

Dual OWRC & SCCGW Meeting

Minutes

February 12, 2020

9:00 AM

WMAO Annual Conference

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
TYPE OF MEETING	OWRC Quarterly
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Hall, OEPA - DSW • Josh Smith, USDA - RD • Greg Nageotte, ODA • Ken Heigel, OWDA • Dan Gill, OWDA • Steve Ferryman, OEMA • Annie Van Blaricom, ODSA • Julie Denniss, ODOT • Keith Banachowski, ODNR - DWR • Dennis Clements, OEPA
	Next meeting May 13, 2020 at OWDA

AGENDA TOPICS

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	The meeting started at 9:00 A.M. Brian welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments on the previous notes. There were no comments.
CONCLUSIONS	None.

OHIO EPA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FUND

D. CLEMENT

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis provided an overview of OEEF and Project WET.
CONCLUSIONS	

2020 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the Strategic Action Plan for 2020-2024 of what objectives were, and what to be for the 7 focus areas – Education Outreach, Water Management, Water Quality, Water Quantity, Data & Information, Water Resource Infrastructure, and Water Related Natural Hazards. Education Outreach has no changes.
CONCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittees to work on the objective and goals and submit by end of March with having the final document by May meeting.

DISCUSSION

USDA-RD:

- Working on annual allocations. Money has been planned out
- 3 sewer projects in, 3 more are in processing and in pipeline

OEMA:

- There is a Regional 5 FEMA call on Thursday (2/13/2020) on high water levels on Lake Erie
- Meeting tomorrow (2/13/2020) about the Coronavirus.
- Processing grants for last June's tornados – 14 requests – \$7.5 million asked but only have \$3.5 million to award.
- Community Development Contract funds – Laura Adcock – Tim Allen at Department of Development works with these.

ODA:

- H2Ohio \$30 million will be going to Farmers thru SWCDs. ODA still has SB299 funding that is being used for "Working Lands" work. Roll out meeting for H2Ohio funding are halfway completed. Clark Hudson is H2Ohio Coordinator and Terry Messer has been promoted within the Division. Plan to hire additional position to focus on Ag Pollution Abatement program
- Attended the Gulf Hypoxia Taskforce meeting last week. Last year the hypoxia zone grew to 18,000 square miles, the goal is to be less than 5,000 square miles. The taskforce is trying to develop a set of metrics so that all states can measure improvements. Ideas like innovative BMPs like cascade waterways and saturated buffers.
- NRCS – Mississippi Basin Initiative like was done for Paint Creek
- Plan to have an all watershed staff meeting – since many watershed groups have grown, now have about 50 people in watershed admin. The OWLS meeting has been setup.
- How will ODA manage H2Ohio finding? ODA is planning to use 3 Banker SWCD Districts that will manage the funds for other 14 local SWCDs.

ODSA:

- Working on updating brownfield guidelines. Focus will be on smaller community clean up.
- Reviewing an alternative stormwater proposal – Marble Cliff Quarry development.

OWDA:

- Summary of 2019 activity of the three major programs, 380 projects awarded for \$980 million. Went to the bond market six times and raised \$1.5 billion in funds.
- HB 264 has been introduced – this proposed legislative change will allow refinancing of existing debt through OWDA.
- Have some involvement in infrastructure portion of H2Ohio funding
- Continue to fund stream gaging around the state and Heidelberg sampling location
- Awarded 10 Research and Development grants last year and have included 2020 requirements on OWDA webpage, proposals for R&D are due June 1ish

ODNR:

- Office Lake Erie Costal Management headed by Scutter Mackey are busy with high Lake Erie levels.
- Office of Water Dam Safety is responsible for levee regulations in addition to dams. Levees management has taken off after Hurricane Katrina but have no funding source. DNR regulates levees. Will discuss with Chief about including levees as part of OWRC Strategic Plan because of risk to public.
- ODNR has hired Eric Saas from OEPA as their H2Ohio project manager. Looking for projects like wetland creation and restoration.
- Flood plan management project manager is Danielle. Holding flood plain workshops at four different locations around the state this spring.
- Jim Raab of Geosurvey Division is responsible for groundwater, had a net increase in monitoring wells recently - 1 Montgomery County, 2 in Fulton County, 1 in Scioto County
- Mike Hallfrich is updating Water quantity part of the Great Lakes Compact, this is to be reviewed every 5 years
- Dam safety – Stepping up enforcement water withdrawal estimates non-compliant facilities to AGO. Emergency Dam enforcement is on an uptick.

ODOT:

- Doing an inventory of highways signs that identify water protection areas to confirm that they conform to DOT regulations.

OEPA – DEFA:

- The nomination period for drinking water projects revolving loan funding for 2020 is currently open. There is about 10 million in principal forgiveness, funding will focus on lead service line replacement, regionalization. Zero percent interest rates will be offered for specific projects types.

OEPA-DDAGW:

- Governor kickoff of PFAS Action Plan – OEPA will be working with consultants to sample 1500 public water systems across the state. This sampling is planned to be completed in 2020. Resampling of drinking water system will occur if high concentrations of PFAS are identified. Areas where PFAS concentration could be found include fire training areas, airports, and chemical manufacturing plants.

OEPA – DSW:

- Ohio EPA received the smallest amount of H2Ohio funding. This funding will support the:
 - DSW to contract with USGS for monitoring sampling sites to allow calculation of nutrient loadings. This will increase coverage of the state from 66% to about 72%. Sites that will be installed are 2 for the Little Miami River Watershed, 1 Hocking Watershed.
 - HSTS replacements
 - Lead line service replacement.
 - Unsewered communities.
 - Expand National Weather Service rain gage network
- Is the OWRC Water Monitoring workgroup active? The group has not meet in several years but did developed a spreadsheet that is on the Water Resource website that

provides a summary of all state agency water monitoring.

- Water Monitoring Workshop meeting scheduled for 3/19/2020 held at DNR. Brian will share the agenda.
- An updated version of the Domestic Action Plan (DAP) is out for public comment. The DAP is a requirement of the USEPA that focuses on Annex 4 (nutrients) of the Great Lake Water Quality Agreement. The DAP aligns with the objectives of H2Ohio (Ag Master Plan, Wetland, Infrastructure, Watershed Plans) and outlines reduction goals for meeting the 680 metric tons of phosphorus set for Western Basin during the spring (Mar 1 – July 1). There are approximately 180 – HUC 12 watersheds in Ohio in the Maumee basin and the DAP has set an allocation for every one of the HUC 12. These load reductions could be used to develop a TMDL for the western basin of Lake Erie. A webinar 2/24/2020 for Domestic Action Plan.
- Ohio’s Water Quality and Monitoring Integrated Report (IR) should be out for public comment on Thursday. Each state is required to submit the report on water quality to the USEPA every two years. The IR will include Ohio EPA surface water sampling plan for the next two years. A webinar will be scheduled in March and then the plan will be submitted to USEPA in April.
- Brian suggest that OWRC members sign up of for the OEPA TMDL list server. Once on the list sever you will get notices about the IR and each of the TMDL development documents that OEPA produces. There is a document developed for every watershed for the following:
 1. Notice sampling plan development
 2. Technical support documents (results of the sampling)
 3. Loading analysis plan (how to correct impairments)
 4. Preliminary Model
 5. Pull all together to create TMDL.

Next meeting hope to have a representative from ODNR-DMRM to talk about acid mine drainage.