



**OHIO WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL  
MEETING NOTES**

Wednesday, February 20, 2012, 1:00 p.m.  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Lazarus Government Center, Center for Excellence  
50 W. Town Street, Columbus, OH

**1. Welcome & Introductions** . . . . . Director Scott Nally, OEPA; Chairman

<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting called to order by Director Nally.</li> <li>• Introductions around the room were given. (sign-in sheet enclosed)</li> </ul>
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**2. OWRC By-Laws** (briefing enclosed)

Brian Hall, OEPA; SACG Leader

Action Request	Final Action	Notes
a. Approval Of The OWRC By-Laws	<b>Approved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian presented overview of proposed by-laws               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Council has been operating without by-laws</li> <li>○ By-laws were drafted in 2004 but never approved</li> <li>○ Used the by-laws drafted in 2004 and modified slightly</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Steve Grossman made a motion to adopt the by-laws. The motion was seconded by Tim Hill. The motion carried.</li> </ul>

**3. Appointment of Advisory Group Members** (briefing enclosed)

Brian Hall, OEPA; SACG Leader

Action Request	Final Action	Notes
Vote on the Appointments for Advisory Group member appointments for terms ending July, 1, 2015	<b>Approved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per the statute, the appointments are individuals.</li> <li>• Director Nally asked for a motion to adopt the appointments. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Water Quality Monitoring Steering Workgroup Data Management Recommendations

Cathy Alexander, OEPA; Workgroup Leader (briefing enclosed)

Action Request	Final Action	Notes
Support developing a plan to take state agency collected water quality data and submit it into one state operated data management system	<b>Approved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are many state, federal, local and private entities collecting water quality data in Ohio.</li> <li>• The OWRC Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee was established to enhance the effectiveness of collecting water quality data.</li> <li>• ORC requires state agencies that collect the data to share the data with Ohio EPA</li> <li>• Acknowledge that resources are needed to develop a system to share this data and request that this be a priority for the Agencies</li> <li>• Director Nally asked for a motion to adopt the by-laws. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.</li> </ul>

#### 5. Recommendation for Salt Storage, Guidance for Protecting Ohio's Resources

Jeff Patzke, OEPA; Workgroup Leader (briefing enclosed)

Action Request	Final Action	Notes
Adoption of the Document	<b>Approved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the past few years there have been several groundwater sources impacted by runoff from bulk salt storage piles</li> <li>• A taskforce was asked to develop guidance &amp; to review how other states manage salt storage</li> <li>• Director Wymyslo made a motion to adopt the document. The motion was seconded by Tim Hill. The motion carried.</li> </ul>

#### 6. Ohio Balanced Growth BLLUP Document& MORPC Watershed Balanced Growth Plan

Gail Hesse, OLEC

Action Request	Final Action	Notes
Approval Of The Ohio Balanced Growth Best Local Land Use Practices (BLLUP) Document	<b>Approved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gail gave an overview of the statewide BLLUP work that has been recently completed.</li> <li>• Director Nally motioned to adopt the BLLUP document. The motion was seconded by Director Schmenk. The motion carried.</li> </ul>
Endorsement Of Ohio River Basin BG Planning Project for Walnut Creek (MORPC)	<b>Approved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Wymyslo made a motion to adopt the document. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.</li> </ul>

**7. OWRC Budget & Authorization for Assessments** (briefing enclosed)

Brian Hall, OEPA; SACG Leader

Action Request	Final Action	Notes
Approval of the Budget and Authorization Assessments	<b>Approved</b>	Motions being considered for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of budget with an agency contribution of \$15K. This contribution is slated for FY14 &amp; 15 and includes funding for balanced growth work.</li> <li>• Approval for Director Nally (Grant Chair) to have authority to enter into sub-grant agreement on behalf of OWRC Council</li> </ul> Motion was offered Director Nally and seconded by Director Zehringer. The motion was carried.

**8. Assessment of Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater Treatment Technologies**

Annie Lane, Battelle

<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided overview of the contract between OWRC and Battelle to assess wastewater treatment technologies for the oil and gas.</li> <li>• Battelle is developing assessment methodology to evaluate treatment options, and then will demonstrate methodology</li> </ul>
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**9. Regulatory Changes Addressing Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems in Ohio**

Brief overview Geothermal Initiative . . . . . Rebecca Fugitt, ODH

<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca gave an update on the status of the Geothermal Heating &amp; Cooling regulatory recommendations.</li> <li>• A handout with additional information was included</li> </ul>
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**10. OWRC 2014-2018 Strategic Planning Process**

Brian Hall, OEPA; SACG Leader

<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning the strategic planning process for the 2014-2018 time period for the OWRC</li> <li>• Asked the Council members to work with their Agency Coordinating members to develop items to include in next strategic plan.</li> </ul>
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7. Meeting was adjourned.

## Meeting Sign-In Sheet

<b>Meeting:</b> OWRC Council Meeting		<b>Meeting Date:</b> February 20, 2013		
<b>Facilitator:</b> Brian Hall, OEPA		<b>Place/Room:</b> Ohio EPA - CFE		
Name	Agency	Phone	E-Mail	
1. Tim Hill	ODOT	614 644 0377	Tim.Hill@dot.state-oh.us	
2. Jim Morris	USGS	614-430-7702	jrmorris@usgs.gov	
3. John Hooping Garner	MWCA	330 343 6647	jhoopinggarner@mwca.org	
4. Matt Lindsay	MVRPC OARC	937-531-6548	mlindsay@mvrpc.org	
5. Cathy Alexander	OEPA	614 644 2021	cathy.alexander@epa.state-oh.us	
6. Jeff Patzke	OEPA	614 644-3029	jeff.patzke@epa.state-oh.us	
7. Richard Lorenz	Westerly	614 901 6772	richard.lorenz@westerly.org	
8. Ashley Ward	OEPA	614-644-4852	ashley.ward@epa.state-oh.us	
9. George Elmerly	OEPA	614-644-2041		
10. Steve Wright	Fichtz Drilling	330 465 8055	swright@fichtzdrilling.com	
11. Annie Lane	Battelle	614-424-3266	lanea@battelle.org	
12. Sue Dady	PUCO	416-5634	Sue.Dady@puc.state.oh.us	
13. Andre Perle	II	466-3102		
14. Gene Phillips	ODH	41-8480		

## Meeting Sign-In Sheet

<b>Meeting:</b> OWRC Council Meeting		<b>Meeting Date:</b> February 20, 2013		
<b>Facilitator:</b> Brian Hall, OEPA		<b>Place/Room:</b> Ohio EPA - CFE		
Name		Agency	Phone	E-Mail
15	Breg Nagotte	OSNR	614- <del>265</del> -6619	greg.nagotte@dnr.state.oh.us
16	Rehan Fright	ODH	466-4801	
17	TED LOZIEC	ODNR	205-6708	
18	Mike Bush	OEPA		
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**Ohio Water Resources Council  
Briefing Paper  
Adoption of the OWRC By-Laws**

**Council Action Requested:**

**Resolved**, that the Council adopts the attached Ohio Water Resources Council By-Laws.

**Background**

Since the OWRC was created in 2001 it has operated without By-Laws. By-laws were drafted early on but were never implemented. In 2012, these By-Laws were updated and presented to the State Agency Coordinating Group.

By-Laws are an important tool that provides consistency and aides the Council in operating smoothly. The OWRC By-Laws consist of six sections: Authority, Purpose, Membership, Meetings, Work Groups and Amendments to the By-Laws.

**State Agency Coordinating Group Recommendation:** Adopt the OWRC By-Laws.

## **OWRC By-Laws**

1. **Authority** – The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) is created by ORC 1521.19
2. **Purpose** – The OWRC will set strategic direction and policy for water resource programs. The OWRC will be assisted by the State Agency Coordinating Group and the Advisory Group.
3. **Membership** – The OWRC consists of the following members with a chairperson appointed by the Governor:
  - a. Governor’s Office, Executive Assistant
  - b. Ohio Department of Agriculture, Director
  - c. Ohio Development Services Agency, Director
  - d. Ohio Department of Health, Director
  - e. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Director
  - f. Ohio Department of Transportation, Director
  - g. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Director
  - h. Ohio Public Works Commission, Director
  - i. Ohio Water Development Authority, Executive Director
  - j. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Chairperson

The State Agency Coordinating Group consists of the following members (members may designate an alternate to attend in his/her absence):

- a. State Agency Coordinating Group Leader, appointed by OWRC chairperson
- b. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Chief, Division of Soil and Water Resources
- c. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Chief, Division of Surface Water
- d. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Chief, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
- e. Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office, Executive Director
- f. Ohio Department of Agriculture, Representative
- g. Ohio Development Services Agency, Representative
- h. Ohio Department of Health, Representative
- i. Ohio Department of Transportation, Representative
- j. Ohio Public Works Commission, Representative
- k. Ohio Water Development Authority, Representative
- l. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Representative

The Advisory Group consists of not more than twenty four members, each representing an organization or entity with an interest in water resource issues. A member may designate an alternate to attend in his/her absence. The OWRC will appoint the members and the OWRC chairperson will appoint an Advisory Group chairperson.

4. **Meetings** –
  - a. Notice for all public meetings of the OWRC will be given in accordance with the following procedure:
    - i. Any person may determine (be informed of) the time and place of regularly scheduled meetings or the time, place, and purpose of any special meeting by visiting the OWRC Meetings Schedule website.  
<http://www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/23912/Default.aspx>
    - ii. Any person may obtain advance notice of all meetings at which any specific type of public business is to be discussed by identifying the type of public business for which he/she desires to be notified and by supplying it to the State Agency

- Coordinating Group Leader along with an email address. The State Agency Coordinating Group Leader will email a notice of the time, place, and type of business to be discussed at the meeting at least four calendar days before the meeting is scheduled, unless the meeting is an emergency meeting.
- iii. The State Agency Coordinating Group Leader will maintain a list of representatives of the news media who have requested in writing notice of special or emergency meetings. The Group Leader will notify at least four days before special meetings. In the event of an emergency meeting, the Group Leader will notify immediately the time, place and purpose of the meeting.
  - b. The OWRC will meet at least annually.
  - c. The State Agency Coordinating Group (SACG) will meet at least bi-monthly and meetings will be conducted as follows:
    - i. The SACG Leader will chair the meetings, prepare the agenda and meeting minutes, arrange meeting times and locations, prepare proposed budget, coordinate invoices, and assist Work Groups. If the SACG Leader cannot attend a meeting an alternate will preside at the meeting.
    - ii. Meetings may be facilitated by an outside party.
    - iii. Decisions will be made by consensus with all members given an opportunity to participate in decisions. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the OWRC leadership.
    - iv. The SACG may, as need and resources provide, consider projects supporting the OWRC Strategic Plan, Action Plan, work group recommendations, and other state water resources priorities. Based on this review, project and funding recommendations may be provided to the OWRC for consideration.
    - v. Meetings will not exceed two and ½ hours in duration.
  - d. The Advisory Group will meet at least two times a year. They may participate in the OWRC annual meeting and State Agency Coordinating Group meetings in an advisory role, and participate in Work Groups to develop recommendations on specific issues. The Advisory Group Chairperson will assist in developing agendas and convening meetings, encourage member participation, and serving as liaison for the coordination of activities between the Advisory Group and the Council.
5. **Work Groups** – Work Groups may be authorized as deemed necessary to address specific issues. Work Group members may include State Agency Coordinating Group members, state agency staff, Advisory Group members, and any other public and private sector individuals with pertinent expertise.
6. **Amendments to By-Laws** – Amendments to by-laws may be made at any time deemed necessary by the OWRC.

## **Briefing Paper Appointment of OWRC Advisory Group Members**

**Council Action Requested:**

**Resolved**, that the attached lists of candidates for the Ohio Water Resources Council Advisory Group be approved for a two-year term, beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2015

**Background**

The ORC 1521.19 specifies that the OWRC Advisory Group consist of no more than twenty four members, each representing an organization or entity with an interest in water resource issues. The ORC also dictates that the Advisory Group members serve two year terms and that they be staggered so that each year half of the Advisory Group terms expire.

The ORC also specifies that the Council (the Agency directors of the OWRC agencies) appoint the members of the Advisory Group.

Advisory Group members may be reappointed. There are no term limits.

The term for the odd year group appointments will be July 2013 through June 2015.

The attached lists are comprised of the list of Advisory Group up for renewal. We allow for a designee and an alternate. Each of the individuals on the attached list have been contacted regarding their interest in serving another term.

**State Agency Coordinating Group recommendation:** Approve the lists as presented. In the coming year, the SACG intends to look for additional opportunities to engage the Advisory Group on water resource issues.

**OWRC ADVISORY GROUP**  
**PROPOSED REAPPOINTMENT TO JULY 1, 2015**

*Local Government/Political Subdivisions (2)*

**Ohio Township Association** – Heidi Fought, Director, Governmental Affairs

**Ohio Conservancy District Conference** – Janet Bly, General Manager, Miami Conservancy District;  
Alternate – Mike Ekberg, Manager, Miami Conservancy District

*Mining (1)*

**Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association** – Brian Barger, Legal Counsel, Brady Coyle & Schmidt

*Water Supply (3)*

**American Water Works Association, Ohio Section** – Richard Lorenz, Water Utility Manager, City of Westerville WTP; Alternate - Melinda Raimann, Assistant Commissioner, Cleveland Division of Water

**Ohio Rural Water Association** – Kevin Strang, Director

**Ohio Water Well Association** – Steve Wright, Frontz Drilling

*Wastewater Treatment (1)*

**Ohio Water Environment Association** – Michael Frommer, Water Director, URS,  
Alternate - Judi Henrich, Executive Director, OWEA

*Water Planning (2)*

**Water Management Association of Ohio** – John Hoopingarner, Director, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

**Ohio Association of Regional Councils** – Matthew Lindsay, Manager, Environmental Planning, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission; Alternate – Kurt Erichsen, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

*Environment (1)*

**The Nature Conservancy** – Anthony Sasson, Conservation Manager  
Alternate – John Stark, Conservation Director

*Utilities (1)*

**Ohio Electric Utility Institute -**

**Ohio Water Resources Council**  
**Briefing Paper**  
**Endorsement of Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee**  
**Recommendation for State Agency Surface Water Data Handling**

**Council Action Requested:**

**Resolved**, that the following recommendation of the Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee be endorsed: State agencies possessing surface water quality data will make it a priority to develop and implement a plan to submit that data to the Ohio EPA credible database or the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) network (currently stored in USEPA STORET data warehouse).

**Background:**

There are currently many state, federal, local and private entities collecting water quality data in Ohio. There is no single, simple way to access or use that data. This can result in duplication of efforts, little coordination of information, and less comprehensive understanding and analysis of the condition of our waters.

In June 2012, the OWRC SACG recommended that the Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee (WQMSC) be established. The WQMSC has been charged with making a plan and taking action to enhance the effectiveness and use of surface and ground water quality data collection in Ohio. One important piece, and the first priority of the WQMSC, is the surface water quality data collected by state agencies.

Even amongst the state agencies, there is a variety of the types of water quality data collected and the manner of storage and accessibility of that data. General information about just some of the data collected is attached.

The Ohio Revised Code, 6111.54 (a.k.a the 2003 Credible Data Law) requires all state agencies that have possession of surface water quality data to submit that data to Ohio EPA, at least annually and in the format determined by the director of Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA has developed a database, and internet interface to enter that data into the credible data database. USEPA has also developed the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) network, that allows uploading of water quality data to STORET. STORET data is easily accessible through a new water quality portal, along with USGS quantity and quality data.

As a step toward enhancing the water quality data collection and synthesizing in Ohio, the WQMSC recommends making it a priority for each state agency to submit their surface water quality data to Ohio EPA's credible database, or to STORET through the WQX network.

**OWRC State Agency Coordinating Group:** Have been routinely updated and are supportive of the recommendations and efforts of the Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee.

Organization Name & Division or Program	Type of Data			Where Data Is Currently Located				General Description Available Through		
	GW/SW	Ongoing?	Phys/Chem/Biol	STORET	NWIS	OEPA CD DBF	Agency DBF	Metadata DBF	USGS Survey Forms	OEPA CD DBF
Ohio EPA DSW	SW	Y	Phys/Chem/Biol	pre-1998			Y	Y	Y	
Ohio EPA DDAGW	GW,SW	Y	Phys/Chem				Y	Y	Y	
ODNR DSWR	GW	Y	Phys/Chem				Y	Y	Y	
ODNR Mineral Resources/Mining	SW	Y*	Phys/Chem/Biol					Y	Y	
ODNR DOW?	SW	Y	Biol/Chem?				Y			
ODH - Beaches	SW	Y	Bacteria	Y			Y			
ODH - Wells/Water Supplies	GW	Y*	Phys,Chem							
ODOT - Office of Geotechnical Engineers	GW	Y*	Phys/ Chem					Y		
ODOT - Office of Environmental Services	SW	Y	Phys, Chem, Biol							
ODA - Pesticides	GW	Y	Chem				Y	Y		
ODA - OLEP	SW	Y*	Chem							
Heidelberg College	SW	Y	Chem				Y		Y	
Miami Conservancy District	GW	Y	Phys, Chem				Y	Y	Y	
Miami Conservancy District	SW	Y	Phys, Chem				Y		Y	
City of Columbus	SW	Y	Chem						Y	
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Dist.	SW	Y	Chem						Y	
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	SW	Y	Phys, Chem, Biol			Y				Y
Clermont County	SW	Y	Phys, Chem			Y				Y
Enviroscience	SW	N*	Phys, Chem, Biol			Y				Y
Greene Co, Xenia & Waynesville	SW	Y	Phys, chem			Y				Y
* Sampling ongoing, but at varying locations (e.g. complaint response) or just for a project (short term)										
NOTE: This chart does not include stream or groundwater data collected by the regulated community (e.g. NPDES permittees, landfills, etc.) except for a few in the OEPA Credible Data DataBa										

## Briefing Paper

### Adoption of the “Recommendations for Salt Storage: Guidance for Protecting Ohio’s Water Resources”

#### **Council Action Requested:**

**Resolved**, that the Council hereby adopts “*Recommendations for Salt Storage: Guidance for Protecting Ohio’s Water Resources*” (2012).

#### **Background**

Application of salt to roads and walkways during the winter is necessary to ensure safety and mobility. But storing salt outdoors can cause serious water pollution. Storm water that passes through exposed salt piles may create brine, or highly concentrated saltwater. In recent years, uncontrolled brine runoff has contaminated both public and private drinking water supplies around Ohio. One village’s supply was so degraded that its wells had to be abandoned.

Millions of pounds of salt are used in Ohio every winter. Environmental damage is generally minimized because salt is widely dispersed when spread and is diluted by melting ice and snow. Brine runoff from a salt pile, however, is not diluted, and can have salt concentrations up to 10 times that of sea water. Brine entering fresh water streams or lakes can harm fish and other aquatic life. Brine-contaminated ground water may be even more problematic, as treatment to remove dissolved salt is extremely expensive. Impacted aquifers may not be able to supply drinking water for decades.

The State of Ohio does not regulate the use of salt, nor does it have authority to dictate siting criteria for storage facilities. A workgroup, at the request of the OWRC, was put together that consisted of federal, state and local governments, regional planning agencies, a salt trade association, and a salt company to develop guidance to minimize the impact on Ohio’s water resource from salt storage. This guidance document is the result of this workgroup.

The salt pile guidance document outlines the following:

- Brine created from rainfall passing through salt is classified as industrial wastewater and may be subject to permitting requirements. Salt piles of any size that are managed outdoors for more than seven days will be required to obtain a permit-to-install (PTI) from Ohio EPA’s Division of Surface Water. Permits can be required for any site that discharges (or drains) wastewater to a receiving water body, such as a lake or stream. In certain municipalities, discharging brine to storm sewer systems is considered illegal under current storm water management regulations administered by Ohio EPA. Further, Ohio EPA considers discharges to ground water from salt storage to be unpermitted discharges.
- Salt should not be stored in floodplains, or close to wetlands, ditches or wells. An outdoor facility should be outside of source water protection areas (designated zones near ground water wells that provide public drinking water supplies). A very large outdoor pile should not be in an area that is highly susceptible to ground water contamination.
- Salt should be stored, loaded and unloaded under roof and on impervious surfaces. If storage under roof is not possible, salt should be covered with a tarp at all times except when piles are under construction or salt is being removed. Brine collection systems are needed for outdoor storage.

The salt pile workgroup also reviewed the means by which Ohio and other northern states employ rules and guidance to oversee salt storage. A draft *State Oversight of Road Salt Storage in Midwestern and Northeastern U.S.* was developed.

**SACG Recommendation:** Adopt *“Recommendations for Salt Storage: Guidance for Protecting Ohio’s Water Resources”* (2012).

**Briefing Paper**  
**Adoption of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of “Linking Land Use and Ohio’s Waters: Best Local Land Use Practices”**

**Council Action Requested:**

**Resolved,** that the Council hereby adopts *“Linking Land Use and Ohio’s Waters: Best Local Land Use Practices”* (2012).

**Background**

The goal of the Ohio Balanced Growth Program is to link land use planning and decision-making with Ohio’s water bodies, assuring ecological health and economic competitiveness. Since the inception of the program by Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) in the early 2000’s, providing training and resource information to local governments has been a critical component in making this link.

“Linking Land Use and Ohio’s Waters...” provides a compendium of recommended practices that local governments and other stakeholders can use as a resource.

The first edition of this document was published by OLEC in 2004 as “Linking Land Use and Lake Erie: Best Local Land Use Practices”. This edition of the document has been developed in partnership with the OWRC and reflects the statewide focus of the Balanced Growth Program. Additionally, this updated document incorporates new findings and research about current best practices and includes examples of where these practices have been adopted by local governments.

OLEC adopted the document at its December 12, 2012 meeting. This resolution seeks OWRC adoption to reflect statewide endorsement.

Updates to the Best Local Land Use Practices (2012) include:

- 1) References to Lake Erie have been modified to include the Ohio River watershed.
- 2) Redevelopment concepts have been added to chapters as appropriate.
- 3) Existing recommendations have been updated based on current best practices.
- 4) Some information has been reorganized for clarification and better emphasis on priority practices.

The update process also resulted in supplemental materials including matrices of code examples summarized and tabulated for easy reference; a bibliography of research showing the economic benefits of the practices; case study examples of practices used in Ohio; and checklists for code reviews. All materials have been extensively hyperlinked and cross referenced for ease of use via the Internet.

This 2012 document has undergone extensive review and comment since 2010. Approximately 40 outside experts in the field of local government planning convened to provide early feedback. A State Agency Steering Committee of senior staff of Commission and Council agencies also provided review and comments and the final draft has been reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General for compliance of the recommendations with state law. The document was revised based on comments received and sent out for public comment in October, 2012. The document can be found at:

<http://balancedgrowth.ohio.gov/BestLocalLandUsePractices/BestLocalLandUsePractices2012>.

**SACG Recommendation:** Adopt *“Linking Land Use and Ohio’s Waters: Best Local Land Use Practices”* (2012).

**Ohio Water Resources Council  
Briefing Paper  
Endorsement of Ohio River Basin Balanced Growth Planning Projects**

**Council Action Requested:**

**Resolved**, that the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Walnut Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan that utilized the Ohio Balanced Growth Strategy be endorsed

**Background**

The Ohio Balanced Growth Program is a voluntary, incentive based program to encourage local governments to engage in watershed-based regional planning and water quality oriented best local land use practices. The program focuses development and redevelopment into suitable areas called priority development areas (PDA), while focusing conservation investments into areas of ecological and hydrological significance referred to as priority conservation areas (PCA). If local governments can agree on areas within a watershed where development is to be encouraged and areas where conservation activities are to be promoted, the state will support those decisions by aligning state programs to assist those decisions.

The Balanced Growth Program was originally endorsed by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and piloted in the Lake Erie watershed in 2004. The program was expanded statewide by action of the Ohio Water Resources Council in 2009.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), in association with 14 local governments in Franklin, Fairfield, and Pickaway Counties worked with the Walnut Creek Planning Partnership (WCPP) to produce the Walnut Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan. The Walnut Creek balanced growth plan has been reviewed by the Ohio Balanced Growth State Assistance Work Group (SAWG) for compliance with the guidelines established in the state balanced growth strategy. All SAWG comments have been addressed.

**State Agency Coordinating Group recommendation:** Endorse the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Walnut Creek Watershed balanced growth plan.

**Ohio Water Resources Council  
Briefing Paper  
Budget for SFY 14 and SFY 15**

**Council Action Requested:**

**Resolved**, that the attached budget for the Ohio Water Resources Council is approved for state fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

**Be it further resolved that**, the budget contribution for each agency shall be \$15,000 annually and the Council grants the Council Chair the authority to enter into any contracts and/or agreements on behalf of the Council that do not exceed the SFY 14-15 adopted budget.

**Background**

Since the creation of the OWRC in 2001, eight of the nine state agencies have made an annual contribution to the Council fund. ORC 1521.19 allows the Council to hire staff, provide support for Advisory Group expenses, and enter into contacts and/or agreements to accomplish the objectives of the Council.

From 2001 through 2007 an annual contribution of \$17,300 was made by the eight paying OWRC agencies. In 2008, the council agencies collectively agreed to suspend the annual contributions to provide a reprieve for those agencies with SFY08 budget shortfalls. In SFY 09 the Council reinstated the annual agency contribution at the rate of \$15,000 per OWRC agency. The contribution was reduced to \$12,000 for the current biennium.

SFY	Agency Contribution
2001 - 2007	\$17,300
2008	\$0 (suspended due to budget shortfalls)
2009-2011	\$15,000
2012-2013	\$12,000
2014-2015	\$15,000 (proposed)

The OWRC will begin SFY14 with an estimated \$194,000 in cash. An annual increase to \$15,000 per agency is being requested to cover additional personnel costs of 0.5 FTE. This increase in personnel would be used to advance the best practices in local land use decision-making as part of the Ohio Balanced Growth Program. The proposed position would provide technical assistance to local communities and develop guidance documents for Ohio's Balanced Growth Program. The Department/Agency where this position will work has not yet been determined.

Additionally the OWRC budget enables the Council to cover administrative staffing costs, includes a modest amount for Advisory Group reimbursement, and allows a balance for special contracts and/or agreements deemed necessary. Any special contracts or agreements will be vetted with the State Agency Coordinating Group of the OWRC.

Historically the council meets no more than once or twice per year. The frequency of these meetings can make it difficult to get timely Council approval of contracts and agreements. As was done in the current biennium, the timely and efficient management of the OWRC would be advanced by delegating the authority to enter into contracts and/or agreements to the Council Chair that do not exceed the adopted SFY14-15 budget.

**State Agency Coordinating Group Recommendation:** Approve the SFY14 and SFY15 budgets and contract delegation as proposed. This budget enables the OWRC to continue its focus and progress in achieving the outcomes intended with the OWRC Strategic Plan.

**OWRC Budget SFY 14-15**

	<b>SFY14 budget</b>	<b>SFY15 budget</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>		
Salary	1.1 FTE	1.1 FTE
Fringe (30%)		
Subtotal	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
<b>ADVISORY GROUP TRAVEL</b>		
Assume 5 members travel 1X/yr, avg 100 mi		
Mileage (\$0.50/mile)	\$250	\$250
Meals (4 mtgs/year, 40 attendees, \$380/mtg)	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>PRINTING</b>		
Brochures/Publications	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>		
Equipment support	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>CONTRACT/SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		
SFY14 Project	\$30,000	\$0
SFY15 Project	\$0	\$30,000
Subtotal	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$151,000</b>	<b>\$151,000</b>
<b>CARRYOVER FROM PREVIOUS FY</b>		
REVENUE(ODNR,OEPA,ODOT,ODH,ODOD,ODA, OWDA and PUCO)	<b>\$193,962</b>	<b>\$162,962</b>
Total revenue	\$313,962	\$282,962
Total expenditures	\$151,000	\$151,000
Carryover	<b>\$162,962</b>	<b>\$131,962</b>

(1.1 FTE = 0.3 Adm, 0.3 Assist, 0.5 Balanced Growth)

\$136,000 = \$17,000 per Agency

**\$120,000 = \$15,000 per Agency**

\$96,000 = \$12,000 per Agency