

Dual OWRC & SCCGW Meeting

Minutes

November 14, 2019

1:00 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• Emilie Eskridge, OEPA – DDAGW• Josh Smith, USDA - RD• Lynn Garrity, LEC• Greg Nageotte, ODA• David Straub, USGS• Tom Harris, USGS• Dan Gill, OWDA• Annie Van Blaricom, ODSA• Linda Bailiff, OPWC• Keith Banachowski, ODNR - DWR• Jeff Patzke, OEPA• Rodney Tornes, ODNR – DWR• Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU• Hailey Belisie, Student
	Next meeting February 12th, 2020 at OWDA

AGENDA TOPICS

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	The meeting started at 1:00 PM. Brian welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments on the previous notes. There were no comments.
CONCLUSIONS	None.

OVERVIEW OF OHIO'S 2019 HAB SEASON

E. ESKRIDGE

DISCUSSION	Emilie provided an overview of the 2019 harmful algal bloom season for both drinking water and recreation across the state.
CONCLUSIONS	None.

2020 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current strategic action plan covers the period of 2015 to 2019 and needs to be updated. Brian thanked the subcommittee groups that have already met and updated
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	their sections of the 2020 strategic action plan.
CONCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian will send an updated spreadsheet out with the sections that need updated and hope the subcommittees will continue to work on the objections and goals.

PROGRAM UPDATES

SACG MEMBERS

DISCUSSION	<p><u>USGS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave continues as acting Water Director while they work refilling the position. • USGS is working with Ohio EPA to add three new monitoring gages to be used to calculate nutrient loadings. • Received notices that two OWDA R&D proposals have been selected – Low Flow Stream Stats and using eDNA to identify mussels and macroinvertebrates • Starting the planning for the spring Water Resources Monitoring Workshop that is usually held at ODNR. Brian will send OWRC members a notice once the meeting is finalized. • Three new gages will be added to help with flooding issues in the Upper Tuscarawas watershed <p><u>ODSA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with OWDA on the alternative stormwater infrastructure loan program. The max for projects is \$5 million. <p><u>OWDA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board selected 10 R&D projects to fund this year. <p><u>ODNR:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work on the Michindoh aquifer proposal • Working on a stream monitoring study that has been legislatively required to report on stream flows in areas where oil and gas drilling is occurring. The study is to confirm that water used in the oil and gas operations are not having an impact on stream flow. • Dam Safety will be focusing resources on levees around the state. • Mike Hallfrisch is considering retirement in 2020. Mike is the most familiar with the Great Lakes Compact and looking to develop a knowledge-based transfer of this information before he retires. <p><u>USDA-RD:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RD received \$5 million in grants to assist with the 33 counties in southwestern Ohio that were declared a disaster area this spring. Working with the locals to come up with a process to distribute the funding. <p><u>OPWC:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda provided a brief overview of the Public Works Commission. There are three funds that are associated with water – Infrastructure, Clean Ohio, and Emergency. The annual \$175 million Infrastructure fund is divided between 19 districts. The application process
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starts each spring with selections made over the summer. The Clean Ohio Fund of \$37.5 million is also made available each year. 75% of the Clean Ohio Fund can go toward conservation projects. The emergency fund gets an annual allocation of \$3.5 million. This fund receives many requests each year and is currently depleted.

ODA:

- Working with the consultant hired to assist Division with H2Ohio funding and cost curves for best management plan installations
- Will be using \$2 million of SB 299 for resources
- Working with Ohio EPA to review 9 Elements plan (new type of watershed improvement plans). Are receiving several of these plans a week, so keeping busy.

OSU:

- Finishing up projects on Reservoirs and Drinking Water Treatments for Small Systems.
- Water Resources Center is evaluating proposal that made it through the preliminary application review phase. The application pool was reduced to 10 with final selections made by March.

LEC:

- The H2Ohio plan has kicked off. Lake Erie Commission's role is to track and report annually on the improvement made to water quality.
- Working on update to Ohio's domestic action plan that address nutrient impacts on Lake Erie. 9 Elements plans are an important part of this, and many are underway.
- The Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan is being worked on. Plan to have it out in early 2020.
- Continue to track past and current Great Lake Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds that have been awarded in Ohio. Hope to align this tracking with H2Ohio tracking mentioned above.
- The Coastal Nonpoint Source Management Plan has been approved by USEPA.
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OEPA – DDAGW:

- Will be working with Daycare facilities to test for lead in their drinking water
- Developing Guidance for the installation and maintenance of secondary disinfection that is being installed in buildings to address legionella.
- Working with ODNR and ODH on updating the State's HAB Recreation guidance. It has been several years since the document has been revised.

OEPA – DSW:

- Have mentioned in the past about the lawsuit filed against USEPA for not doing a TMDL for Lake Erie. The federal judge recently ruled that the lawsuit can proceed and that arguments can be made to force the development of a TMDL.
- Starting to work on the federally required Water Quality Monitoring Integrated Report that is due every two years. The report is due in April 2020 and Ohio hopes to be asking for public input by January.
- The USEPA sent out 22,000 letters in October asking all public owned treatment systems

to complete a questionnaire on nutrient removal. The questionnaire will be used to help understand the type of nutrient removal treatment plant current have and how to possibly make no or low-cost improvements to improve removal efficiencies.

- Rules passed by the US EPA in 2019 require each state to hold a summit to discuss dealing with prioritization of water infrastructure improvements, called Integrated Planning (IP). Ohio held its summit in October. Participants included USEPA, Ohio EPA and many communities that are facing numerous infrastructure projects.