

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
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Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
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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

January 21, 1999

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Building D, Third Floor Conference Room

ABSTRACT

The January 21st meeting featured a presentation by Jim Rozelle on the Ohio Water Strategy, and a presentation by Pam Allen on the Drinking Water at the Tap program. Ground water program supervisors from Ohio EPA's District Offices were invited to attend as observers.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Baker, Tim Christman, Vladimir Cica, Laurel Hodory, Tim Krichbaum, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Scott Kell, Bob Van Horn,

ODA: Larry Berger

PUCO: Sue Daly

Presenters: (1) Jim Rozelle, Ohio Water Resources Council

(2) Pamela Allen, Ohio EPA's Division of Hazardous Waste Management

Audience (all OEPA-DDAGW staff): Rich Bendula, Tim Fishbaugh, Chris Khourey, Jeff Patzke, Mike Preston, Linnea Saukko, Lindsay Taliaferro III, Steve Williams

NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

The November meeting summary was approved as written.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ODA, Pesticides Section, Larry Berger announced:

- 1.) David Schleich has been appointed acting chief of ODA, replacing John Stevenson who resigned at the beginning of 1999 to take an elected position as a Pickaway County Commissioner.
- 2.) The global positioning system (GPS) is proving well designed for ease of use, and provides strong documentation for litigation. This Spring Larry will work with field staff to map

areas of “drift” and document the number of acres damaged. Currently he is trying to configure the GPS for the Internet, to link with OEPA and ODNR networks.

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

- 1.) The Agency ‘s efforts to unify cleanup standards across the various programs are continuing.
- 2.) BUSTR’s new rules were refiled at the beginning of January, without any changes to the technical issues. BUSTR staff may meet with OEPA in the Spring to resolve differences.

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

- 1.) OGS is establishing a seismic monitoring network in Ohio. Six seismometers are already on-line, connected to one another through the Internet.
- 2.) OGS has joined with USGS and the geological surveys of Indiana, Illinois and Michigan to form a geologic mapping coalition with the goal of mapping all unconsolidated surficial materials in the Great Lakes area. The coalition is holding a one-day forum on February 24 at the Marriott North in Columbus. Topics include 3-D mapping, case-histories of 20th century ground water abuse, and critical environmental and land-use issues for the 21st century. [Bob distributed fliers for this meeting]

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

- 1.) OEPA’s new director is Christopher Jones, who started on February 1st. Previously he was with the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, environmental enforcement section.
- 2.) The ground water group of the Waste Steering Committee is seeking public input on its recommendations and is putting together a mailing list that will include SCCGW members.
- 3.) The Midwest Ground Water Conference will be held in Columbus in the year 2000. Mike Hallfrisch (ODNR-DOW) is heading up the planning committee.
- 4.) Michael Baker reported: the Division is preparing to submit Ohio’s Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program to U.S. EPA Region V for acceptance. Based on earlier review comments from Region V and U.S. EPA, it is anticipated that the program will be accepted. If so, the Region will convey the intent to endorse so that SWAP implementation can go forward as planned; however, a formal endorsement will not be issued until the end of the nine-month review period.
- 2.) U.S. EPA has expressed its intent to begin preparing periodic comprehensive national ground water reports, as required under Chapter 1429 of the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments. A national committee is being formed that will create a template for summarizing each state’s ground water assessment. Mike has been asked to serve on that committee.
- 3.) The Safe Drinking Water Act funding process has been reformulated and Chuck Fox, assistant administrator for Water Programs, wants a report by March 1999 on the status of “water programs”. This will be used to decide on funding of various state programs.

In response to a question about Consumer Confidence Reports, Mike replied that Consumer Confidence Report rules are in place nationally, but rules have not yet been promulgated at the State level.

OEPA, Division of Hazardous Waste Management, Pam Allen announced:

- 1.) The Division is heavily involved in developing the unified clean-up standards.
- 2.) The Division has promulgated rules on used oil, targeted to facilities that burn used oil for heating. The new rules provide for inspection and enforcement as well as education and outreach to the regulated community.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Pesticide Management Plan (formerly “SMP”)

The generic plan has been printed and distributed to everyone on the mailing list. It will be three years before the specific plan (for specific pesticides) is required. In the meantime, ODA is continuing to sample the monitoring well network established as part of this program.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Jim Rozelle on the Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan

The Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan is complete, but the Governor’s Office hasn’t signed off yet. Jim will be meeting with them to discuss how to implement the Plan. It proposes statewide planning that is organized *by watersheds*. The more than 70 watershed groups throughout the state would be represented and to some extent coordinated by the regional planning agencies.

Jim is also seeking legislation to continue the Water Resources Council, which otherwise will end in June. He would like to incorporate State staff more in the ongoing planning process. OEPA and other agencies already are completing action agendas for watersheds and it makes sense to coordinate these efforts. Other areas of coordination include runoff control and sediment abatement, wetlands restoration, guidelines of detention/retention, riparian corridor management, on-site sewage disposal and small water systems, and economic planning.

Jim acknowledged that the focus of the Strategic Plan is on surface water, and there currently is no strong ground water component. He would like to define what ground water issues need to be incorporated via facilitated meetings.

Discussion: There was some discussion of how SCCGW could formally coordinate with the Ohio Water Resources Council. Jim suggested having SCCGW and a similar surface water coordinating committee as ad-hoc committees under the umbrella of the Water Resources Council. However, it was noted that many of the same people would be sitting on the two committees, so it might make sense to combine them.

Presentation by Pam Allen on the ‘Drinking Water at the Tap’ Program

Drinking Water at the Tap is a program of Ohio EPA’s Division of Hazardous Waste Management (DHWM), which regulates the generation, treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous waste at industrial and commercial facilities. The goal of this program was to disseminate information about avoiding ground water contamination to small chemical handlers. The program was an outgrowth

of Ohio's Comparative Risk Project, which identified safe drinking water as one of Ohioans' highest environmental priorities. Planning began two years ago and the program was initiated in October 1997. District geologists used DRASTIC maps and ground water resources maps to identify areas that are vulnerable to ground water contamination. Within those areas, all community and non-community nontransient water systems were identified and circular areas with a two-mile radius were mapped around the systems. Within the circular areas, all chemical handling sites were located and the area was prioritized using a scoring system. A list of facilities was thus identified for action under this program.

District DHWM staff conducted site visits to the companies in each prioritized area. During the visit they conducted a hazardous waste inspection, and completed a ground water protection and a pollution prevention checklist. They left information with the owner/operators on how to avoid ground water contamination.

Findings to date: Much database clean-up resulted from this effort. Although a lot of new sites were added, even more were deleted. Of these, few sites appeared to pose a threat to ground water. One enforcement case has come out of the statewide effort. It appears that storm water wells (drainage wells) and underground storage tanks pose the most significant threats on a statewide basis. The educational tactic that works best is: being there in person. Distributing literature was considered ineffective overall; people simply don't take the time to read it. [Pam distributed a summary of the project that was written up in *Environment Ohio*]

DISCUSSION OF SCCGW GOALS

After some discussion it was agreed that each program should bring a list of action items or copies of their strategic plans to the February meeting. Tom Allen will contact SCCGW representatives to encourage them to attend and to bring their strategic plans.

FEBRUARY AGENDA

The meeting will be held at ODNR, Building D, third floor conference room, 8:30 TO 11:00 AM. The meeting will include Agency updates and a discussion of SCCGW goals that will involve reviewing the strategic plans for the various programs, and prioritizing items.

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) Pesticide Management Plan for the State of Ohio (formerly called SMP)
- 2.) *Environment Ohio* - article on Drinking Water at the Tap program
- 3.) Flyer for The Columbus Forum on February 24, 1999

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February 18, 1999

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Building D, 3rd Floor Conference Room**

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	JANUARY 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 - 10:55 am	DISCUSSION OF SCCGW GOALS FOR 1999
10:55 - 11:00 am	NEXT SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
11:00 am	ADJOURN