

OWRC By-Laws

1. **Authority** – The Ohio Water Resources Committee (OWRC) is the product of an initiative begun in 1990's, and was originally formed as a recommendation of Governor Voinovich's Blue-Ribbon Task Force.
2. **Purpose** – The OWRC will coordinate each state agency's strategic direction and policy for water resource programs.
3. **Membership** – The OWRC consists of the following members:
 - a. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Representative, Division Water Resources
 - b. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Representative, Geological Survey Division
 - c. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Representative, Division of Surface Water
 - d. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Representative, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
 - e. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Representative, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
 - f. Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office Representative
 - g. Ohio Department of Agriculture, Representative, Division of Soil and Water Conservation
 - h. Ohio Development Services Agency, Representative
 - i. Ohio Department of Health, Representative
 - j. Ohio Department of Transportation, Representative
 - k. Ohio Public Works Commission, Representative
 - l. Ohio Water Development Authority, Representative
 - m. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Representative
 - n. Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Representative

The OWRC may include ad Hoch members from federal agencies and local universities that have an interest in water resources. Ad Hoch members are to serve predefined membership terms.

4. **Officers** –
 - a. Officers of the OWRC will consist of a Committee Leader and Meeting Coordinator. Officers will be appointed by the membership for two-year terms. The Committee Leader appointment will commence in July of the odd number years and the Meeting Coordinator's appointment will commence in July of the even number years.
 - b. Duties and Responsibilities:
 - i. The Committee Leader shall preside over the meetings, coordinate presenters, ensure the OWRC web page is maintained, and aid any Work Groups.
 - ii. The Meeting Coordinator shall arrange OWRC meeting times and locations, prepare the agendas, and take meeting notes.
5. **Meetings** –
 - a. Notice for all public meetings of the OWRC will be given in accordance with the following procedure:
 - i. Any person may determine (be informed of) the time and place of regularly scheduled meetings or the time, place, and purpose of any special meeting by visiting the OWRC Meetings Schedule website.

<http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/owrc.aspx> Any person may obtain advance notice of all meetings at which any specific type of public business is to be discussed by identifying the type of public business for which he/she desires to be notified and by supplying it to the OWRC Meeting Coordinator with an email address. The OWRC Meeting Coordinator will email a notice of the time, place, and type of business to be discussed at the meeting at least four calendar days before the meeting is scheduled, unless the meeting is an emergency meeting.

- b. The Ohio Water Resources Committee (OWRC) will meet at least annually, but may meet on a more regularly scheduled basis. Meetings will be conducted as follows:
 - i. The OWRC Leader will chair the meetings. If the OWRC Leader cannot attend a meeting the Meeting Coordinator will preside at the meeting.
 - ii. Meetings may be facilitated by an outside party.
 - iii. Decisions will be made by consensus with all members given an opportunity to participate in decisions. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to member's leadership.
 - iv. The OWRC may, as need and resources provide, consider projects supporting the OWRC Strategic Plan, Action Plan, Work Group recommendations, and other state water resources priorities. Based on this review, project and funding recommendations may be provided to each agency leadership for consideration.
6. **Work Groups** – Work Groups may be authorized as deemed necessary to address specific issues. Work Group members may include Ohio Water Resource Committee members, state agency staff, and any other public and private sector individuals with pertinent expertise.
7. **Strategic Action Plan**
 - a. A Strategic Action Plan should be developed in four-year time frames that coincides with the state biennium budget cycle. The plan should collectively identify state efforts towards protecting, managing and restoring water resources, and rather than list all the individual agency actions, it should focus on the actions the OWRC as a collective body will pursue.
 - b. The plan should include the following key focus area themes:
 - i. Education and Outreach
 - ii. Watershed Management
 - iii. Water Quality
 - iv. Water Quantity
 - v. Data and Information
 - vi. Water Resource Infrastructure
 - vii. Water Related Natural Hazard
 - c. The plan should identify objectives and action items and who is responsible for working on the activities.
 - d. Progress on the objectives and action items will be reported regularly at the OWRC meetings
8. **Amendments to By-Laws** – Amendments to by-laws may be made at any time deemed necessary by the OWRC.