

# OWRC SACG Meeting

## Minutes

November 19, 2014

9:00 AM

OWDA Offices

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	OWRC SACG Bi-monthly
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Eggert, OEPA -DDAGW</li> <li>• Brian Hall, OEPA-DSW</li> <li>• Marie Barnett, OEPA – DSW</li> <li>• Denise King, ODA</li> <li>• Ashley Ward, EPA-DSW</li> <li>• Dick Bartz, USGS</li> <li>• Linda Weavers, OSU-OWRC</li> <li>• Karl Gebhardt, EPA</li> <li>• Steve Grossman, OWDA</li> <li>• Matt Nisenoff, Ohio League of Conservation Voters</li> </ul>

### AGENDA TOPICS

#### REVIEW LAST MEETING NOTES B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Brian Hall conducted the meeting which started at 9:00 AM; Brian welcomed everyone. There were no comments on the last meeting notes. Light attendance due to WAMO conference.</p> <p>The OWRC website is now hosted by OEPA.</p> <p>SACG meetings next year will be held on the third Thursday of odd months.</p>	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	None.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Send calendar appointments for SACG meetings.	Marie Barnett	12/1/14

#### REVIEW & DISCUSSION OF 2015-19 STRETEGIC ACTION PLAN B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Brian would like to set up a Council meeting for February. The budget needs passed and the MORPC Balanced Growth Plan, Strategic Action Plan and advisory group members need endorsed. SACG members need to meet with their Directors to brief them on the Strategic Action Plan so that comments can be discussed at the January SACG meeting and the Action Plan can be finalized before the February Council meeting.</p> <p>Is it time to revisit Source Water Protection Plans? DDGW has been discussing this. Algae, oil and gas, and spills have garnered a lot of public interest. DDGW partners with cities that have</p>
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surface water areas.

There are many different types of land use plans, such as 208, MS4 and Balanced Growth. They are interconnected, should we pull them together?

What happens after Balanced Growth Plans are endorsed? OWRC helped fund the most recent Balanced Growth activity. There was an agreement that OLEC would take care of BG in Lake Erie watershed and OWRC would take care of BG in Ohio River watershed. OLEC still contracts with Kirby. OWRC had increased membership dues to help pay for ½ FTE to work for the state doing BG, but there has been no movement recently to make that happen. Kirby has developed good tools, but we are not sure how much they are being used. How do we justify spending money on Balanced Growth? Would it be appropriate to have OLEC or OWRC fund a study to look at post Balanced Growth Plan results? We need to encourage planning, but are unsure the best strategy. Karl will talk to Director Butler to obtain guidance. It was pointed out that Delaware City received a loan discount for their participation in the development of the balanced growth plan and that Median County has completed two plans one in the Lake Erie basin and one in the Ohio River basin.

We need to stay focused on water quality goals. For example, we write NPDES permits to improve water quality, not to check a box and get permits out the door.

**CONCLUSIONS**

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Discuss Strategic Action Plan with Directors and compile comments	SACG members	1/2015
Prepare final Plan and Action Items for February Council meeting	Brian	2/2015

**UPDATES**

B. HALL

**OWDA**

- Shared Resources Partnering Group is moving ahead. There is a conference in February in Toledo showing what shared partnership can accomplish. Director Butler is the keynote speaker.
- In lieu fee will hopefully be approved by the Army Corp within a few days. OWDA will act as a bank for the program.
- SRF Programs – the methodology for creating interest rates is changes and interest rates which will likely cause rates to decrease.

**USGS**

- Dick is looking for agenda items for the March 4<sup>th</sup> annual Water Resources Conference which will be held again at ODNR.
- USEPA has money for Ohio to get data into the Water Quality Exchange database which goes into STORET.
- USGS is working with Ohio EPA in monitoring subwatersheds in the Maumee. This is part of a larger grant awarded by the USEPA to Ohio. The state received \$8.4 million award.

\$1.5 million will go towards monitoring. The stations will monitor nutrients and sediment load and composition.

**OSU, Water Resources Center**

- OWRC received 22 proposals. Ratio of matching dollars was lowered from 2:1 to 1:1.
- OSU applied to National Science Foundation for a \$25 million grant to build a science and technology center. If awarded the center would work with partners looking at system based watersheds and the collection of citizen science data.

**OEPA, Drinking and Ground Waters**

- Mike Eggert is retiring. Happy wishes, Mike!
- The State Coordinating Group on Ground Water will be submitting a revised well sealing and abandonment document to the SACG with the ultimate goal of having it approved by the Council. Jim Raab could do a presentation for the SACG at the January meeting.
- IPR comment period ended recently for two rule packages: Water Well Standards and Plan Approval and Laboratory Certification Rules and Manuals. Quite a few comments were received from operators and consultants.

**ODA**

- Classes for landowners on how to apply fertilizers have been well attended. They are on track to meet the goal of having 70% of appliers who apply on more than 50 acres attend the classes and obtain certification.
- HB 490 is being rewritten.

**OEPA, Division of Surface Water**

- Waters of the US letter has gone out. Overall Ohio approves of the concept but provided some constructive criticism on proposed rule. The comment letter was coordinated with ODOT, ODNR and OEPA.
- There has been significant activity on HB 490. There is a request for OEPA to provide annual nutrient loading reports. OEPA is working on language; it could be problematic because OEPA doesn't have the resources to provide annual nutrient loading reports.
- The nutrient advisory group is continuing to develop nutrient criteria. The focus will be moving on how to implement the recommendations.

**Healthy Water Ohio**

- Moving forward with public hearings. Brian will send out a link.

**CONCLUSIONS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

Send out Healthy Water Ohio link

Brian Hall

12/2014