

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

**To promote and guide the implementation of a coordinated, comprehensive and effective ground water protection and management program for the state of Ohio**

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  
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

**December 21, 2012  
Dutch Kitchen, Plain City**

*The December 21, 2012 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation on the Timken Dewatering Project in Canton, Ohio, by Curtis Coe, ODNR, DSWR*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Ohio EPA: Michael Eggert, Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Aaron Shear  
ODNR: Frank Fugitt, Ted Lozier, Jim Raab,  
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt  
ODOT: Hans Gucker, Rebecca Humphreys  
NRCS: John Armentano  
USGS: Ralph Haefner  
SFM: Charlie Zepp  
Presenter: Curtis Coe

## **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Natural Resources Conservation Service:***

**Farm Bill.** Congress has not yet passed the Farm Bill, which came up for reauthorization in 2012. As a result, NRCS currently cannot take new applications for the various conservation reserve programs. However, EQIP and some other programs are still being funded.

### ***Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:***

**Recommendations for Salt Storage - Guidance for Protecting Ohio's Water Resources.** The draft guidance on environmentally protective siting and management of salt storage facilities is available on the Ohio Water Resources Council's (OWRC) website, along with a one-page fact sheet (see <http://www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/15378/default.aspx>). The OWRC is expected to review this guidance for approval in February.

**Ground Water Quality Fact Sheets.** The fact sheet on the distribution of radionuclides in Ohio's ground waters has been sent out for comments within DDAGW and to SCCGW members, which are due on January 11, 2013.

**Ohio Nutrient Forum Visioning Workshop.** In November, DDAGW staff presented an overview of nutrient (nitrate) impacts on Ohio's public water systems using ground water.

**Public Information on Private Water Wells.** A document titled "How Well Do You Know Your Water Well?" will be published soon, for use by domestic well owners in Ohio. Developed by a private consultant, the guide is intended to

help well owners understand water quality analyses of their well water. The Ohio fact sheet was based on information provided by ODH, ODNR and ODH.

Class V Well Database. An Excel spreadsheet for Class V wells (e.g. storm water drainage wells) is now available on the Ohio EPA website.

Proposed Aggregate Mine. A quarry for removing sand and gravel has been proposed near the source water protection area for the Village of Bolivar in Tuscarawas County. Some local public opposition has been voiced, based on concerns regarding impacts on ground water quality.

Water Well Rule 5 Year Review. In January the division will begin a comprehensive review of its water well rules. Craig Smith is leading the workgroup.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:***

Mapping Progress. 3D mapping continues on the Adrian and Bellefontaine 100K quads. Mapping of karst in the Bellevue area is in process under the Coalition Grant, as well as mapping of shore bluffs near Ashtabula.

Geothermal Grant. The Survey recently completed the second phase of its Geothermal Grant.

CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration. The division is looking at grant opportunities for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, but currently they do not look promising.

Siting UIC Class II Wells. The moratorium has been lifted on siting new wells for the injection of oil and gas industry wastes.

Propane Storage. The division has been asked to provide maps of underground propane storage caverns in Butler County, which recently caused fires at auguring rigs putting in pilings for a new building at AK Steel. ODNR has information on five mapped caverns that are 300 feet deep, but the original owners apparently moved on and cannot be located. It is also unclear who should be the regulating agency.

***Ohio Department of Health:***

Sewage Rules Drafted. As authorized by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3718, a rule advisory committee has completed draft rules for the siting, design, installation, operation, maintenance and abandonment of sewage treatment systems. The rules have been posted to ODH's website, and comments will be accepted through February 8, 2013. A second draft will be posted in late February for the official 60-day comment period, which will include the Ohio Public Health Advisory Board review, the Common Sense Initiative review, followed by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

Clean Watershed Needs Survey. During 2012, ODH worked with local health districts to identify sewage system failure information, as part of the Clean Watershed Needs Survey conducted every four years by Ohio EPA to meet Congressional reporting requirements. The results of the ODH survey of failure rates and related information is being summarized in a report that will be released in the near future. In 2008, 28% of Ohio's septic systems were listed as failing. The current data indicate 31% are failing. This apparent rise in failure rates may reflect aging infrastructure but also may result from a more consistent method of evaluating 'system failure' across Ohio's 88 counties.

Wastewater Reuse. ODH continues to work with the Cuyahoga County Health District on a pilot project related to wastewater reuse. The department will be convening a panel of national experts to assist with review of the project.

Water Well Contractor Renewals. ODH recently sent out the annual renewal applications for registration of private water system contractors. The registration period for private water systems contractors runs from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.

***Ohio Department of Transportation:***

Ohio Turnpike. A proposal to lease out the Ohio Turnpike has been rescinded.

Retirements. ODOT is experiencing a rapid loss of staff through retirements, with few being replaced.

Road Salt Issues. ODOT expects more snow events this winter than last winter. The agency was able to avoid outdoor salt storage last winter by trading salt from overstocked garages to garages with excess capacity. Other efforts include reducing application rates using GPS and preapplying a fluid brine to roads that does not scatter like hard pellets. All research on salt application rates has been extended through this winter season.

Waste Stream Research. A workgroup is evaluating for beneficial use such waste streams as vehicle wash water and street sweeping and sewer wastes.

Nutrient Reduction. ODOT also has research money to develop best management practices for nutrient reduction.

***United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:***

Budget. The center is awaiting budget decisions, projecting cuts if Congress does not agree on a budget in 2012.

Stream Gages. Twenty new stream gages will be installed in 2013.

ODNR Well Network. Upgrades to the ODNR well network are proceeding; out of 124 targeted for upgrades, only 28 wells remain.

Storm Water Project. USGS is working with U.S. EPA and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, evaluating ground water impacts from storm water projects at Slavic Village.

Nitrate Investigation. USGS is also working with the City of Columbus on an investigation of nitrate in ground water in Pickaway County, where Columbus hopes to install a new wellfield. The city conducted a 96-hour aquifer test and measured changes in water levels, temperature, nitrate, and nitrogen-oxygen isotopes (results were not yet available).

Brine Characterization. USGS is trying to develop a project to characterize brine in the Utica Shale.

***New Publications.***

- “Demonstrating Usefulness of Real-Time Monitoring at Streambank Wells Coupled with Active Streamgages—Pilot Studies in Wyoming, Montana, and Mississippi.” Fact Sheet 2012-3054, June 2012.

- “Streamflow Depletion by Wells—Understanding and Managing the Effects of Groundwater Pumping on Streamflow.” Circular 1876.

***Ohio EPA, Division of Materials and Waste Management:***

Shale Drilling Wastes. DMWM has received several inquiries and questions pertaining to the division’s September 18, 2012 Advisory – *Solidification and Disposal Activities Associated with Drilling-Related Wastes at Solid Waste Landfills.* The division continues to collaborate with ODH – Bureau of Radiation Protection and ODNR – Division of Oil and Gas Resource Management to provide answers to these inquiries while also providing further discussion related to management of the various drilling waste streams.

Monitoring Wells and Borings at C&DD Landfills. Using special funds, established by Ohio Revised Code Section 3714.071, the division has installed additional monitoring wells to evaluate ground water quality at a C&DD facility in Hamilton County. Money from the same fund was also used to install several investigative borings at a C&DD facility in Ashland County.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Resources:***

Recycling Technology. The Ohio Water Resources Council recently contracted with Battelle Laboratories to evaluate various technologies for recycling flowback fluids from hydraulic fracturing of Marcellus/Utica shales. A report is due out this Spring.

Grand Lake Saint Mary’s. Last Monday was the deadline for farms in the Grand Lake Saint Marys watershed to turn in nutrient management plans, as required by the 2010 rule for distressed watersheds. Of over 300 facilities, all but 12 (6%) submitted a plan within the deadline.

Dewatering Complaints. The division has recently received two calls regarding private well dewatering that the callers believe may be related to oil and gas industry activities. One site was located in Carroll County, the other in Columbiana County. Additional follow-up information was requested but not provided for the Carroll County location and no additional concerns were received. The Columbiana County location was resolved when precipitation events occurred after the abnormally dry weather.

Retirement. Lenn Black will be retiring from the division at the end of 2012.

**PRESENTATION**

Curtis Coe (ODNR/DSWR) gave a presentation on the Timken Dewatering Project in Canton, Ohio. To create an in-ground mold for fabricating well casing, it was necessary to dewater an area around the plant. Timken hired a consultant to evaluate individual domestic well complaints.

**NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

... will be held at the Assembly Center East at ODNR on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Rebecca Fugitt will present the results of the 2012 needs survey conducted on septic system failures statewide. The group also will discuss updating the SCCGW guidances on well abandonment (published in 2000) and on well sealing (published in 1996).

Dates and locations for SCCGW meetings in 2013 are as follows:

February 21, 2013	ODNR, Assembly Center East
April 18, 2013	ODNR, Assembly Center East
June 20, 2013	ODNR, Assembly Center East
August 15, 2013	ODNR, Assembly Center East
October 17, 2013	ODNR, Assembly Center East
December – TBA	

**REMINDER:**

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries  
are posted on the SCCGW Web site:

<http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>