

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
1800 WaterMark Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1099

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
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Ohio Department of Development
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of Transportation
25 South Front 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

May 21, 1998

Ohio EPA, 1800 WaterMark Drive
Conference Room 1B

ABSTRACT

The May 21st meeting was devoted to agency updates and announcements and Work Group updates.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Michael Baker, Tim Christman, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Scott Kell, Bob Van Horn

ODA: Larry Berger

ODH: John Wells

USGS: Jeff deRoche

PUCO: Sue Daly

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

The April meeting summary was approved as written.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OEPA, Division of Emergency and Remedial Response, Tim Christman announced

- 1.) The Remedial Division is reorganizing in an effort to provide for faster clean-up of sites. Tim mentioned two major problems in this regard: (1) Currently there is not enough money in Ohio's Cleanup Fund to undertake a major cleanup and sue for compensation later; (2) There is a serious question concerning retroactivity. The authority of the Division to sue parties for cleanup of old sites--sites that were created before enactment of ORC 6111--is considered legally questionable. In the past, it was possible to refer sites to U.S. EPA for action under Superfund, but the Feds are not currently taking on new sites. For the present time, the Division is under a hiring freeze.

OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:

- 1.) The Division of Surface Water hopes to have a new chief by November or so.
- 2.) The application process for 1999 319 grants ends this week. The Division has received approximately 30 applications.

- 3.) The theme for the Farm Science Review (in September) is All A Piece of the Puzzle. The Division's display will focus more on nontraditional nonpoint sources of surface water pollution.
- 4.) Farm*A*Syst work has slowed down recently due to the amount of time required for developing the surface water aspects of the Source Water Assessment Program.
- 5.) Another high-priority project is the launching of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. Ohio recently was served with an Intent to Sue, making it among 30 states in the nation that are being sued for failure to comply with Section 303-D of the Clean Water Act.* The Division hopes to make the process more do-able by redefining the criterion to be met (i.e., some level of remedial action, instead of a number).

ODNR, Division of Geologic Survey, Bob Van Horn announced:

- 1.) Construction on the Ohio Geologic Repository should start in 2-3 months, and should be complete in about a year.
- 2.) The Division will sponsor two workshops for K-12 teachers titled "Ohio's Mineral Industries and the Environment". One workshop will take place July 13-17 in Akron, and the second workshop will take place July 27-31 in Columbus. These workshops are designed to acquaint science teachers with the geology of Ohio, and inform them about environmentally friendly methods of mineral extraction. [Bob distributed copies]
- 3.) GeoFacts No. 19, titled "Sand and Gravel", has been published. [Bob distributed copies]

USGS, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

- 1.) The Division will hire a temporary full-time hydrologic technician and two summer students this year. Requirements include a 4-year degree in an environmental field, especially ground water and surface water. Also desirable are computer and surveying skills.
- 2.) Right now the Division is extremely busy, and has brought in USGS staff from other states to help with the workload.
- 3.) The Water Management Association of Ohio's Ground Water Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 9th, at the Holiday Inn East. The conference will focus on ground water studies, tools, and technology.

*Section 303D requires every state to develop TMDLs for every stream segment not attaining its aquatic life use criteria. (A TMDL is an amount of pollution--including nonpoint source loads, point source waste loads, margin of safety and future reserve--that can remain in a stream and still allow it to attain its aquatic use criteria.) The challenges of TMDL development are enormous, because calculations of "background" levels may be difficult or impossible to determine in some developed areas, and methods for calculating nonpoint source loads for contaminants such as sediment are not well defined. In addition, the lists are revised every two years, so that stream segments are continually being added or dropped, making commitment of resources complicated. Once TMDLs are calculated for a segment, Best Management Practices must be proposed *that will restore the stream segment to attaining status*. Again, the science for making such determinations is still immature. These difficulties explain in large part why so many states have not met the requirements of Section 303D.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen and Mike Baker announced:

- 1.) Mary Lou Rochotte will be leaving the agency next week. For over six years she has supervised the Underground Injection Well Program (Class I, IV, and V wells).

- 2.) A "Waste Committee" was formed about nine months ago to improve consistency across the various waste programs.
- 3.) The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) is a main focus of attention right now. For ground water-based public water systems, it is envisioned that statewide ground water "resource characterization" will be completed, to gather existing data on hydrogeologic characteristics around the state. The data will be used to complete delineations of SWAP areas and to conduct susceptibility analyses. The USGS and various programs in ODNR will be involved in this effort, which will include establishing GIS coverages of these data. A pilot effort will be initiated this summer to work out the details.
- 4.) In March 1998 Ohio EPA's Small Business Assistance Office published a guidebook for environmental compliance for small businesses. The guidebook is set up in a checklist format, and is a very usable and comprehensive listing of most of the environmental regulations that apply to small businesses.

ODA, Pesticides Section, Larry Berger announced:

- 1.) The Agency is considering creating a position in the Director's Office for liaison with the TMDL process.
- 2.) The Agency's GPS tower has been surveyed in . The system has been tested and is working well. The system is guaranteed to provide an accuracy of ± 5 meters, but the surveyor said the actual accuracy may be 6-8 inches.
- 3.) The Section will need to hire a driver for the chipper truck this summer. The position requires being able to lift 100 pounds, and pays \$10.00/hour.

ODNR, Division of Oil and Gas, Scott Kell announced:

- 1.) The Division has been informed by the Budget Office that there is an inadequate cash balance, and multi-million dollar deficits for the Division are projected within the next few years. At this point District Offices have been pared down to one manager and one technical staff in each office. There is nothing more than can be "trimmed down", so the only thing left is to cut programs entirely. Starting in July, six staff will be laid off, including two of the five geologists, and more cuts are planned the following year. The Ground Water Investigation program will probably be eliminated in July, and the program will be shifted over to ODH or to Ohio EPA's Emergency Response division. The Class II and Class III Underground Injection Well permitting program will be eliminated by the year 2000. There is talk that the entire Division eventually will be eliminated.

Since 1987 the Division has lost 57 percent of its staff. During that same time it has managed to expand its services: providing "one-stop shopping" for permits; responding to an increasing number of well-plugging requests from the Division of Mines, and developing a state-of-the-art Risk-Based Data Management System. The decline of the oil business in Ohio, accompanied by declining permit fees, has created the funding crisis. At this time, the possibility of using other funding mechanisms--such as tax increases or a greater portion of General Revenue Funds--is considered remote.

ODNR, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch announced:

- 1.) Locations of wells have been digitized for the well log computerization system, and soon will be linked to the database.
- 2.) The aquifer mapping project is progressing. Bedrock aquifer mapping is complete for 40 percent of the state, and half of those have been converted to GIS coverages. Glacial aquifer mapping is

complete for 20 percent of the state, and half of these have been converted to GIS coverages. March 2000 is the scheduled completion date.

- 3.) The Ohio Water Well Association conference will be held June 4-5 at Heidelberg College in Tiffin. Driller demonstrations will take place during the afternoon on the 4th, and all day on the 5th.
- 4.) The ground water committee for the Nonpoint Source Management Plan update has been working on revising the ground water section. They hope to have their recommendations ready for compilation by the end of June. Mike hopes to distribute these at the next SCCGW meeting.

ODH, John Wells announced:

- 1.) The second draft of the Private Water Systems Program legislation is finished and the comment period is wrapping up. Program staff are still seeking a sponsor.
- 2.) Revisions of existing rules for private water systems will start later this summer, followed by a public comment period.

PUCO, Sue Daly announced:

- 1.) The Ohio Water Resources Council did not meet in May. The next meeting will be the first Friday in June. Recently there was a recommendation that a Surface Water Coordinating Committee be created, similar to SCCGW. Also, it was suggested that the SCCGW become a body for making ground water recommendations to the Council.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

State Management Plan for Pesticides (SMP)

Nothing new to report.

Well Construction

Jeff deRoche reported that the draft report currently is under review. The next meeting will be June 23rd, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Farm*A*Syst

Ten of twelve Fact Sheets have been drafted. However, the original timeline needs to be extended. The program will be pilot tested through the Ohio State University Agricultural Extension Service.

JUNE AGENDA

The next SCCGW meeting will be held June 18th at Ohio EPA, 1800 WaterMark Drive, Conference Room 1B. The meeting will begin with updates and announcements, followed by a presentation/discussion session led by Larry Long, of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. One subject to be covered is county planning, and how various water quality programs might be incorporated into it. A new chairperson will be elected for the period July - December 1998.

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) GeoFacts No. 19: "Sand and Gravel"
- 2.) Handout on ODNR-Geologic Survey's workshops on "Ohio's Mineral Industries and the Environment".

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June 18, 1998

**Ohio EPA, 1800 WaterMark Drive
Conference Room 1B**

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	MAY MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:00 am	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous -Work Group Updates
10:00 - 10:10 am	BREAK
10:10 - 10:45 am	PRESENTATION ON COUNTY PLANNING (Larry Long)
10:45 - 10:55 am	MISCELLANEOUS/ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR
10:55 - 11:00 am	JULY SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
11:00 am	ADJOURN