

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
1800 WaterMark Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1099

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Fountain Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health  
246 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of Commerce-SFM  
8895 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ohio Public Utilities Commission  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
65 South Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ohio Department of Development  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of Transportation  
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

**June 26, 1997**

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife Conference Center**

### **ABSTRACT**

The June 26th meeting was devoted to agency updates and announcements; and Work Group updates.

### **ATTENDANCE**

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Michael Baker, Heather Belfi, Tim Christman, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Dave Hanselmann, Rebecca Petty

ODH: Scott Golden

ODA: Larry Berger

PUCO: Sue Daly

### **MAY MEETING SUMMARY**

The May Meeting Summary was approved as written.

### **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- 1.) The Sewage Advisory Committee met in mid-June. The group split into five teams with 5-10 people on each team. Each team has its own tasks and is assisted by outside facilitators. The group will be revisiting legislation drafted in the past to see if consensus can be reached. The next full Committee meeting will be in September. A final report is due December 1998; in the interim, the five groups will be submitting quarterly progress reports to the full committee.

- 2.) The proposed Terrace Park project has been abandoned because the Village Council was unwilling to verbally endorse the study. (ODH and USGS were interested in studying aquifer impacts from dry wells in Terrace Park, a community in east Hamilton County. Eighty percent of the community's sewage is disposed of in dry wells.)

***OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Heather Belfi announced:***

- 1.) Larry Antosch has been named the new work group leader, replacing Mark Wilson who joined OEPA's Director's Office. The group has divided into three subcommittees to work on different Fact Sheets. Their next meeting will be July 7th.

***PUCO, Sue Daly announced:***

- 1.) PUCO is still in the process of reorganizing, but details are not yet available.

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

- 1.) He recently attended a U.S. EPA meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on conducting Source Water assessments. U.S. EPA apparently is expecting states to meet the tight timelines proposed for completing state programs and conducting assessments. (States are expected to complete their State programs by March 1999, and to complete statewide assessments within two years after U.S. EPA approval of the state program, with the possibility of an 18-month extension upon request.) In the next month or so, a technical advisory committee will be formed as a SCCGW work group to develop Ohio's Source Water Assessment Program.
- 2.) The Ground Water Protection Council's annual meeting will be held in Cleveland at the Sheraton City Center September 20-23. A major focus of the meeting will be source water protection. Ohio EPA-DDAGW will be coordinating a State of Ohio poster display. We will be given the center location and can have as much space as desired.
- 3.) The USGS will proceed with the ground water quality and quantity study related to Agri-Business operations in Marion County. Ohio EPA will provide laboratory support.

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

- 1.) The Division has published its *Guide for Developing Local Watershed Action Plans in Ohio*. Larry brought copies for SCCGW members.
- 2.) The Division has received about 25 applications for Clean Water Act, Chapter 319 nonpoint source projects. Only three or four of these are related to ground water. He will send copies of the ground water applications to SCCGW members for review. The SCCGW will form recommendations at the July meeting.

***OEPA, Division of Emergency and Remedial Response, Tim Christman announced:***

- 1.) Staff from DERR, DHWM, and DDAGW have formed a work group to assess the advantages and limitations of various computer models currently being used for modeling ground water flow, capture zones, leaching, and fate and transport. A report on their conclusions should be available by September, 1997.

***OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen announced:***

- 1.) The Division's 1997 annual report is complete and will be issued next month. The Division's annual plan should be finalized next week. The Division's ambient ground water monitoring network was expanded this spring, and will be expanded further over the next year. Also, the Class V program will be expanded in the coming year. Technical assistance to other Agency programs will continue at current levels; however, oversight of the Office of Federal Facilities' work (e.g., Fernald, Mound, and Piketon facilities) will be phased out over the next year or two.
- 2.) A work group has been formed to determine what level of technical assistance the Division should provide with regard to statistical analysis of ground water quality. Regulatory compliance has become focused on statistical analysis, at an increasingly complex level. The group will provide recommendations on whether to hire a statistician.
- 3.) The Farm Science Review committee met recently to plan the September event. Mark Wilson is representing OEPA in this effort.
- 4.) With regard to the agency's relocation: the latest information is that the Central Office will remain at WaterMark Drive for at least the next 18 months.

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

- 1.) The transfer of well logs to electronic format remains on schedule. The data entry and scanning tasks are being finalized and data is being loaded into ORACLE tables. Digitizing of well locations will be done at Marion Correctional Institute, under the management of Dave Lewis and Associates.
- 2.) Rough ground water pollution potential maps have been completed for counties that have no published ground water pollution potential maps, as part of State Management Plan for Pesticides vulnerability assessments.
- 3.) The Division provided information to Senator Gilmore's office, which is drafting legislation related to facilities with more than 1,000 animal units.
- 4.) Agri-general recently conducted pumping tests to determine effects of their proposed pumping on the local water table. Division staff took water level measurements at off-site wells during the pumping test.
- 5.) A report on the evaluation of the Division's observation well network should be available by the next SCCGW meeting. The Division will be expanding the network, and rehabilitating some observation wells.
- 6.) The Division and USGS are jointly evaluating the State stream gaging network.
- 7.) The USGS is also working with the Division on a report of the March 1997 flooding.

- 8.) The Ohio State University is sponsoring a “Field Workshop on Joints and Fractures in Ohio Tills: Site Investigation Techniques and Field Hydraulic Measurements” on August 28, 1997. This workshop will be held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London, Ohio (site of the annual Farm Science Review). Workshop fee is \$40.00. For additional information and registration materials contact Scott Brockman at Ohio Geological Survey, 614-265-7054.
- 9.) Recently, a number of researchers working in northwest Ohio have noted a general decline in ground water levels that is not easily explained. One hypothesis is that improved field tiling since the 1940s is draining more precipitation to streams and not allowing it to recharge the aquifer. A meeting to discuss this issue and exchange information will be held at OSU, the Agricultural Engineering Building, Room 219 on July 9, 1997 (1:30 to 3:30 PM). Call Larry Brown (614-292-3826) for more details.
- 10.) The Division of Water is being reorganized. More details will be available at future meetings.

***ODA, Pesticides Section, Larry Berger announced:***

- 1.) ODA will be purchasing 12 mobile GPS units (Trimble brand) and installing a base station at ODA.
- 2.) The chipping machine (for chipping plastic containers formerly holding agricultural chemicals) is now at ODA and will be put to use soon.
- 3.) ODA has hired a driver for the mobile container recycling program.

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

- 1.) High atrazine levels were detected in water samples from tributaries to Walnut Creek over May-June, when rainfall was extremely heavy. The highest levels were around 30 or 40 ug/l. The City of Columbus’ public water system has obtained an activated carbon system which will go on-line this summer.
- 2.) An “urban streams program” for the Lake Erie shoreline has arisen to address water quality and habitat issues for urban streams that flow to Lake Erie. The focus will be on methods for restoring degraded portions of these streams.
- 3.) Karl Gebhardt has left the Ohio Farm Bureau and is now heading up the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives.
- 4.) The Division of Wildlife will be providing \$500,000 a year to the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, to enable wildlife specialists to work on habitat protection in the conservation districts. It is anticipated that fifteen (15) individuals will be hired.

- 5.) The National Resource Conservation Service has developed a national initiative to digitize soils maps, and has digitizing centers in various states (the center in Michigan is closest). The effort is scheduled to be complete in about six years.
- 6.) The NatureWorks budget includes \$250,000 for watershed planning around canal-lakes (lakes originally created to regulate flow in Ohio's historic canal system).
- 7.) The Division will be hiring a computer coordinator and a training coordinator.
- 8.) A National Urban Conservation Conference will be held on November 2-5 at the Adams Mark Hotel.

### **WORKGROUP UPDATES**

#### ***State Management Plan***

Larry Berger reported that the USGS has requested an additional \$8,000 to complete its digitizing of pollution potential maps designed for assessing which areas in Ohio would be most vulnerable to agricultural chemicals in ground water. This vulnerability assessment will guide the designation of various wells for the SMP's ground water monitoring network.

#### ***Well Construction***

Rebecca Petty reported that the group continues to make excellent progress. They have completed discussion on well construction practices and geologic considerations, and is now finishing up with discussion of chemical techniques and testing.

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

This discussion was deferred to the next SCCGW meeting.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

It was noted that it's time to elect a new chairperson for the next six months. This will be addressed at the next SCCGW meeting. Any members not in attendance may be elected *in absentia*.

### **JULY AGENDA**

1. Agency updates and announcements
2. Work Group updates
3. Discuss the NPS Management Plan
4. Discuss ground water-related proposals for 319-funded projects
5. **Election of new chair (NOTE: Non-attendance does not preclude election)**

### **HAND-OUTS**

1. Announcement of meeting on declining water levels in northwest Ohio
2. Announcement of Field Workshop on Joints and Fractures in Ohio Tills

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**July 17, 1997**

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Building E  
Assembly Center**

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	JUNE 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 - 10:30 am	DISCUSSION OF NPS MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES
10:30 - 10:45 am	DISCUSSION OF GROUND WATER RELATED 319 PROPOSALS
10:45 - 10:50 am	MISCELLANEOUS
10:50 - 10:55 am	ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR
10:55 - 11:00 am	JULY SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
11:00 am	ADJOURN