

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
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 21, 2016
ODNR Fountain Square Campus
Building E, Assembly Center East**

The April 21, 2016 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Michael Slattery, OEPA, on nitrates in ground water.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke, Michael Slattery
ODNR: Jim Raab, Rick Trippel
ODH: Rachel Townsend
PUCO: Sue Daly
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Rob Darner
Visitors: Rick Pavey (ODNR-retired), Andrew Thomas (ODH)

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

Region V SWAP Mgrs Meeting. Ohio EPA will host the 2016 Region V SWAP Managers Meeting at Maumee Bay State Park on October 3-5, 2016. The traditional second-day field trip will be at Stone Lab.

Water Quality Technical Papers. The division is moving forward with making the technical paper and fact sheet for strontium available on the website. Prior to doing so, the documents will be discussed with ODH. The technical paper for Iron and Manganese is currently out for technical review, with comments due by April 29.

Lead Issues. Recently, sampling stimulated by other concerns (high chlorides, for example) has revealed the presence of lead in private water wells, though the levels tend to be very erratic. There is some evidence that it is being contributed by brass in plumbing fixtures.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The Nutrient Reduction Strategy Workgroup had its first meeting on April 15th; the next one is scheduled for June 10th. The group has contacted the University of Heidelberg for permission to view their ground water nitrate data, collected over a 40-year period. Also, Miami Conservancy District staff will be joining the workgroup.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Management:

Permit Requests. Requests for permits are holding steady at approximately six/week, despite the industry slowdown due to low oil prices. Currently eleven rigs are active across the state.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

Ohio Water Resources Council. There has been no further word on the fate of the OWRC, other than that its website will be integrated with the SCCGW website.

Rule Review. Five-year rule review will be initiated in May, 2016.

Commission Updates. Commissioner Asim Haque has been reappointed for another five-year term and Commissioner Porter will continue as chairman.

Lead Issues. PUCO has met with Ohio EPA recently to discuss primary and secondary standards for lead in drinking water.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:

Corrosive Water Study. USGS has completed a study of naturally-corrosive ground and surface waters throughout the United States; it will be published soon.

Office Relocation. The Ohio Water Science Center will move across the parking lot to another building in mid-July. Also, in September they are scheduled to switch databases, so they anticipate some disruption to their activities this summer.

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Staff Changes. The position of Assistant State Conservationist for Special Projects (formerly Michelle Lohstroh, who retired) has been filled by TaTrecia Davis. State Biologist Mark DeBrock recently retired, and the position is in the process of being filled.

Funding Grants. The following Announcements of Program Funding are currently being advertised on Grants.gov:

- National Conservation Innovation Grant Announcement for closed May 10, 2016
- State Conservation Innovation Grant Announcement for Program Funding closes May 1, 2016
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program Announcement for Program Funding Closes May 10, 2016

EQIP Sign-up. NRCS is currently in the middle of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign up and approvals.

WLEB Funds. NRCS has received many special funds for the Western Lake Erie Basin area to treat water quality.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection:

Five-Year Rule Revision. The bureau is preparing revised private water system rules for informal comment. This summer they will be holding meetings around the state to solicit public comments.

Lead Issues. ODH recommends that when a point-of-entry groundwater characterization sample (sample is collected as close to the well as possible and after a flush of sufficient time to ensure that fresh water from the aquifer is being captured) indicates the source water may have lead

near the 15 ug/l action level, as a precautionary measure, the well water should not be consumed until a point-of-consumption first draw sample has been tested to determine if the lead level to which the consumer is being exposed is below the action level. The lead levels can differ significantly between these two sampling points due to potential lead contribution from the plumbing and distribution system, or the potential reduction of lead levels from treatment system(s) installed between the point of entry sample location and the point of consumption. The point-of-consumption sample results represent the true exposure, once those results are available the private well owner is provided any needed recommendations about their water in line with the CDC guidance.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources:
Water Level Complaint. A water-level complaint concerning the pumping of an irrigation well will be investigated in May. The owner of the irrigation well has agreed to allow ODNR to conduct a pumping test, taking measurements in 15 domestic wells.

Flowing Well Study. The division is studying a set of flowing wells along an eight-mile wide band traversing from western Defiance County, through eastern Williams County and into northwestern Fulton County. The report is expected to be out in about a month.

Southern Mercer County Ground Water Concern. Several municipalities in southern Mercer County are concerned about the new proposed water use for WDC Turkey Farm. The cities of St. Henry, Coldwater, and Fort Recovery received an economic development grant to explore possible sites for a new wellfield and the WDC Farm location is real close to where they were looking. The cities and nearby residential well owners are concerned about ground water depletion in the area.

Chesterville Sand/Gravel Expansion. This sand/gravel mining company in Morrow County recently obtained a surface water permit from Ohio EPA but the Division of Mineral Resources has not issued the permit for excavation yet. Over the next twenty years, the company expects to excavate to 50 feet below the current water level, which has concerned nearby residents about potential dewatering of their domestic wells.

Waukesha Diversion. The review period has ended for Waukesha's request to purchase Lake Michigan water, which constitutes a diversion of Great Lakes waters, as defined in the Great Lakes Compact. Voting may take place soon.

PRESENTATION

Michael Slattery (Ohio EPA, DDAGW) gave a presentation titled "Nitrates in Ohio's Ground Water: A Watershed Perspective".

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

... will be held June 16th, 8:30-11:30 am, at ODNR's Assembly Center East, Building E.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

REMINDER:

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW website at <http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/sccgw.aspx>