

# Dual OWRC & SCCGW Meeting

## Minutes

August 14, 2019

9:00 AM

OWDA

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	OWRC Quarterly
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Hall, OEPA - DSW</li> <li>• Emily DeLay, OEPA - DSW</li> <li>• Mariah Hood, OEPA - DSW</li> <li>• Jerry Rouch, OEPA – DEFA</li> <li>• Amy Jo Klei, OEPA – DDAGW</li> <li>• Katie Rader, OEPA - DERR</li> <li>• Lincoln Stanley, USDA</li> <li>• Lynn Garrity, LEC (by phone)</li> <li>• Steve Ferryman, OEMA</li> <li>• Greg Nageotte, ODA</li> <li>• Julie Denniss, ODOT</li> <li>• David Straub, USGS</li> <li>• Rob Darner, USGS</li> <li>• Susan Grover, USDA - NRCS</li> <li>• Matt McClellan, ODSA</li> <li>• Jim Raab, ODNR</li> <li>• Ken Heigel, OWDA</li> <li>• Annie Van Blaricom, ODSA</li> <li>• Dorothy Bremer, PUCO</li> <li>• Rachel Townshend, ODH</li> <li>• Craig Nelson, ODNR</li> <li>• Jeff Patzke, OEPA</li> <li>• Craig Nelson, ODNR</li> <li>• Matt Peters, ODSA</li> </ul>
	Next meeting November 14th, 2019 at WMAO Annual Conference

### AGENDA TOPICS

#### WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Brian Hall conducted the meeting which started at 9:00 AM. Brian welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments on the previous notes. There were no comments.
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	None.

**OHIO'S SPORTS FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY**

M. HOOD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mariah presented on the state's fish consumption advisory process that includes ODNR, ODH and OEPA
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	None.

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

SACG MEMBERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b><u>OEPA – DERR:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the groundwater data collected between 1982 and 2019 is now in the RCRA database. The database is not currently public, but you can call DERR and they can run queries for all of the parameters.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>OEMA:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had a disaster declaration for flooding in April and a declaration for tornadoes in June. There are a number of HMGP grant funds available from that and state agencies are able to apply for these funds.</li> <li>• Last week, completed the national vigilant guard exercise.</li> <li>• Call tomorrow for the update of the portion of the strategic action plan dealing with natural and water hazards.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>OEPA – DDAGW:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busy with emerging contaminants. We have been working with ODH to develop the state response strategy for PFAS.</li> <li>• HABs – been tracking multiple blooms across the state. The City of Freemont had to take their entire reservoir offline because the level of toxins is so bad. They had to go back on river water while they get this bloom under control.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>OWDA:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just finished first meeting for R&amp;D, received 16 applications. Committee is recommending 9 for funding; a couple HAB projects: one with Case Western, one with University of Toledo, an acid mine drainage project with OSU, water treatment design standards with OSU as well. Will also recommend funding for USGS with low-flow stats, Wapakoneta with TDS, and LEDs for UV.</li> <li>• Symposium with Ohio EPA. Spent a day at OEPA. EPA broadcast this out to all district offices as well. This was geared towards Ohio EPA staff and received lots of great feedback.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ODH:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water rules were Original Filed with JCARR and the Public Hearing will be August 22 at ODH. Sewage rule is also on this hearing. JCARR hearing is in September and these rules will be effective as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Will be at the farm science review – will talk about the fish consumption advisory, also talking about well logs and maintaining septic systems.</li> </ul>
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- Federal WIIN (water infrastructure improvements for the nation) grant – partnership between Ohio EPA, DJFS, and ODH – working on a workplan for childcare facilities to sample water systems for lead sources and map the fixtures that may be causing child exposure.

**OEPA – DEFA:**

- OCAPP is working on a new webinar series that is being developed for 2020 called “Local Leaders.” This will be geared towards local government officials and will be a plain English explanation of how to comply with the myriad of environmental regulations out there.
- OFA – month of august is the month of open nominations to receive WPCLF grant funding. We will receive 1.5 billion worth of project nominations for capital improvement projects which communities think they will be implementing in 2020. Now is the time to nominate wastewater capital improvement projects.
- Nomination for the WRRSP is simultaneous. Award about 15 million per year in grant-like money for stream and wetland restoration and protection projects. Very popular and competitive.
- New Assistant chief – John Bernstein. Will be overseeing OFA. Katie Courtwright will take John’s old job of loan and grants manager.
- Priorities for 2020 will be consistent with the last couple years – discounts and special funds for certain types of projects like wastewater projects to reduce nutrients, combined sewer overflow related projects, unsewered areas, and home sewage treatment systems replacements and upgrades.
- Trying to work on regionalization – meaning where communities can voluntarily consolidate, share services, or get together to more efficiently deal with their drinking water and wastewater issues, we are trying to offer 0% loans and possibly some principle forgiveness.
- Moving one wastewater compliance assistance position to Northwest District Office and one compliance assistance position to Southeast District Office.
- H2Ohio – Part of the budget bill that passed this summer. Money will be allocated between ODA, EPA, and ODNR. EPA will administer \$8.7 million in the first biennium. Talking about what to do with this money – potentially supplementing home sewage treatment system replacements and upgrades, water and wastewater infrastructure projects focusing on disadvantaged communities, and supporting the wind grant which ODH will be receiving from US EPA which is meant to support the testing of daycares for lead in drinking water. There is no money in the WIIN grant to implement solutions if the results come back high, so we are looking at supplementing that. Lastly, looking at surface water monitoring, and testing emerging technologies.

**USGS:**

- Michindoh aquifer – ODNR well WM1A has been upgraded to real time, so when people in northwest Ohio want to see what the water level is, they can go online and check on the USGS webpage.
- Nutrient testing and sampling for the western Lake Erie basin (WLEB). Working on long term funding, potentially through GLRI.

- Submitted a proposal for low-flow statistics update. It has been 22 years since the last report. This time it will be incorporated into Stream Stats so you can perform point-and-click stats for anywhere in the state.
- Doing microbial source tracking for bacterial nonattainment in Ottawa County. Trying to determine if the source of the problem is human, canine, or waterfowl.

**NRCS:**

- Had a national bulletin come out a couple months ago about source water protection areas. Will meet with OEPA to narrow down the areas where 10% of our conservation funding will be applied.
- 2018 Farm bill required a lot of standard and policy updating. A lot of these updates affect water, like composting, animal mortality facilities, water well standards, and waste structures. As these standards are put out for public review, they will also be sent to the SCCGW for feedback.
- The National Engineering Handbook part 631 which deals with geology will be rewritten.

**ODSA:**

- Working with OWDA on the alternative stormwater infrastructure loan program. The max for projects is \$5 million, which is usually less than what people ask for.
- While Castle Headquarters – received a brownfield loan and an alternative stormwater infrastructure loan.

**ODNR:**

- Adding 2 new wells to the Observation Well Program, which currently has 140 wells. These new wells are because of USGS grant funding – one well will be on the Scioto – Pike county line at the ODOT rest area. The other Well will be installed at Harrison Lake State Park in Fulton County in the Michindoh Aquifer this fall.
- STEAM – introduces art concepts into STEM. Wexner Center for the Arts has asked to use the groundwater resource map as an art project. The artist Maya Lin who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC is using The Ohio aquifer map in an artistic replication. This will be 9/20 to 12/29 at the Wexner Center for the Arts.
- Well log count for the first half of the year – 2,400 records. Slightly behind last year at this time (2,600).
- Protect your groundwater day is September 4.
- Received a grant from OWDA last year for groundwater vulnerability mapping. Finished Scioto and Lawrence so far, will finish Knox this week or next week. 10 counties to map, then putting together all 88 counties into a seamless GIS map.

**OEPA – DDAGW:**

- Source Water Protection Program – helping water systems protect source water. Have been doing strategic planning development for a 3-year strategic plan, as well as some annual work plans. Started this program in early 2000s with the goal to identify SWP areas and a focus on planning, now shifting to a focus on implementation.
- H2Ohio – hopefully will see some opportunities for funding to help shift to the focus on implementation.

- American Water Infrastructure Act - Able to use a portion of the state's annual DWSRF funding to go toward the program and potentially loans or land acquisitions and conservation easements.
- 10% of NRCS conservation funding will go to source water protection. Estimate is about \$2 million for Ohio. Trying to help NRCS determine where to spend this money. Identifying SWAP areas to focus on, including systems that have had HABs issues which are the highest priority.

**ODA:**

- Received \$30 million from H2Ohio for direct implementation, for incentives for farmers to adopt nutrient management practices.
- H2Ohio money will build on the money received from SB 299, which allocated about \$20 million per year for implementation just in the WLEB.
- Working lands small grains program is offering incentives to farmers by promoting cover crops where farmers will be applying manure. These small grain crops or cover crops can be harvested.
- Small program for certified Ag dealers to develop nutrient management plans for farmers directly. These are incentivized as well.
- Working with FSA to update the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Would like to focus remaining funds on edge of stream wetlands, retention structures, and other practices that will keep the water from flowing off the land.
- July 11<sup>th</sup>: co-presented with Rick Wilson (OEPA – DSW) on nonpoint source implementation strategy development. These are small watershed plans based on the HUC-12 which meet US EPA's 9 key elements for watershed planning and are very focused on critical areas and characterizing a watershed by its nonpoint stressors. This training was hosted by Franklin Co. SWCD and there was good attendance statewide.
- Awarded new capacity building watershed grants, with these four added we have 13 across the state. Four that were just awarded were for Hamilton, Lake, Paulding, and Ashland SWCDs. There is an update page on the web for what these projects are doing.
- WMAO – theme is “Water Weirding” aka Climate Change. Want to get people talking about programs and how they are adapting because of how we are having to change. Conference is November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- OSU extension is sponsoring the Ohio Watershed Leaders Conference September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hope State Park.
- Had the first workgroup conversation for the watershed portion of the Strategic Plan update. OSU, Ohio Watershed Professionals Association, LEC, ODNR, Miami Conservancy District, OEPA in the group. Will meet again in August to discuss ideas and new objectives. Same areas of action will be touched again, but will update these actions to where we are now in 2019.

**PUCO:**

- Commission on Water and Sewer Issues opened up a case to consider a rulemaking in regard to implementation of HB 422, which changes how public utilities can recover the costs of acquired municipal water and sewer systems.
- Commission is also investigating potentially jurisdictional systems – looking at Caesar

Lake Mobile Home Park in Warren County, and a potential system up by Candlewood Lake in Galion, Ohio.

**USDA:**

- Year-end pooling date for rural development. National department is taking all of the projects and trying to fund as much as possible with the remaining fiscal year. Ohio is one of the top funding states for WEP and CF.

**LEC:**

- Working on an H2Ohio plan to tentatively come out in September.
- Updated Domestic Action Plan – is being updated and will come out soon after the H2Ohio plan.
- Commission has a \$2.4 million GLRI grant for implementing the first DAP focused in the WLEB. This is for watershed planning grants, sub-surface injection tools, instream projects and the 4R program. Working with SWCDs on this.
- Commission posted on website – 2018 Western Lake Erie Tributaries Monitoring Summary. Also working on a White Paper with US EPA containing further details on this information, to be out in the next couple of months.
- Working on the Lake Erie Protection on Restoration Plan – this is the plan that we are directed to put together every 2 years which lists State priorities for Lake Erie. Aiming to have this available by December.
- LEC in partnership with OEPA is sponsoring the Great Lakes Area of Concern Conference, which will be held in Cleveland on September 10, 11, 12.
- Working on a beneficial use impairment removal in the Ashtabula area of concern for fish tumors and deformities. Public meeting in a couple of weeks.
- Working on projecting the need for GLRI funding for the next 5 years.
- Next LEC quarterly meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup> in Lorraine.

**OEPA – DSW:**

- Got a late start this year for sampling due to all of the rain.
- Held an info session in July on updating our Monitoring Strategy. Comment period closed on August 12<sup>th</sup> and there was an article in the Dispatch on August 11<sup>th</sup> about what Ohio EPA is doing.
- Current monitoring strategy is to make it around the state in 5 years, however it was taking us about 17-19 years to make it around the state, so the new proposal is to do a probabilistic model to report on how the state is doing as a whole. We would continue to do watershed sampling, but merge some of the HUCs together to get around the state faster. We are planning to propose this with the 2020 Integrated Report, which we are required to do every 2 years by US EPA, and then start this new strategy next field season.
- Working on trying to do statewide TMDLs for bacteria, sedimentation, and habitat. Bacteria TMDL should be out sometime this fall. If this statewide TMDL is successful, would look into doing the others as statewide TMDLs.
- Reached out to Carolyn Watkins (OEPA - Office of Environmental Education) for help updating the Education and Outreach section of the Strategic Action Plan.

