

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
1800 WaterMark Drive  
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Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
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25 South Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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## TO PROMOTE AND GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE STATE OF OHIO

April 17, 1997

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Conference Room 2A

### **ABSTRACT**

The April 17th meeting was devoted to (1) agency updates and announcements; and (2) discussion of the NPS Management Plan update. Larry Berger chaired the meeting for Bob Wulforst.

### **ATTENDANCE**

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Michael Baker, Heather Belfi, Vladimir Cica, Barb Lubberger  
ODNR: Jill Evans, Dave Hanselmann, Scott Kell, Rebecca Petty, Bob Van Horn  
ODH: Scott Golden  
ODA: Larry Berger  
PUCO: Sue Daly

### **MARCH MEETING SUMMARY**

On page 3 of the March meeting summary, the amount of additional funding for the Hoover Reservoir project was incorrectly listed as \$5,000 per year. The correct amount is \$50,000.

### **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Michael Baker announced:***

- 1.) U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA cosponsored a "Stakeholders Meeting" on April 14th, to discuss U.S. EPA's draft guidance on Source Water Protection with statewide stakeholders, and to solicit their recommendations. Over 200 people attended, about two-thirds of whom were community water suppliers.

- 2.) A Children's Ground Water Festival will be held in Dayton on May 7th. Three 6-foot tables will be available for an "Ohio Ground Water" exhibit.

***ODH, Scott Golden announced:***

- 1.) An organizational meeting was held recently to develop guidance for the Household Sewage Disposal System Program Improvement Plan. The next meeting will be held May 6th.

***OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:***

- 1.) Local health departments have been active in submitting applications for 319 projects. The deadline for FFY '98 applications is May 30, 1997.
- 2.) Applications for FFY '97 319 projects currently are being processed by U.S. EPA, Region V.
- 3.) The team developing Ohio's Farm-a-Syst program, headed by DSW's Mark Wilson, currently is drafting educational Fact Sheets.

Michael Baker questioned whether this group is a "SCCGW workgroup". He will ask Mark Wilson if the team wishes to be considered an SCCGW workgroup. If so, Mike will provide instructions on how to formalize recognition.

***OEPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Vladimir Cica announced:***

- 1.) As mentioned last time, under House Bill 473, DSIWM must revisit its rules. Vladimir and DDAGW's Lindsay Taliaferro are heading up a group to consider changes in solid waste landfill siting criteria and ground water monitoring rules. SCCGW members expressed an interest in reviewing the existing rules and possibly offering suggestions. Mike Baker offered to provide copies of the existing rules to SCCGW members.

***ODNR, Division of Geologic Survey, Bob Van Horn announced:***

- 1.) A contract to complete karst mapping for the state of Ohio was signed with the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact on April 11th. Bob and four other Division staff have six months to complete this mapping, which requires identification of any "probable karst areas" and "areas with known karst features". (The waste facility may not be sited on any such areas.) The final product will be a statewide 1:500,000 map.
- 2.) Bob distributed copies of a posting for an Administrative Assistant 3, to administer the Geologic Database Program.
- 3.) Bob also distributed a schematic of the planned Ohio Geologic Sample Repository at Alum Creek. The facility currently is designed to cover 27,000 square feet, which should meet its space needs until about 2025. The Repository will have a seismic room and USGS will be providing a seismometer. Construction is expected to begin in September 1997.

***ODNR, Division of Water, Rebecca Petty announced:***

- 1.) The Comparative Risk Project's work groups and Advisory Group met recently to compile the prioritized lists of risk reduction strategies that were completed by each work group. The top priority strategy was the Model Private Water Systems program. Well abandonment and management of on-site septic systems also ranked high. Public input meetings will soon be scheduled. Once the input is reviewed, the Risk Reduction document will be finalized and distributed.
- 2.) The Division of Water is providing assistance to the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Engineering to develop a water supply at Hueston Woods State Park, in the aquifer just below the dam. The City of Oxford will withdraw water and in exchange, the City will provide finished water to the park.
- 3.) Well log computerization is ahead of schedule. The well log scanning will be complete by the end of May.

***ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, David Hanselmann announced:***

- 1.) The governor's Farmland Conservation Task Force has been meeting recently. Members are divided on how best to implement the recommendations, particularly in terms of how "mandatory" the recommendations should be.
- 2.) The Ohio Pesticide Applicators for Responsible Regulation (OPARR) will have its annual meeting on May 13th. Bob Wulfhorst, Larry Antosch, and Dave will be participating in a panel on water quality issues. Larry Berger will be there to discuss the State Management Plan for Pesticides (SMP).

***ODA, Feed and Fertilizer Section, Larry Berger announced:***

- 1.) The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) will be providing another representative to SCCGW to replace Kevin Hodnett, possibly Kelly Gill.
- 2.) The Hoover Reservoir Task Force met on April 11th. They are developing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the levels of atrazine in Hoover Reservoir. They feel that the most effective strategy is to educate farmers regarding BMPs.
- 3.) The Section's chipping machine (for the pesticide container recycling program) will be delivered next week. The Section will be employing someone part-time throughout the summer to operate it. The selected individual must be able to lift 100 pounds and it would be advantageous for him/her to reside in northwest Ohio, to facilitate commuting to the job.
- 4.) ODA will be putting out a bid to develop its own Global Positioning Systems (GPS) capability. They plan to set up a base station in Reynoldsburg, which should enable staff using handheld units to locate points with an accuracy of of 2-5 meters.

**WORKGROUP UPDATES**

### ***State Management Plan (SMP)***

Larry Berger reported that the group met again to discuss vulnerability assessment (to help determine optimal areas for location of monitoring wells designed to assess the level of pesticides in Ohio ground waters). The target date for completing this assessment work is June.

### ***Well Construction***

Rebecca Petty reported that the group agreed on recommendations for well screens, based on a performance standard. They also completed discussion of geologic considerations and horizontal drilling. They will be discussing well construction materials during their next meetings on May 14th and June 17th.

### **DISCUSSION OF NPS MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Dave Hanselmann initiated the discussion by reviewing the reasons for updating the program at this time. While there was no Federal impetus for updating the program, and the program has had some real successes, many feel that it can be improved. For one thing, the NPS program is dominated by the Federal 319 grant program, to the extent that it is often referred to as “the 319 program”. Also, some feel that the emphasis should be more on achieving water quality goals by focusing on the causes of degradation (such as siltation, nutrient enrichment, etc.) , and less on remediating individual pollution sources or source types. Administrative aspects should be reviewed: how projects are funded; what grants are available; the roles of government, enforcement programs, and the NPS groups. Dave asked if the program is institutionalized enough ... or is it too ad hoc?

He further noted that the program needs to integrate the priorities of the Ohio Water Resources Council, the evolving Source Water Protection Program, the State Management Plan for Pesticides, and the Comparative Risk program. He recommended looking at the next five-year cycle in terms of assessment, management planning, prevention activities, and implementation strategies. Larry Antosch added that if the revised program addresses the nine goals in U.S. EPA’s guidance, the U.S. EPA will relax their oversight of the program. Larry distributed copies of relevant portions of U.S. EPA’s guidance.

The group then reviewed statewide baseline information studies that are available or in process. These include:

***ODNR, Division of Water:*** aquifer maps; computerized well log database; DRASTIC maps.

***ODNR, Division of Geologic Survey:*** bedrock topography maps; karst maps; 3-D “stack-unit” maps of surficial materials; detailed glacial maps; oil and gas well location maps.

***ODNR, Division of Oil and Gas:*** maps of the base of aquifer units; computerized database of 250,000 oil and gas wells.

***ODNR, Division of Real Estate Use and Land Transfer:*** land-use maps

***ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation:*** soils maps

***OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:*** DRINK ground water quality database management system; inventorying approximately 5,000 individual ground water quality analysis sheets for inclusion in database; ambient ground water monitoring network and database; integration of water quality data from Heidelberg; U.S. EPA’s STORET, and DDAGW’s MSIS to identify areas of impacted ground water quality.

**USGS:** various regional studies

The group then listed some issues/questions that need to be explored as part of the update. These are summarized as follows:

1. Should we, for the first time, identify a resource-based **ground water goal**, similar to water quality attainment goals for streams? And if so, do we have enough geologic and hydrogeologic data to do this?
2. Do we have **enough data** to identify problems/potential degradation?
  - o Is monitoring sufficient?
  - o Is there adequate land-use tracking?
3. Should we **prioritize aquifers**? And if so, should that prioritization be based on potential receptors, as in the VAP program? What information is needed to assign priorities?
4. **“Nonpoint source” must be defined for ground water.**
5. The priorities and delivery mechanisms of **other initiatives must be integrated**, such as those being developed by the Ohio Water Resources Council, the Comparative Risk Program, the Source Water Protection Program, and the State Management Plan.
6. We need to determine the **effectiveness of BMPs**, such as those for agriculture and construction. (*Example: no-till methods are promoted to reduce surface water pollution. However, these methods appear to increase ground water pollution. On the other hand, there is evidence that with time ground water pollution in no-till areas diminishes, due to compaction and decreased infiltration. These linkages need to be understood better.*)
7. Similarly, **surface water-ground water interactions** need to be better understood.
8. We need to **improve distribution of environmental information** to the people who need it at the local level.
9. We need to **identify barriers** to achieving the goals that have been set in the past, and that may be set again.
10. Many of the **biggest NPS issues are local in scope**. For example, failing septic systems are a major cause of surface and ground water pollution, but the state has limited jurisdiction over these. Under these circumstances, how useful can a “State plan” be?
11. **What will be sustainable is local initiatives**, not a program run by the State. The State’s role may be to proactively offer information and education.

#### **MAY AGENDA**

1. Agency updates and announcements
2. Work Group updates
3. Discussion of the NPS Management Plan

**HAND-OUTS**

1. U.S. EPA's "Suggested Outline for Assessments of State Programs"
2. Schematic of the planned Ohio Geologic Sample Repository at Alum Creek
3. Implementation Schedule - Ground Water Resources
4. Job posting for Administrative Assistant 3, for Division of Geologic Survey

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### **TO PROMOTE AND GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE STATE OF OHIO**

**May 15, 1997**

**Ohio EPA, 1800 WaterMark Drive  
Conference Room 1A**

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	APRIL MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 9:30 am	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous
9:30 - 9:50 am	WORK GROUP UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
9:50 - 10:00 am	BREAK
10:00 - 10:50 am	DISCUSSION OF NPS MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES
10:50 - 10:55 am	MISCELLANEOUS
10:55 - 11:00 am	JUNE SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
11:00 am	ADJOURN

