

OWRC Meeting

Minutes

August 11, 2021

9:00 AM

MS TEAMS Call

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
TYPE OF MEETING	OWRC Quarterly
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Angle & Jim Raab, ODNR - DGS• Ken Heigel & Dan Gill, OWDA• Matt Redfield & Annie Van Blaricom, ODOD• Keith Banachowski, ODNR- DWR• Dennis Clement, OEPA - OEEF• Jon Bernstein, OEPA- DEFA• Joy Mulinex and Sandra Kosek-Sills, OLEC• Chad Wegner, PUCO• Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU - OWRC• Josh Smith, USDA - RD• Brian Hall & Archie Lunsey, OEPA- DSW• Julie Denniss, ODOT• Dave Straub, USGS• Rebecca Fugitt, ODH• Greg Nageotte, ODA• Steve Ferryman, OEMA
	Next meeting in November at the annual WAMO Conference

AGENDA TOPICS

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	The meeting started at 9:00 A.M. Brian welcomed everyone and did introductions.
CONCLUSIONS	

OWRC OFFICER ELECTIONS

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	Brian is retiring at the end of August, and we are looking for the Leader and Meeting Coordinator for the Committee. The By Laws state that Committee Leader shall preside over the meetings, coordinate presenters, ensure the OWRC web page is maintained, and aid any Work Groups and the Meeting Coordinator shall arrange OWRC meeting times and locations, prepare the agendas, and take meeting notes. Officers are to be appointed by the membership for two-year terms.
CONCLUSIONS	The Committee Leader will be split between Keith Banachowski and Archie Lunsey. Keith's term will begin effective immediate and conclude in July 2022 then Archie will assume the Committee Leader role until July 2023. Julie Denniss, ODOT has graciously agreed to serve as the Meeting Coordinator for the full term

OHIO'S COVID WASTEWATER MONITORING NETWORK

Z. BOHREROVA, R FUGITT

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Zuzana and Rebecca provided an overview of Ohio's COVID wastewater network that has been operational since July 2020. Testing uses qPCR to measure the virus RNA. Federal funding received allows for the monitoring of about 65 wastewater treatment systems.</p> <p>There have been many collaborators on this project that include state agencies, universities, USEPA and CDC, and private labs</p> <p>Sampling is conducted on the treatment plant influent twice per week. The samples are sent to several state university labs or a commercial lab. Results are available in 2-3 days. The focus of the sampling is on early warning and trending of data in communities. Sampling methods vary but all allow for trending of illness in the sewer system.</p> <p>ODH has developed a wastewater for monitoring network web site that consists of a state map of state showing sewer system boundaries and trending of recent results (trending looks at the last 4 samples). The network has yielded good results and tracks closely to the number of illness reported in a community.</p> <p>ODH has sent out over 500 alerts to local health district and sewer systems letting them know when COVID results are trending up.</p> <p>CDC has established a national wastewater surveillance system - about half of states have developed their own monitoring network and are reporting to the CDC</p> <p>Funding of the Ohio network goes thru June 2023.</p> <p>Next steps - continue monitoring, add sites, measure gene copies for other pilot projects</p> <p>Sampling Genomic sequencing of RNA to trend COVID variants</p> <p>Other Pilot Projects being looked at where wastewater monitoring is being considered - seasonal influenza, anti-microbial resistant bacteria, foodborne pathogens, chemical markers (opioids)</p>
<p>CONCLUSIONS</p>	<p>The PowerPoint presented was shared with the committee</p>

PROGRAM UPDATES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>OWDA -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinance program has awarded \$50 m in requests, and have another dozen requests in the works • R&D program - lite year on applications received, plan to make recommendations to board at next meeting <p>ODNR DGS –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater section hiring positions, • On schedule to finish up groundwater vulnerability mapping by December, • water well log database being moved from oracle to SQL that will allow to enter boring details, and other enhanced features the plan is to go live next February, • Aqua-bounty officially announced that they are going ahead with their plans to install a facility that could use up to 5 MGD. They have not submitted the groundwater withdrawal permit but seem to be very close in doing so., • Guidebook 24 (Geologic Guidebook to Ohio State Parks in the Lake Erie Region) just came out, its free to download <p>ODNR DWR –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving all water withdrawal request to new online system • WAMO Annual Conference will be this this fall, workgroup is working on agenda
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- Spending a lot of time on H2O wetland grant program

OLEC- (had to get on another call but provided update via Team)

- Next Ohio Lake Erie Commission meeting is September 3 in person in Ashtabula, location TBA. Will have photo contest results and tours of Ashtabula Area of Concern (AOC) sites.

ODOD –

- Development of Services Agency has been renamed the Department of Development
- New \$250 m water and sewer infrastructure grant program announce at the end of July, a webinar has been scheduled for this Friday, \$5m cap per project,
- Received \$350 m for brownfield cleanup and working on an announcement for this funding

ODH –

- In the process of going through the first Household Sewage Treatment System (HSTS) approval renewals. This is being done because of rule changes that require HSTS to be reapproved every 5 years.

USGS –

- Added 5 new gages in the state, converted 3 from low flow to discharge

USDA -RD

- The new program director that has been hired but does not yet have authority to approve projects. Until authority is granted projects must be approved at the national level.
- Have only had 6 projects this year so far, requests should be picking up
- unsure what will be in the next budget, but plan to hire staff soon,
- The Household Water Grant has been renamed Decentralized Water Grant program

ODA -

- H2Ohio \$98 m Maumee 14 county area that is western part of the watershed. 1st yr agreements are now moving to implementation. Will be moving eastward to pick up an additional 10 counties,
- Hiring using GLRI funds for Maumee positions,
- Applied for RCPP program aware of \$5m for manure projects in the expansion area (10 eastern Maumee counties) working w NRCS hope for a fall start up
- As required by HB7, hiring 7 basin coordinators - plan to post positions this fall. Plan to use this funding along with H2Ohio funding to leverage additional projects
- It is the 50th anniversary of WMAO. Planning to have panel discussion with directors of ODA, ODNR and OEPA, have also invited Governor to speak.

PUCO –

- Visiting all 50 permitted facilities across the state - updating water database for salesforce will allow us to have a much better data
- HR issued new work from home policy for field staff and to report to office for meetings, Former PUCO Adm is part of criminal investigation as part of the first Energy HB6 scandal

ODOT-

- Waiting on details of recently passed federal infrastructure bill details –
- ODOT staff to be back in the office by Aug 30 - some one day/wk some 2days/week, ODOT Ohio Tech Engineering conference will be in person this year Oct 26-27 in

	<p>Columbus, many vendors participating,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like all state agencies dealing with Printer nightmare virus. Not being able to print documents makes job difficult. <p>OEPA – OEEF -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to award July grants, had 10 general and 7 mini grants. Project Wet is part of this funding and will start after December 1 – These are the first grants awarded by OEEF since last year, • There will be a track at WAMO conference session on water and trout fishing. This will be a class room type session. • Jen Bowman, OU new citizen system, and Project Wet reaching teachers, • Educator workshops are going well • There will be a level 1 Qualified Data Collector (volunteer sampling) training - Sept 23 in Butler Co held by the county SWCD <p>OEPA DEFA –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with ODOD on rolling out American Rescue Plan grant for water and sewer projects • Nominations for revolving loans funding is open • OEPA H2Ohio years 3 and 4 received less funds than other state agencies. <p>OEPA DSW –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired David Emerman as new Assistant Chief, Dave came from OLEC • As a result have changed who oversees which programs - Tiffani - Fiscal, IT, NPDES, NPS; Archie - WQS, Credible Data, EAU/Modeling, TMDL; David - 401, biosolids, PTI, compliance, and enforcement • Justin Burke has been hired as the new Assistant Chief in DDAGW
<p>CONCLUSIONS</p>	