

OWRC SACG Meeting

NOTES

MAY 10, 2017

9:00 AM

OWDA

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Hall, OEPA - DSW
TYPE OF MEETING	OWRC/SACG Bi-monthly
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian Hall, OEPA –DSW• Emily DeLay, OEPA – DSW• Lincoln Stanley, USDA• Alauddin Alauddin, OEPA – DEFA• Pejmann Fallah, OEPA – DEFA• Joseph Klatt, OEPA – DEFA• Mike Hallfrisch, ODNR• Zuzanna Bohrerova, OSU• Greg Nageotte, ODA• Kim Schaffer, USGS• Steve Grossman, OWDA• Sue Daly, PUCO
	Next meeting will be rescheduled for August 17, 2017

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 comments on the previous meeting's notes. There were no comments
CONCLUSIONS	None.

DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE DIRECTION

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Considered migrating from Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) to Ohio Water Resources Coordinating Committee (OWRCC), but settled on Ohio Water Resources Committee (OWRC) to keep the same acronym.</p> <p>The OWRC Fund (Fund 4x80) was abolished on March 23, 2017. The remaining balance was transferred out of the account. Notable expenditures include Battelle for wastewater management from fracking, and funds from FY 2013, 2014 and 2015 went to SUNY for HAB sampling of fish at Grand Lake St. Mary's.</p> <p>Should we incorporate universities and other agencies into our list of OWRC members? Could reach out to other state agencies that aren't at the meetings, but should be.</p> <p>Sue agreed to look through the bylaws, and Brian is working on updating the website.</p> <p>The August meeting of OWRC will be moved from August 9th to August 17th, depending on the schedules of the members.</p>
CONCLUSIONS	The August SACG meeting will remain on the schedule, but pushed back.

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Joseph Klatt gave an in-depth presentation about the development and implementation of the Ohio Materials Marketplace. OMM promotes a circular economy in which items can be reused, remanufactured, maintained, or recycled to keep materials flowing in the economy.</p> <p>This platform is free for Ohio businesses and organizations, but is member based, meaning that people need to sign up to have access. The information provided by participants helps OEPA track the type of usage and the economic benefits of this program. Ohio is the first state to be actively involved and “pull the strings” in a materials marketplace.</p> <p>The software is based on the collaboration of companies, transporters, consultants, SWMDs, etc. where users can post wanted materials or materials that need to go. This platform launched one month ago, at the state of the state event and so far, 210 companies are participating, there are 275 active users, and 55 materials have been posted.</p>
<p>CONCLUSIONS</p>	<p>We are encouraged to sign up for the DEFA listserv where monthly email blasts are sent out with fact sheets and more. There will also be newsletters for programs and initiatives.</p>

SACG MEMBERS

PROGRAM UPDATE AND OTHER BUSINESS

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p><u>PUCO</u></p> <p>New Additions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is now a full complement of commissioners. Friedman and Conway are new additions, and Howard joined as chief analyst. <p>Children’s Water Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PUCO participated in the 6th Annual Children’s Water Festival on May 9th, 2017 at Franklin Park Conservatory. • The festival features hands on activities and games to make material more learnable to middle school children. <p>New Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New legislation will be introduced on how to value municipalities. • People have been receiving a substandard quality of service, and this legislation will benefit Ohio’s constituents. <p><u>ODNR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with USGS and Heidelberg University to renew contracts for monitoring Grand Lake St. Mary’s which ends in June. This funding will be for the next biennial budget. <p><u>OWDA</u></p> <p>SCEIG Partnering Workgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure group subcommittee is developing an action plan. The finance committee had a meeting a few weeks ago. 5 counties came, 4 of which had serious projects in work. Had a couple concept ideas and one beginning stage. • Harrison County is looking to merge several communities. 4 or 5 communities from the County are coming together to work with RCAPP on ideas they need help with.
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- Steve had a conversation with Tony from AQUA Ohio. They are interested in the Partnering Workgroup and plan to attend future SECIG meetings. AQUA traded plants in New York several years ago, with American Water for plants in Ohio.
- Lastly, Steve will be retiring at the end of 2017.

ODA

- There are still a few watershed grants being renewed.
- Ending 3 coordinators in western basin in June.
- Plan on putting out a small RFP later this year.

Coastal NP Program

- Based on healthy living practices.
- On the checklist of how we are doing in Ohio, we have been approved for all but 5 items: Urban onsite disposal systems (coordinating with ODH), new urban development (coordinating with OEPA and storm water), urban HW maintenance (coordinating with OEPA and ODOT), runoff systems (coordinating with ODOT) and hydro modification with dams (coordinating with DNR).
- Coastal office at DNR is answering questions.
- Have conditional approval for 5, but not final. If not approved, could lose 30% of 319 funding and 30% of NOAA funding.
- This program is only for coastal watersheds, and half of coastal states do not meet these checklist standards.
- Working with Rick Wilson (OEPA – DSW) on 9-element plan watershed approvals. Several are at U.S. EPA for approval, and 4 have been fully approved by U.S. EPA already.

OSU

- Met with advisory board to develop a strategy for federal budget cuts and to finalize a plan.
- Can continue with projects for now because the federal budget was extended until October.

OEPA – DEFA

Package Plant Initiative

- Organizing the last series of workshops in the districts, this time focusing on NEDO which has the largest number of plants out of compliance.
- Looking for plants that have been out of compliance for the last year or so and inviting them to workshops where free tools and manuals are offered to the participants.
- Started in NWDO in 2015 and have been making way around the state in each district.
- Idea was proposed to OWDA for funding. Grant allows people to get training and free materials to use at their plant. The grant also allows for the establishment of a library of tools that people can borrow.
- Workshops will take place in the Northeast District on June 7th and 13th.

Zero Waste Guidance

- Special event promoting Keep Ohio Beautiful
- Received a grant to distribute free recycling bins at the event.

Sustainability Conference

- On October 3rd OEPA will be hosting the first sustainability conference.
- The goal is to have an equal number of businesses and municipalities in attendance, and to get the public and private sectors communicating.
- The event will host mostly local and small businesses, and will focus on a multipronged approach to sustainability.

USGS

- WMAO conference will be held at the Columbus Crown Plaza on November 1st and 2nd. Abstracts are due July 1st. This year has a partnerships theme.
- Next year will be partnering with National Lake Management for conference in Cincinnati.
- Ralph Hefner is currently the watershed science center director, but unsure about when there will be a new one.
- USGS budget passed for working for 2018.

Water use compilation – 2015

- The water use compilation is a snapshot taken every 5 years of the data collected for water usage.
- Huge drop in thermoelectric power plant withdrawals.
- 2015 was a wet year, therefore more irrigation. So although a lots of fracking taking place, not a lot of water use. The national team is working on a report.

Stream Stats – NE Ohio

- Updating stream gauges on western Lake Erie basin sites.
- Started sampling in March.
- 13 new with temperature and conductivity in the Muskingum watershed.

USDA

- USDA got funding for 15-30 days. Have a lot of projects waiting.
- Doing well, currently 98% sustainable, delinquency of 0.23%.
- New intake system goal of 50% of applicant, Ohio is at 91%.
- Mostly staffed. No new state director, but currently have about 16 state-wide staff in 5 different offices.

OEPA – DSW

TMDLs

- 2015 supreme court decision mandated that all TMDLs must now go through the rulemaking process. This was based on a Fairfield Co. lawsuit, and the Agency has not had any TMDLs approved since the court decision.
- Currently working on a legislation fix to approve TMDLs as an action of the Director, which we are optimistic about this being part of the biennium budget.
- A certain number of TMDLs were required to be completed over time. This stems from a lawsuit from the 90s and there are concerns that a new lawsuit could appear if this isn't passed soon.

Integrated Report

- The Integrated Water Quality Report is completed every 2 years by DSW. This includes our 303(d) listings and our 305(b) listings.
- 303(d) listings state which bodies of water are impaired or not, and if they are impaired then we have to complete a TMDL for that water body.
- 305(b) listing is a compilation of all state water resources.
- The Agency submits this report in April of the even numbered years, but our 2016 report has not been approved by U.S. EPA, and they are being sued.

- The open waters of Lake Erie were not declared “impaired”, however Lake Erie beaches, drinking water intake and aquatic life were listed as “impaired”.
- Currently going back and forth with U.S. EPA and actively working with Sea grants and University of Toledo for a way to evaluate the open waters of Lake Erie.

401 Dredging/Filling

- The Rover Pipeline is a project running from West Virginia to Michigan. The company installing this pipeline will be hydraulically drilling under environmentally sensitive areas, but they do not seem to have much regard for the environmental impacts.
- The company has had numerous inadvertent returns, and Ohio EPA has sent out draft orders asking for penalties in the range of \$500k.

401/404 Cert and Dredging

- The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is certified for dredging of the Lake Erie Harbors, which they dredge on an annual basis.
- We are currently fighting the ACOE about the Cuyahoga River. The ACOE says that the sediment is clean enough to dispose of in Lake Erie instead of a Confined Disposal Facility site. Where disposal is more expensive and has limited space.
- Ohio EPA disagrees, and filed a lawsuit in 2015 about this. The court recently ruled in OEPA's favor, saying that the ACOE must follow our 401 certification.
- We also have lawsuits for 2016 and considering one for the 2017/2018 activities.