

# OWRC SACG Meeting

## Minutes

May 8, 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>• Lincoln Stanley, USDA</li> <li>• Joy Mulinex, LEC</li> <li>• Steve Ferryman, OEMA</li> <li>• Greg Nageotte, ODA</li> <li>• Keith Banachowski, USGS</li> <li>• Ken Heigel, OWDA</li> <li>• Annie Van Blaricom, ODSA</li> <li>• Dorothy Bremer, PUCO</li> <li>• Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU</li> </ul>
	Next meeting August 14, 2019 at OWDA

### 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.

#### STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN REVIEW

B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Brian Hall indicated that the OWRC Strategic Action Plan is valid through the year 2019, and that it is time to update the plan. The group reviewed the current Strategic Action Plan and volunteered to review certain sections. It was agreed upon that an initial draft of changes will be discussed at the August 2019 meeting, and the Final report will be discussed at the November 2019 meeting.
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<p>Focus Areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education and Outreach: Brian will reach out to Alauddin Alauddin and Carolyn Watkins to discuss, and also to Dennis Clement to discuss sections dealing with OWEP.</li> <li>2. Watershed Management – Greg Nageotte agreed to review this section in conjunction with Ohio EPA.</li> <li>3. Water Quality: Keith Banachowski and Brian Hall will work on this section. Keith will contribute qualitative and quantitative data.</li> <li>4. Water Quantity: ODNR and Ohio EPA – DDAGW will work on this section, however no people</li> </ol>

	<p>representing these divisions were present. Brian Hall will contact.</p> <p>5. Data &amp; Information: Brian Hall and Lincoln Stanley will review.</p> <p>6. Water Resource Infrastructure: Ken Heigel will work with SCIG to review.</p> <p>7. Water Related Natural Hazards: Steve Ferryman will update and work with ODNR as well.</p>
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**OVERVIEW OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT’S CF AND WEP PROGRAMS**

L. STANLEY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Lincoln presented on the Rural Development’s programs that are available in Ohio
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	None.

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

SACG MEMBERS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b><u>USGS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Machindo Aquifer is still attracting a lot of attention. Stretches across Northwest Ohio, Northeast Indiana and Southern Michigan. There were indications that someone would open a facility that would pull a significant amount out of the aquifer, though no plans yet. USGS has provided a proposal for providing the framework for the extent of the aquifer and describing it further. USGS will continue to be involved in this.</li> <li>• Working with OEPA to maintain monitoring for Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) and tributaries to the lake. OWDA provided funding for some gages and USGS has an agreement with ODNR for monitoring with the gages. Working with GLRI and Ohio EPA to continue monitoring other sites, not all of the pieces are in place, but it is in progress.</li> <li>• Villa Angela – USGS doing a project with them using the EcoMapper – a submersible unit that can be programmed to follow a path around the lake and can collect water quality info at various depths and locations. Doing this for NEORS to look at currents and water quality to help them understand how the lake is performing for various parameters so they can address the problems with a beach.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ODA:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrapped up an RFP for watershed grants to SWCDs. This funding comes to ODA and the commission decides how to split up for the districts, but most of it goes out of state match to districts. Commission carves out a little bit for grants and ODA intends to fund at least 4 at full funding (\$40k for the year), which pays for staffing and watershed coordination activities, applying for grants, developing projects, getting nonpoint source implementation strategies done, etc. ODA would like these to be a longer term presence – they will get a three year grant and can renew if they are successful in increasing implementation. Reviewing these now and should have a decision out by the end of May.</li> <li>• Some new programs in the WLEB form Senate Bill 1 money, \$20 million allotted for conservation. “Working Lands: Buffer Program,” which are 50 – 300 ft wide buffers that ODA is paying \$120 per acre for a 5 year contract. Farmers can harvest hay or forage off of these fillers to remove nutrients out of the cycle. “Working Lands: Small Grains Program,” the purpose of this program is to get more acreage where manure can be applied safely. Would follow the small grains (like wheat, oats, and others) with cover</li> </ul>
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crops and apply manure. Have to do cover crops and soil sampling. This is \$75/ acre. Another section of money has been set aside for cost-sharing equipment: for manure storage, different types of equipment for subsurface placement and things like this. Want to see how the first two programs do because they could have the greatest impact in terms of acreage. Also have a nutrient management plan program where certified dealers can develop plans for farmers.

- Greg will be attending the Hypoxia Task Force meeting in Baton Rouge, LA.

**USDA:**

- Mid-year pooling on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Able to obligate quite a few projects before this so now just waiting to see what the funding level will be like.

**OSU:**

- About to fund 4 proposals. Usually projects are funded on March 1, but the requests have to go through a Department of Interior review, so hoping for June 1 this year.
- One project from OSU is about PFAS. One project from University of Cincinnati is looking at how fast contaminants spread in rivers and reservoirs and looking at the modeling of intakes from source waters. One project from Ohio University is looking at how fertilizer moves in a rain event and if it is absorbed by plants. Have one more project about the carbon budget of wetlands.
- Starting preproposal for next year, which will be released in the summer. Have a committee of state agencies that are involved in determining what projects will be invited to present a full proposal.
- Released a monthly newsletter. Most people who get this are researchers who don't have time to follow all of the research news, so this is helping them get some general information.
- Testified about H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in front of cabinet members and house committee.
- Working with DDAGW from OEPA to change standards for approving treatment technologies in drinking water plants. A lot of treatment technologies released in the past 20 years are not in these standards, so pilot studies need to be performed, and OSU is working to create design standards. Starting with low pressure membrane filtration, as requested by OEPA. Hopefully will finish these in 6 months.
- Working with DSW from OEPA to determine if ultrasound waves can be used to suppress algal bloom growth in reservoirs. Utilities are starting to install this more for intakes.

**OEMA:**

- FEMA approved our renewal of the Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan, so Ohio can continue to get federal disaster funding. Five year cycles.
- Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) conference is May 19 – 23 in Cleveland. OEMA will be presenting.
- April 2019 – 20 counties in southern and eastern Ohio declared emergency for road damage as a result of supersaturated soils tied to a rain event in February. Estimated \$44 million in public assistance damages as a result of this event, but this number could increase dramatically once we are out in the field.
- Waiting for more info on the FEMA BRIC program. PDM program will have one more

funding cycle, then BRIC will replace this.

**PUCO:**

- New chairman – Sam Randozzo and new commissioner – Dennis Deeters.
- HB 422 is now in effect – Have not had any applications yet. AquaOhio is the major public utility in Ohio, so PUCO expects applications from them. Not sure if PUCO will institute a rulemaking on this because the legislation is very clear.

**LEC:**

- Accepting grant applications for week of May 6 for the next round of grant funding.
- Getting ready for US and Canadian Great Lake Public Forum in Milwaukee mid-June. LEC will be walking through progress under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
- Working with ODA, OEPA, ODNR to review Ohio Domestic Action Plan for the Western Lake Erie basin. This is the third iteration of the DAP, there is no requirement for LEC to update this, but now is a good time to review the plan in light of the change of administration.
- Planning on reviewing and updating Lake Erie Restoration and Protection Strategy which happens every 4 years. This helps to direct where LEC puts grant awards. Probably a lengthy process but hope to have this updated by the end of the year.

**OEPA:**

- Comment deadline for Lagoon rules was earlier this month. Have several industries in the State of Ohio that take sludges, biosolids, and other wastes and put them through digesters where they can convert to methane gas and generate electricity. They have large storage lagoons where they can store the digestate or whatever is going into the digester for which we don't have a lot of regulations for. OEPA DSW is drafting rules to ensure that these large lagoons (10-20 million gallons) will not be harming groundwater or the environment. Next step is for Ohio EPA to release draft rules for interested party review.
- PFAS/PFOA – Ohio EPA has a workgroup that has been developed to cover all programs in the Agency. Trying to get our hands on what is happening with these contaminants. Waiting to see what US EPA will do with this, but they have indicated that they will be developing an MCL for PFAS/PFOA, and they are also looking at this being regulated by TSCA, so it could be considered some kind of hazardous waste down the road. OEPA lab has purchased equipment to be able to run the analysis now on drinking water, ground water, and surface water.
- US EPA published rules on integrated planning, a strategy for communities to prioritize projects and deal with compliance issues. Allows cities more flexibility.
- US EPA was sued because they approved our integrated report when OEPA didn't declare the open waters of Lake Erie impaired for aquatic life. OEPA worked with local universities to develop a way to list the open waters, which made the lawsuit moot. The Environmental Law and Policy Center has come back and asked us for OEPA's plan to do a TMDL and have filed a second lawsuit. Lucas County has joined ELPC in this lawsuit.
- A lawsuit against US EPA is set to go to the Supreme Court. The case deals with discharges to groundwater, specifically in Hawaii – they have a deep well injection for wastewater and have been able to identify that they can find it in the ocean and the

pollutants are not being treated well. Historically, the NPDES permit program did not regulate groundwater, so we will see how the federal regulations impact this. US EPA is publishing guidance for dealing with this. Ohio is still operating under the assumption that NPDES permits cannot be issued for wastewater discharger to groundwater, but this could have a huge impact of septic systems that go to a leech field.

- OEPA, ODNR, and ODH have a HABS recreational strategy that we are updating for the 2019 season. Hasn't been updated in a couple years. Should have a new updated rec strategy out by end of May.

**ODSA:**

- Closed out USEPA brownfield grant – RLF program. Have \$4-5 Million of program income and we are working on creating a separate program for that money. Hopefully will work with local governments and small private entities. Potential max for a loan is 500K, but there are options for principal forgiveness. Primarily asbestos abatement and soil contamination. Goal is July 1 to have something in place.