

OWRC SACG Meeting

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2017

9:00 AM

OWDA

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Hall, OEPA - DSW
TYPE OF MEETING	OWRC/SACG Quarterly
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Hall, OEPA –DSW • Kevin Fowler, OEPA – DSW • Steve Grossman, OWDA • Zuzanna Bohrerova, OSU • Sue Daly, PUCO • Pejmaan Fallah, OEPA – DEFA • Keith Banachowski, USGS • Greg Nageotte, ODA • Rebecca Fugitt, ODH • Charles and Lincoln USDA Rural Development • Annie Baas,PUCO
	Next meeting November 16, 2016

Agenda topics

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	Brian Hall conducted the meeting, which started at 9:00 AM. Brian welcomed everyone and asked for any changes to the November meeting notes. There were none.
CONCLUSIONS	None.

UPDATE ON SUNSETTING THE OWRC

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Senate Bill 414 passed in December and included the sunseting of the OWRC. The future of the SACG needs to be discussed. Director Butler has no problem with the group continuing. What will it look like going forward? We need to review where we are with the strategic plan.</p> <p>Will there be a financial reporting of funds? Yes, and Brian will get that for everyone. Funds went back to the General Revenue Fund and were retroactive to the beginning of FY17.</p> <p>The only obstacle going forward may be money. Then the group can be creative. A great example of that is the Small Community Infrastructure Group. They were able to continue to do work. The SACG can still get done what it needs to.</p> <p>The group is good to get together and network.</p> <p>At a minimum it allows to establish contacts and have rapport. Is the State Coordinating Ground Water Committee going to be separate? It was never under OWRC but parallel to it.</p> <p>What may be lost is communication up and down to the Directors of the agencies. We could still go to the Directors when needed.</p>
-------------------	---

Do we need framework? In transition who picks up the duties? We do not need structure to get together and have dialogue. It is important to reach out to replacements when people retire. Eventually people will know they should be involved in the group. If there is a gap, bring them in to the fold.

Should go back to bylaws. Should we develop a statement of purpose? Have a purpose for the meetings? Have goals? A goal should be to increase participation by making people want to get involved and making it easier to get involved. Participants should be able to phone in to meetings.

The group originally started out as a task force before it evolved and was put in statute. Crosses some of what WMAO does. It could be put under WMAO.

The group should review the strategic plan and adjust as necessary with change of sunseting. The purpose of the strategic plan is to find overlap and collaborate. That is also where the value of the group is. The plan allowed the group to find gaps in coordinating as well. The strategic plan should be retained but reviewed and tweaked as it is the foundation of the group.

It might be smart to still get backing from Directors to participate in the group.

Do we include Public Advisory group members in this? Environmental groups? County commissioners? Keep including Federal Agencies, Universities. EMA should be included.

Identify benefits and value, present as a new group, set strategic plan and policy, and have a separate purpose from WMAO.

What should the name be? SAGC doesn't say anything about water. Keep OWRC? Use OWRCC-Ohio Water Resources Coordinating Committee?

There is no charge for the website and it is still up. The group will continue to use the website until we are told otherwise.

Purpose statement for the group? Change wording in by-laws to remove set policies and add local, state, federal agencies and academia. Add the sunset date to the preamble. Brian will send out the document for comments.

How to frame the benefit to State for coordination?

- No duplication of effort
- Maximizing being efficient with resources
- Protection of public health and the environment
- Provides a forum and ability to resolve any issues or concerns
- Wise and efficient spending of State resources
- Communicate and share information and regulatory changes
- Changes in policy, focus and funding availability
- Support funding of other's proposals

Get DERR involved. Provide a list of stakeholders and reach out from time to time to let them know what is going on.

Meetings will still be held quarterly. The next meeting is May 10th.

CONCLUSIONS

Keep strategic plan but revise it for the new group. Include State and Federal Agencies as well as Universities in the group. Make an effort to increase participation. Name the group Ohio Water Resources Coordinating Committee. Use the current website.

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p><u>OWDA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCEEG – effort to encourage partnering between large communities and smaller communities. Had a successful conference a couple of years ago, but lost momentum. Had a good meeting in January and came up with an action plan. 4 committees were formed out of that meeting to define target communities, educate, advocate and develop incentives. The group will meet again March 6th. <p><u>USGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The move to the new location at 6460 Busch Blvd is complete. • Dick Bartz and Jim Morris are now retired. • There is a new acting director for 90 days. • There is a lot of concern about the federal budget. USGS is in good shape but could be impacted by other federal agencies. <p><u>DEFA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guide has been developed for special event planners to minimize waste generation. It is a simple document that brings information together and references Keep Ohio Beautiful, which provides free materials such as recycling boxes. • Joseph Klatt has developed a platform called the Ohio Materials Market Place. It is an exchange for waste materials. Austin, Texas currently has a similar platform and Tennessee is also working on one. It may be good to have Joseph come in to present at a future OWRC meeting. • Youngstown was nominated and received an award from the Resiliency Financing Network. They were one of only ten communities nationwide to receive the award. The money will go to the University of New Mexico. Ohio has a lot of communities struggling with declining population and infrastructure. • There is \$11 million in funding available for replacement of failing HSTS systems in the Lake Erie basin. <p><u>PUCO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman Porter left and Commissioner Haque was appointed Chairman. • Max Herzog is doing a presentation at the State Coordinating Committee on Ground Water meeting February 22 on Aqua Hacking. The meeting will take place at the ODNR Assembly Center. <p><u>ODH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Water System Rules went up yesterday for a 30-day public comment period. • Sent out a survey for sampling HSTS systems. The report will show how systems are working. • US EPA has given guidance on HAB recreation standards. Comments for state agencies should be done today. • ODH has received an award from CDC that will pay for an employee for 2 years to look at the relationship between failing HSTS systems and disease. • Received a grant to survey local health districts for legionella disease. • <p><u>ODA</u></p>
--------------------------	--

- There is an Ohio Federation of Soil Conservation Districts meeting coming up.
- Agriculture Pollution Abatement rules are going through the process. They are proposing fines for violators. The rules should be finalized by the end of the year.
- Created a non-point source implementation strategy for watershed planning that contains 9 key elements. It focused on specific causes.

OSU

- Just finished a RFP for beginning scientists and had 26 applications. Hope to be able to hire 7 for algae, nutrients, water and energy. Still waiting because the program is funded by federal dollars.
- A lot of Universities are hiring new researchers.

DSW

- In even number years DSW provides a Water Quality Integrated Report. It was sent to the US EPA in September. Due to concerns about Ohio not listing the open waters of Lake Erie as impaired, US EPA has not approved the report. US EPA has been sued for not responding within the required 30 days.
- Legislation passed 2 years ago, requiring a nutrient mass balance study. The study was posted on the Ohio EPA website on December 31. It contains data on 65% of the watersheds in Ohio. The study only reports data and does not draw conclusions.
- Recommendations for the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 4 were made 2 years ago, Ohio, Ontario, and Michigan came up with a plan. The goal is a 40% reduction in phosphorus to the western basin by 2025.
- We now have approval to request people to complete electronic applications online for DSW General Permits.
- HSTS Wave 1 renewal letters have been sent out for Summit and Stark counties. Wave 2 will include Cuyahoga, Trumbull, and Hamilton counties. In total 12,000 renewals, will be required. There is no fee for the renewal.