

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
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
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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

November 17, 2005

Horace R. Collins Conference Room
ODNR Repository, Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The November 2005 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Linda Slattery (OEPA) titled "Volatile Organic Compounds in Ohio's Ground Water: Relationship between Land Use and Sensitive Aquifers"

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Bob Knipmeyer, Linda Slattery
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Ted Lozier, Chris Kasselmann
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODA: Bill Goodman
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Jeff deRoche
NRCS: John Armentano

REVISIONS of SEPTEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

--In the USGS summary: a paragraph was repeated. [*The second of the two repeated paragraphs will be deleted before issuing the summary as final-BL*]

--On the last page: the date for the December SCCGW meeting has been changed from December 15th to December 12th, and attendees are encouraged to arrive at 8:00 instead of 8:30 am, for coffee and pastry. The meeting will be held at the Dutch Kitchen in Plain City.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio EPA, Directors Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:

- OEPA's Central District Office is moving on December 5th to the Lazarus Government Building, where Central Office is located. [Jeff DeRoche suggested that, to avoid confusion, Central Office should be referred to as "Headquarters".]

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Bill Goodman announced:

- The Emerald Ash Borer is expanding its presence in Ohio, especially along freeways. It is believed that the pest resides in firewood that is being circulated around the state. ODA's tree cutting project will probably be halted soon, as it seems unlikely to contain the pest.

- ODA believes the U.S. may be able to avoid outbreaks of the avian flu that is wreaking havoc in Asia, because chickens are handled differently in this country. In Asia, birds are often uncontained and may live in the house alongside people.

- The ODH and OEPA labs are still on schedule to be completed in 2006.

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

- The Division of Water moved to Building B on October 25th.

- The Division is encountering some problems with the well log system connection.

- The online filing project is up and running. Approximately 300 well logs have been entered by drillers so far. Formation types are available as pull-down menus.

- The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) workgroup for water resource monitoring is looking at establishing a water resource monitoring council, and coordinating a project with the Miami Conservancy District to develop a comprehensive study for all types of monitoring and facilitate collaboration in the Great Miami watershed. A charter for this project is being drafted. The workgroup will meet next Tuesday to discuss OWRC's water quality strategic objectives.

- Division of Water staff have been meeting with Representative Carmichael, Senator Amstutz, and others from state and local agencies to discuss the latest draft of proposed ground water permitting legislation. A final draft will be presented at a meeting on December 1.

- The Great Lakes Charter Annex is under review by Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces. If all agree, it should be signed in Milwaukee on December 12th or 13th.

- The NRCS is drafting a plan to implement projects in the Maumee basin using funds provided to NRCS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through Representative Marcy Kaptur for water resource management in the Maumee Basin. One idea includes partnering with USGS to do a water balance study. [Tom Allen commented that about half a dozen communities in Williams County are collaborating on a water resource protection plan that focuses on agricultural issues and includes the development of a petition for federal sole source aquifer designation.]

- The Division of Water is working with USGS to evaluate the Ohio River Basin-Lake Erie Basin watershed boundary line.

- The water withdrawal database is being revamped. Any entity pumping more than

100,000 gallons per day is required to register. Currently there are 2,300 registered, of which 1,800 are actively pumping.

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

- ODH has reorganized to better address the issues of bioterrorism and avian flu. Will McQue is the acting chief of a new Bureau of Preparedness. Pandemic Flu Preparedness is headed up by Steve Wagner.

- The Sewage Rules (ORC 3701-29) were posted on the Web this week and sent to all SCCGW members electronically. There will be five public information meetings held throughout the state over the next few weeks. The comment period runs through December 16th. ODH is aware of a lot of opposition to the rules.

- The Bureau expects to begin working on revising residential water well rules in January, 2006.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Chris Kassermann announced:

- New hires: Jay Dorsey, a storm water engineer, and Jan Voelker, watershed coordinator overseeing the watershed coordinator program.

- DSWC staff are working on implementing recent recommendations of the Silvicultural Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee. The division will be working to improve silvicultural assistance efforts to landowners and loggers as follows: establish consistent protocol for response to complaints, increase education and training for district staff to equip them to enhance education for landowners, and improve BMP installation and maintenance. These efforts will be conducted, where appropriate, in conjunction with other involved entities such as ODNR's Division of Forestry and OSU Extension.

- The department has a new initiative to address drainage problems caused by issues such as aging infrastructure. The program will assess the current status, determine Best Management Practices, and provide information and guidance to land owners. The ultimate goal is to improve and expand implementation of BMPs to improve water quality.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- The NRCS financial center is moving back into its offices in New Orleans.

- The 2006 Conservation Security Program payments for FFY04-05 contracts will be available as early as the last week of December 2005.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center, Jeff deRoche announced:

-USGS has printed and released the following reports:

- *Preliminary investigations of wastewater-related contaminants near home sewage treatment systems in Ohio*, by D.H. Dumouchelle and D. M. Stoeckel (OFR 2005-1282)
- *Ground-water modeling of pumping effects near regional ground-water divides and river/aquifer systems in the Great Lakes Basin– Results and implications of numerical experiments*, by R.A. Sheets, D. H. Dumouchelle, and D. T. Feinstein (SIR 2005-5141)
- *Arsenic in ground water in selected parts of southwestern Ohio, 2002-03*, by Mary Ann Thomas, Thomas L. Schumann, and Bruce A. Pletsch (SIR 2005-5138).

Paper copies can be obtained by contacting Richard Frehs at 614-430-7719 or rpfrehs@usgs.gov.

-The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has begun the first of a three-phase hydrogeologic study of surface and ground water resources in the Tuscarawas River Basin, the agency announced today. The research was prompted by increases in population and dependence on ground water in the basin, which drains part of 13 counties in eastern Ohio and is an important source of drinking water for the 600,000 people living in the area, including the cities of Akron, Canton, New Philadelphia, and Coshocton. Since 1970, ground-water use has increased from 55 percent to more than 85 percent of the total amount of water supplying the area.

“Results from this basin-wide study will provide policy-makers with the detailed hydrologic information needed to make decisions regarding future land and water uses in the basin,” said Jim Morris, director of the USGS Ohio Water Science Center.

The three phases of the study include: compiling information from existing sources of data; establishing hydrologic data-collection networks, such as water-quality and water-level networks of monitoring and domestic wells and stream water-quality and discharge networks; interpreting the data collected; and publishing the results in a final report.

An important part of this work will be to evaluate the influence of land use on the quantity and quality of water in different hydrologic settings. To do this USGS scientists will examine the movement of water between consolidated rock and the buried-valley aquifer system. USGS will also study interactions between ground water and surface water.”

- Jeff expects to retire in January, 2006.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Utilities Division, Sue Daly announced:

- In October, Sue attended the third annual National Drinking Water Symposium in Colorado. Public education is a hot topic. National Drinking Water week (in May) was heavily promoted. Sue will check into getting a copy of the film “Running Dry” that was produced by the late Senator Paul Simon and depicts people dealing with conflicts over safe drinking water.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen and Linda Slattery announced:

- The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) hosted a well-attended "Water Luncheon" in October, the first in many years. The WMAO board is soliciting topics for future luncheons.
- The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) currently is going through each of the ten-year visions, trying to determine what we can accomplish and measure within the next 2-4 years.
- During the last grant cycle, OWRC's Storm Center project application was not funded by Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund. OWRC will apply for a USEPA grant and also re-apply for the OEEF grant in January.
- SCCGW members need to complete SCCGW priorities for the next biennium. Tom will e-mail out a matrix in the next few weeks for review. He asked members to identify the 2-3 key activities in their programs and fill out the matrix for these activities.
- The Source Water Protection (SWAP) program is still on-track to have all SWAP assessments completed by December 2005.
- Within the next few months the SWAP Program will have a password-protected Web site where registered users can access SWAP reports. The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) recently began piloting another secure site with an Internet Map Server (IMS). The SWAP program is looking into hooking up with them so users can also visually see where the protection areas are without having to log in to another site.

PRESENTATION

Linda Slattery (OEPA/DDAGW) gave a presentation on "Volatile Organic Compounds in Ohio's Ground Water: Relationship between Land Use and Sensitive Aquifers", which she presented at the Midwest Ground Water Conference on November 2nd.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

The SCCGW Holiday Meeting is scheduled for December 12th – a Monday -- starting at 8:00 am at the Dutch Kitchen in Plain City.

Wayne Jones (ODNR/DOW) is scheduled to provide a presentation on the Mad River watershed nitrate problem, and Kristy Hunt (OEPA/DDAGW) will provide an update on the SWEET Program.

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December 12, 2005
The Dutch Kitchen
Plain City, Ohio

8:00 - 8:30 WELCOME (donuts and coffee provided)

8:30 - 8:35 CALL TO ORDER
- Introductions

8:35 - 8:40 REVISIONS TO NOVEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

8:40 - 10:00 AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

10:00 - 10:10 BREAK

10:10 - 11:00 PRESENTATION
Wayne Jones will give a presentation on nitrate impacts in the Mad River watershed

11:00 - 11:25 PRESENTATION
Kristy Hunt will give an update on the SWEET Project

11:25 - 11:30 JANUARY MEETING AGENDA

11:30 ADJOURN