

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
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Ohio Department of Agriculture
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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

February 20, 2003
Horace R. Collins Conference Room
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building
3307 South Old State Road
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The February 2003 meeting included Agency updates and announcements and a presentation on the 2003 Farm Bill by Paul DeArman.

ATTENDANCE

ODH: Rebecca Petty
OEPA: Tom Allen, Vladimir Cica, Michael Eggert, John Kessler, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger,
ODNR: Ted Lozier
ODA: Larry Berger
BUSTR: Charles Zepp
PUCO: Sue Daly
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Ralph Haefner

JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY

No corrections provided.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio EPA, Director's Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:

- OEPA's Director Jones was scheduled to testify before the Budget Committee in the afternoon (February 20).

- The second draft of the Home Sewage legislation has come out of the Legislative Services Commission. OEPA has not commented on it yet.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- Prairie Township recently passed a resolution enacting Home Rule, and appointed Ohio-American Water Company as sole provider of water and sewer services. Now the township is scouting sites for water and wastewater treatment plants.

- Sue will be attending a conference in Washington, D.C. that will include presentations on Homeland Security as it pertains to public water providers. She will report back on that at the March meeting.

US Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline, Ralph Haefner announced:

- The Survey finally has a budget for 2003, of \$919 million, which reflects a 0.6% increase from 2002. The Water Program's share of the budget reflects a 1% increase.

- The Survey has a couple new publications:

- Fractured Rock Aquifers Fact Sheet (available at <http://toxics.usgs.gov/pubs/FS-112-021>)
- Watershed Inventory, Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, Ohio, Open-File Report 02-495, by Chad J. Ostheimer and John S. Tertuliani

- The Ohio Ground Water Metadata Workgroup currently is working on (1) how to encourage agencies not represented on the workgroup to submit their ground water data; (2) deciding whether there will be sufficient resources to deal with public requests for ground water data that are in agency files but have not traditionally been offered to the public. The group's next meeting is next Friday.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- Of the 24 water samples from domestic well sampling at Kiwanis Lake in Geauga County, only one was *E. coli* positive, and no volatile organic compounds were detected. Five samples had detectable levels of arsenic (highest value was 26 ug/l). Analyses for semi-volatiles and pesticides are not completed yet.

- The Ohio Water Well Association (OWWA) will conduct a workshop on drilling with mud on March 3rd, at the Farm Science Review site (Molly Caren, near London).

- Also, OWWA will provide an outdoor well drilling demonstration on May 8-9, 2003, at the same site.

- The ODH-OEPA joint investigation of the Trumbull County sewage program resulted in a letter being sent to the County Board of Health, ordering cessation of all discharging septic systems in the county until the sewage problems are corrected.

Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations, Charles Zepp announced:

- Two new Environmental Specialists have been hired, which means the ES-2 positions are fully staffed. BUSTR has 10-12 staff to handle 5500 sites.
- As part of the required 5-year rule review, BUSTR is reviewing at least five sections of its rules, including closure, release prevention, and corrective action.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano and Paul DeArman announced:

- NRCS's long-awaited budget for FFY03 is slightly larger than last year's.
- The Bush Administration has a goal of outsourcing 50% of federal government positions by 2008. A moratorium remains in effect on filling vacancies, to enable federal agencies to evaluate each position and determine if it is "inherently governmental" in nature (such as administration, contracting, etc.). If not, it is expected to be competitively outsourced. Technical positions, especially IT positions, are being outsourced.
- The Farm Bill authorized the inclusion of 250,000 acres/year in the Wetland Reserve Program.

Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Vlad Cica announced:

The City of Warren (Trumbull County) recently issued an operating license for a construction and demolition debris landfill. Ohio EPA's Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management strongly objects to this decision, and is appealing it.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Larry Berger announced:

- Budget cuts are expected to produce some major changes at ODA.
- To obtain information for the State Management Plan for Pesticides program, atrazine manufacturers are funding a nationwide sampling program. Quarterly raw water monitoring will be sampled at 200 sites nationwide, 21 of them in Ohio. If atrazine levels exceed a trigger level of 35 ug/l, its use will be banned throughout the United States.
- Bob Wulfhorst is retiring, after many years at ODA. His reception will be February 26.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Ted Lozier announced:

- ODNR is preparing an omnibus bill for the Legislature. Among other things, it requires well drillers to provide the latitude and longitude or State Plane Coordinates of each well on the well log. Drillers may obtain latitude and longitude from USGS

topographic maps; they will not be required to use GPS to obtain the coordinates. A Fact Sheet explaining this will be mailed to all drillers and the expectation will take effect in April.

- The Division is piloting with several drillers a procedure for filing well logs electronically, using Adobe software.

[Rebecca Petty noted that the Ohio Department of Health is interested in registering drillers using the same process.]

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Michael Eggert announced:

- Multiple nitrate violations have occurred this winter, most of them for surface water systems. It was expected that high atrazine levels also would be seen, but this hasn't materialized so far.

[Larry Berger noted that high nitrates are often seen in the spring, but not the winter. It is conjectured that nitrate applied in late summer/fall of 2002 was not taken up by the plants because of the dry autumn, and is now entering streams with the melting snow.]

- The new water well rules have been finalized and will take effect May 1st.

- DDAGW has become aware of two sole source aquifer designations that may be proposed to USEPA for the regional sand aquifer in Williams County and the bedrock sandstone/shale aquifer of Tuscarawas County.

- DDAGW is working with the Division of Surface Water on a revision of wastewater application rules, to restrict land application of wastewater in portions of drinking water source protection areas.

- The Attorney General's Office recently issued an opinion that upholds R.C. 3750.11(G), stating, "a municipal corporation that owns and operates a public water system ... and a township that is served by that public water system have coextensive authority to establish and enforce requirements in their respective zoning regulations to protect ground water resources that serve as a source of drinking water for the public water system and that are located within scientifically derived wellhead protection areas situated entirely in the unincorporated territory of the township." (Opinion No. 2002-038)

- DDAGW's ambient sampling program has tested for MTBE for the last two years. Only nine systems (out of about 200) have produced samples with detectable levels, and of these, only two had a detection when sampling was repeated.

- DDAGW is participating with Minnesota in a program sampling for viruses in areas that are believed to *not* be vulnerable to microorganism contamination, to test whether these assumptions hold true for viruses. Currently staff are selecting the wells that will be sampled in Ohio. Sampling will begin in April.

- A national conference on Source Water Assessment and Protection, sponsored by USEPA, will be held in Washington, D.C. June 2-4, 2003. More information can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/swpconf.html.

- Representative DeWine has requested feedback from several agencies, including Ohio EPA, on a bill to the Ohio legislature to standardize the definitions of “geology”, “practice of geology” and “geologist”, as used throughout the Revised Code. [Mike distributed copies of the bill] SCCGW members can forward their thoughts on this bill to Tom Allen.

- The Ohio Water Resources Council will discuss education and outreach at the March 7th meeting. Watersheds are on the agenda for May 2nd.

- The Water Management Association of Ohio and ODNR's Watershed Coordination Group are sponsoring a special conference on watersheds on June 3-4.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, John Kessler announced:

- No ground water projects were approved for 319 funding for this year.

- The Request for Proposal for 2004 319 projects will be issued soon.

PRESENTATION

Paul DeArman gave a presentation on the conservation provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill, which he described as the most environmentally-friendly Farm Bill ever. Although the Farm Bill is supposed to be revisited every five years, the previous bill was passed in 1996. The conservation programs authorized or re-authorized in the 2002 bill include:

- Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program (CPGL);
- the Conservation Security Program, which provides private landowners with financial and technical assistance to conserve, protect, and improve their natural resources;
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which provides help to install or implement conservation practices on agricultural land;
- Farmland Protection Program, which helps farmers keep their land in agriculture;
- National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation, which promotes innovative solutions to natural resource problems;
- Resource Conservation and Development Program, which encourages civic leaders to plan and carry out projects designed to improve quality of life through natural resources management;
- Wetlands Reserve Program, which provides incentives for converting marginal land from agricultural use to wetlands;
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), which provides incentives to landowners to develop upland, wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

Information about these programs and the 2002 Farm Bill is available at:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002>

MARCH 20, 2003 SCCGW MEETING

The meeting will be held at the ODNR Repository Building, Horace R. Collins Conference Room in Delaware, Ohio from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. The meeting will consist of agency updates and announcements and a presentation on public water system security by Craig Smith, DDAGW, Ohio EPA.

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- 8:30 - 8:35 **CALL TO ORDER**
 - Introductions
- 8:35 - 8:40 **FEBRUARY DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**
- 8:40 - 10:15 **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 -Legislation/Rules/Policies
 -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires
 -Miscellaneous
- 10:15 - 10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:30 - 11:25 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
 (Presentation on Public Water System Security by Craig Smith,
 Ohio EPA, postponed due to meeting with OEMA)
- 11:25 - 11:30 **AGENDA for April**
- 11:30 **ADJOURN**