

OWRC SACG Meeting

Minutes

November 11, 2018

9:00 AM

OWDA

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
TYPE OF MEETING	OWRC Quarterly
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Hall, OEPA - DSW • Emily DeLay, OEPA - DSW • Lincoln Stanley, USDA • Lynn Garrity, OLEC • Mia Kannik, ODNR • Julie Denniss, ODOT • Dorothy Bremer, PUCO • Greg Nageotte, ODA • Keith Banachowski, USGS • Ken Heigel, OWDA • Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU • Rebecca Fugitt, ODH
	Next meeting February 13 at OWDA

AGENDA TOPICS

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	Brian Hall called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Brian welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments on the previous notes. There were no comments.
CONCLUSIONS	None.

REVIEW OWRC BYLAWS

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	This was the last look and discussion at new bylaws for the Ohio Water Resources Committee. No comments or concerns were raised.	
CONCLUSIONS	Bylaws will be posted to the OWRC webpage	
Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Post Bylaws	Brian	January

PROGRAM UPDATES

SACG MEMBERS

DISCUSSION

USDA:

- None.

OSU:

- In the process of RFP. Had a pre-proposal this time and received nine PIs submitting proposals. Hopefully will make a decision on proposals early January. March 1st is the project start date.

USGS:

- Working on extension of programs in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) with the Great Lake Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and Ohio EPA.
- Had a meeting with Rep. Kaptur's office concerning supergages, which is a discharge gauge with a five-parameter sonde. The intent of these gages is to measure loading directly through sensors or surrogate relationships.
- Had a gauge outage on October 20, about 1,000 nationwide out of USGS's ~8,000 nationwide gauges went down within an hour of each other. A chip in the telemetry had a problem. 92 gauges in Ohio went down, and they were all back online within a week of finding out what the problem was. None of the data was lost.
- PFAS/PFOA continues to get a lot of attention. Sampling has been done through the Great Lakes tributaries by the Contaminants of Emerging Concern program. These chemicals are used industrially and for flame-retardant. New health concerns about finding this in drinking water sources throughout the country, and we're trying to figure out where the contamination is and how bad it is. C8 is a similar pollutant constituent and is very stable. Negative health effects include cholesterol issues and endocrine disruption. Detection levels for concern are extremely low, parts per trillion.
- In the process of finalizing flood frequency estimates for Ohio stream gages. Going through all of the stream gages and updating the statistics on them. Ohio stream stats will be updated with new regression equations. This study took an additional 15 years of gauge data and incorporated it into the analysis into stream stats. This paper is in peer review currently.
- OH, IN, KY will have cooperater meetings to display the instrumentation and other things used for gages.

ODOT:

- Shared picture of hand dug well on ODOT right of way discovered during a project in the Cambridge area

ODA:

- Managing things regarding the watersheds in distress Executive Order. Rules for this will be at JCARR soon.
- With SB 299, received \$23.5 Million. \$3.5 Mil for Soil and Water operations in NW Ohio, and \$20 Mil for program practices. Trying to figure out the best way to use the funds, and Soil and Water commission has to approve what ODA recommends.
- Renewed Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement from 2000's, which allows ODA to renew some agreements that were expiring. The Farm

Bill at the federal level needs to be renewed before ODA can do a new CREP. There is interest in doing a multi-state RCPP again between IN, OH, MI, and they would like OH to lead this.

- Received through Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) GLRI grant. SWCDs will receive funding for 3 sub-surface tool bars for nutrients and a tractor to pull it and personnel to equip it to be rented out to operations in 3 different operations in NW Ohio.

ODNR:

- Majority of work at Buckeye Lake Dam is complete, just have some site cleanup left.

ODH:

- Continuing with the PFAS initiative for the state. Looking at establishing a drinking water standard for the state.
- Have been over 800 cases of legionella in Ohio this year, last year at the end of the year we were at 600. Legionella is contained in aerosolized droplets and can be transmitted through the air. Grant from the CDC to fund 0.5 FTE. Ohio has been #1 or #2 in the Nation for leading cases in legionella for the last 4 years.
- Health assessment program is funded through ATSDR for vapor mitigation. Coordinate with OEPA when there are releases of chemicals to surface where exposure to the public.
- Working with OEPA on coordination assistance with the fish tissue advisory program. Will be taking a more active role with this.
- HABs – have had 2 or 3 reports of illness due to HABs this year, one is a confirmed case. These are reported to the CDC. Have done a lot of outreach on HABs illness diagnosis this year. Dr. Koenig devised a diagnostic tool for clinicians and health care providers to determine whether or not someone has a HAB exposure or HAB related illness, called “Screen for Green” on ODH’s website.
- Also creating a poster and fact sheet for veterinarians to post in their office.

OWDA:

- Board approved money to the Ohio Water Resource Center.
- Army Corps. Of Engineers (ACOE) continues to give OWDA \$5-\$7 million per year for the 594 program. They have asked for a list of projects to look at to consider for funding in January. Most of the funding in the past couple cycles has gone to non-sewered communities, and small communities with CSOs.
- Meeting in Twinsburg yesterday on the regionalization of water systems. There are 4500 public water systems in Ohio. City of Akron, Avon Lake, Trumbull County, etc. were there.
- Operator certification summit held. About 50-60 people attended from across the state attended. Utilities, higher education, local development district, etc. were there. Made a priority list for issues.

OEPA:

- Lawsuits against US EPA for not forcing OEPA to list the open waters of Lake Erie as impaired. We have been working with universities to come up with a way to list the

open waters as “impaired”. Ohio is responsible for about ~3500 square miles of Lake Erie, so how you measure something that large and come up with an appropriate way to assess something transient like a HAB?

- Came up with a way to list Lake Erie using NOAA satellite imagery and establishing thresholds for certain cell counts. We were able to list the open waters as impaired in the 2018 Integrated Report and also to go back and modify the 2016 Integrated Report based on the satellite data that we have. The lawsuit kind of morphed into OEPA needing to do a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for that impairment. CWA says that states have to do the list of impaired waters and provide a schedule every 2 years to US EPA about the state’s plan for the next 2 years, but it doesn’t say anything about what goes on the list. The federal judge threw this lawsuit out because there is no requirement in the federal law stating that the states which watershed have to do be completed in the TMDL two-year cycle.
- Considering assigning loading to sub-watersheds using far-field allocation similar to a TMDL for Lake Erie. This is focused primarily on the Maumee watershed. Heidelberg University and USGS help with water quality data collection. We’ve done the statewide Nutrient Mass-Balance Report which shows where the pollution is coming from, so now we will try to back the information that we have into the sub-watersheds. We’re hopeful in the next 6-8 months to have load allocations down to the HUC-12. There are 185 HUC-12s in the Maumee watershed that Ohio is responsible for.
- OLEC publishes a report every year on the data collected by Heidelberg and USGS and gives a summary for the next year. A lot more stations have been added to the monitoring network, and we’re trying to come up with a plan of what should go into the report.
- NOAA has been doing forecasts each year for the HABs in Lake Erie. They have been very good at predicting the blooms each year. The weather patterns in July, August and September were very unique to the point that their forecast was slightly off.
- ORSANCO is responsible for monitoring and oversight of the Ohio River. There are 12 states that are part of this commission that are part of the Ohio River drainage basin. ORSANCO pre-dates the Clean Water Act. ORSANCO is reassessing their role and the need for them to establish water quality standards. Their last board meeting was in September, and they tabled the discussion on where they will go with the establishment of WQS until early 2019. No plans for cancelling monitoring, just WQS.

PUCO:

- Columbia Park (Mobile Home Park) – Filed a couple applications to PUCO. Questions over who has control over the water and sewer system and the operation and maintenance of these systems. This is a case for the Cuyahoga County Court to decide. OEPA has told them they can’t process a PTI because of the same fundamental issue – can he file for a PTI? Is he in charge?

OLEC:

- Coordination of the Areas of Concern (AOC) program has moved to OLEC, with the coordinators remaining in OEPA district offices.
- OLEC received an implementation grant award for the Domestic Action Plan for portions

	<p>of the western basin, including Agricultural land management practices, 9-element planning, and watershed restoration projects. This will be rolling out in 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Erie Lakewide Action Management Plan (LAMP) will be rolling out in 2019. Partnered with IJC and OEPA. LAMP should be renewed every 5 years. • Coordinating the next Action Plan 3 for the GLRI. Focus areas and funding will be coordinated directly through state agencies, other partners, or the OLEC. Will continue to coordinate the estimate of this, though federal fiscal year doesn't end until October 2019. • Dredge Material Program – David Emerman is coordinating on a number of Army Corps 204 projects on some of those sites, and also looking at the agricultural placement in some parts of the Maumee. • LE Protection Fund Grant – Biannual. Will come out in spring. This will be an open call. • Next OLEC meeting is scheduled for December 12 in Columbus at OEPA.
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OHIO'S DAM SAFETY PROGRAM

M. KANNIK

DISCUSSION	Mia Kannik provided a presentation on ODNR's dam safety program		
CONCLUSIONS	NA		
Action items	Person responsible	Deadline	
NA			