a USGS Lecture Series and was held at the Crowne Plaza North, next to the Ohio Water Science Center.

**NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

... will be the holiday meeting, scheduled for December 18th, 8:30-11:30 am at the Panera restaurant on Lane Avenue.

**NEW WEB SITE:**

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