

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

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Ohio Department of Commerce-SFM
8895 East Main Street
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Ohio Public Utilities Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399

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

April 17, 2008
Horace Collins Conference Room
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The April 2008 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements, a presentation by Scott Sutliff (Ohio EPA) on Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Landfills, and a presentation of Channel 11's "Eco-Track".

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen, Barb Lubberger
ODNR: Ted Lozier, Mac Swinford
ODA: Bill Goodman
ODOT: Andrea Stevenson
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Ralph Haefner
OSU Ext.: Cindy Folck

Ecotrack-11. The Stormcenter/Envirocast program has launched on WTOL Channel 11 in Toledo as "Ecotrack-11". Let Tom Allen know if you have information for the Web site or news/weathercast messages.

Children's Water Festival. As part of Drinking Water Week 2008, Ohio EPA/DDAGW is beginning a water festival tradition in Central Ohio. An event planned for May 5th is the first annual Central Ohio Children's Water Festival that provides educational, interactive displays targeted towards 4th and 5th graders from Central Ohio schools. The focus is to educate children about all aspects of drinking water and its relationship to numerous other resources, including ground water, surface water, wetlands, wildlife and more.

SCCGW Projects. SCCGW needs to plan for addressing several projects and should discuss additional projects. For example:

- It may be time to update the technical manuals that were created by SCCGW workgroups 8-12 years ago: *Technical Guidance for Sealing*

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCCGW Chairman:

Balanced Growth. The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) is monitoring the progress of four "Balanced Growth" pilot projects in northern Ohio that are being conducted in conjunction with the Lake Erie Commission.

WMAO Fall Conference. The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) will present its 2008 fall conference on November 12-13. (Call for papers will soon go out.)

MORPC Conference. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will present its "Sustainability Conference" on September 11-13.

Unused Wells (1996) and Technical Guidance for Well Construction and Ground Water Protection (2000).

- SCCGW continues to address two high-priority OWRC action items: obtaining more information on ground water-surface water interaction and evaluating data associated with the Ohio EPA-DDAGW ground water impacts database. See <http://www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/15378/default.aspx>
- Ensuring sustainable yield for all ground water users is an issue that is certain to become more critical in the next decade, especially with the high profile of the Great Lakes Compact and mounting concerns over climate change. Currently the state of Ohio has no ability to prevent excessive drawdown of its aquifers. ODNR has authority mainly to investigate complaints and—when culpability is established for the excessive drawdown—require restitution to the injured parties. Past efforts to put more teeth into Ohio’s ground water law have run up against private property rights.

However, the Great Lakes Compact will require Ohio to develop a water withdrawal permit program within ten years of the date the Compact is passed by Congress. Since the Compact has not yet been ratified by many of the Great Lakes states—including Ohio—this deadline cannot be predicted with any certainty.

In the meantime, SCCGW could coordinate efforts to ensure Ohio has an adequate ground water monitoring system to monitor the aquifers, and possibly conduct a pilot project on predicting sustainable yield for a highly-stressed aquifer.

Ohio Department of Agriculture:

Emerald ash borer. All of northwest Ohio is under a firewood-transport quarantine down to Route 70.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

New Commissioner. Commissioner Don Mason’s term ended in March. He has been replaced by Cheryl Roberto, former Director of Utilities in Columbus.

National Drinking Water Week. The week of May 4th is National Drinking Water Week. PUCO will hold a water festival on Thursday, May 8th. Planned activities include presenting the video “Running Dry”, use of Enviroscape, and introducing PUCO employees to a “Water Footprint” website: www.h2oconserve.org/home.php?pd=index.

Ohio State University Extension Service:
Retirement. Steve Baertsche, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources, recently retired.

Reorganization. Several programs are being reviewed for possible reorganization, including the Entomology Department.

Mosquito Training. OSU Extension currently is preparing training for this summer’s mosquito spraying.

Ohio Department of Transportation:

Projects. ODOT continues to work on preserving the existing infrastructure while continuing to study transportation solutions on a few of the bigger projects across the state such as the Cleveland Innerbelt, 70/71 Split and Brent Spence Bridge.

Climate Change. DOTs across the country are starting to look at the issue of global warming more closely. Studies and research are being considered to aid DOTs in understanding how global warming should be considered in planning transportation programs and projects.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water:

Monitoring Needs. The OWRC’s water resources monitoring workgroup will be focusing on ground water monitoring and identifying ground water withdrawal stress areas.

Ground Water “Flooding”. Emergency Management Agencies in northwest Ohio met on Tuesday to discuss the region’s problem of flooded basements, apparently due to the high water table. In Bellevue (Seneca County), a “flowing sinkhole” was reported.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:

Map Projects. The division currently is busy with:

- Updating underground mine maps, rescanning them at 400 dpi.
- With USGS, conducting glacial mapping in 3D
- Finishing the coastal erosion mapping

Carbon Sequestration. The DOE will soon be issuing a grant for the Midwest Carbon Sequestration Project. Phase I involves mapping the stratigraphy, Phase II is a small-scale pilot and Phase III is a large-scale pilot. One potential client for this technology is an ethanol plant in Greenville, which wants to sequester its carbon dioxide in the Mt. Simon sandstone at 3200 feet below ground surface.

Lake Erie Office. ODNR's Lake Erie Office in Sandusky has been closed and the records to Collins Repository at Alum Creek State Park.

OGS Warehouse. The Data Preservation Act provides federal funding to upgrade storage facilities for rock cores, such as OGS' 16,000-square-foot warehouse at Alum Creek. This is an invaluable resource; only 30 of the 50 states have a storage facility like this.

License Plates. The division has initiated a petition to the State Legislature for an OGS license plate ("Ohio ROCKS!"), with funds to be used for graduate-level research in Ohio geology. A thousand valid signatures are required.

United States Geological Survey:

Review. USGS-Ohio is conducting a five-year strategic review to determine how best to serve Ohio's needs.

Pharmaceuticals. Although the national press has recently presented detections of pharmaceuticals in surface water as a new and shocking discovery, they were first discovered in surface water over 30 years ago, in 1975. In Ohio they were found in Tinkers Creek and in the City of Columbus' treated drinking water. There is a need to educate the public about these compounds.

Hellbranch Run. A final report has been completed on this study of ground water-surface water interaction. The report is currently in review and should be published in a couple months.

Arsenic Study. A study of arsenic in the Great Miami River aquifer will also be published soon.

MODFLOW Update. USGS recently released a new version of MODFLOW called GSFLOW, which handles both surface water and ground water flow.

GW Model for City of Columbus. USGS is developing a ground water flow model for the City of Columbus, which is concerned about the impacts of a limestone mining operation on the city's drinking water quality. Elevated levels of total dissolved solids and iron have been attributed to this operation.

Beach Contamination. USGS also is seeking internal funding to expand a project on modeling microbial contamination of beaches.

PRESENTATIONS

Scott Sutliff gave a presentation on Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Landfills.

Tom Allen presented a video clip of Toledo's WTOL Channel Eleven "Eco-Track" environmental news pieces.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

The next meeting will be held June 19th, 2008, at the Horace Collins Classroom, 8:30-11:30 am.

REMINDER: Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries will be posted on the SCCGW Web site: www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.html