

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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122 S. Front Street
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Ohio Department of Development
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Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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

February 18, 1999

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Building D, Third Floor Conference Room

ABSTRACT

The February 18th meeting was devoted to updates and announcements, and a discussion of SCCGW's coordination with the Ohio Water Resources Council

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Michael Baker, Vladimir Cica, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Bob Van Horn,

ODH: Rebecca Petty

ODA: Bill Goodman

PUCO: Sue Daly

NRCS: John Armentano

USGS: Jeff DeRoche

JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY

On page 3, under the Discussion section of the Ohio Water Resources Council, the second sentence has been revised to read: "Jim Rozelle suggested having SCCGW and a similar surface water coordinating committee as ad-hoc committees under the umbrella of the Water Resources Council."

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- 1.) The Agency's annual planning and biennium budget are being finalized.
- 2.) Tom distributed drafts of the Ohio Water Resources Plan, for SCCGW members to read in preparation for next month's discussions. Since it is still a draft, it should not be distributed

- 3.) Jim Rozelle recently met with the governor's new advisor for state environmental issues (Kate Bartter, formerly Deputy Director at Ohio EPA), to discuss the Ohio Water Resources Council and its 1998 Plan. The new directors of OEPA and ODNR should be meeting soon to discuss OWRC and implementation of the Ohio Water Strategic Plan.

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

- 4.) Ohio's Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program has been signed by Director Jones and was sent to U.S. EPA on February 4th. Due to the state agency hiring freeze, OEPA currently cannot hire needed staff or complete contracts with outside groups to assist with implementation of the program.
- 5.) Mike recently gave a presentation to the Ohio Water Resources Council about SWAP, and it appears that SWAP will be an action item in the Strategy.
- 6.) The Ohio Department of Transportation appears willing to design a road sign for Source Water Protection/Wellhead Protection awareness, which municipalities would be permitted to install along state roads as well as other local roads.
- 7.) A national environmental group called Environmental Working Group is planning to release another water quality report within the next couple weeks that is specific to Ohio.
- 8.) DDAGW Chief John Sadzewicz is resigning to work in the private sector. His replacement has not yet been determined.

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Bob Van Horn announced:

- 1.) Samuel Speck was appointed the new director of ODNR, to assume office on March 1st. He has previously served in the Ohio Legislature as a representative and as a senator. During that time, he sponsored Ohio's strip mine reclamation act.
- 2.) The Division is busy preparing for the geologic mapping coalition's Forum on February 24th. Already 249 people have registered, and capacity is 250 people.
- 3.) The Ohio Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists is moving ahead with developing a process to register geologists in the State of Ohio. They hope to introduce a bill into the Legislature this Spring.

ODH, Bureau of Local and Environmental Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- 1.) The bureau is seeking a new sponsor for the legislation for private water systems. Gary Suhadolnik had agreed to sponsor it, but he recently was appointed to a Cabinet position.
- 2.) The Private Water System Rules are to be complete by June. Copies of the rules have been sent to ODNR and OEPA. [Rebecca distributed additional copies.] Comments must be provided to ODH by March 8th. One main feature of these rules is proposed water quality standards for nitrates, coliform bacteria, and *E. coli*, with one-time sampling required of every private well.

- 3.) The Sewage Bill has made it through the Legislative Services Committee, and will be sponsored by Senator Gardner. This legislation sets new technical standards for private sewage treatment, and requires a NPDES permit for off-lot discharges. (This issue is currently being discussed with OEPA's Division of Surface Water.) ODA is preparing for extensive education of the local health departments, to provide for more consistent regulation across the state.

ODNR, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch announced:

- 1.) Michele Willis resigned as Chief of DOW to join ODH. Dick Bartz is Acting Chief of the Division.
- 2.) Two Civilian Conservation Corps members have been assigned to the Division to deal with the backlog of well log entries.

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

- 1.) The Division is working with OEPA's DDAGW and DSW to determine how lime plants should be regulated. Lime is considered more innocuous than most wastes, its main impacts being increased hardness, total dissolved solids, specific conductance, and higher pH. However, lime may also display radioactivity, emanating from minerals associated with the lime. There has been discussion of permitting lime discharges to ground water, but this is a difficult issue for the DDAGW. This issue also has implications for the Unified Cleanup Work Group, which may need to determine standard clean-up values for discharges of lime pit leachate.

OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:

- 1.) The first meeting of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) External Advisory Group was held on February 18th. The Group has formed several sub-groups that will be meeting on a monthly basis.
- 2.) Thanks to the Clean Water Action Plan, the funding for 319 projects has doubled from 3 to 6 million dollars. The additional \$3 million must be spent in what are identified as priority watersheds. The Phase II call for 319 proposals will go out within the week, with these conditions incorporated, and proposals will be due in May.
- 3.) The update of the Nonpoint Source Management Plan is continuing, and is expected to be finalized by June 1999.
- 4.) In accordance with the 1998 Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement (EnPPA), Ohio EPA completed a tentative schedule to develop TMDLs for all waters on the 1998 303(d) list. The schedule has been submitted to U.S. EPA Region 5.

U.S.G.S, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

- 1.) Charles "Chip" Groat has been named the new director of the USGS. He was formerly the state geologist for Louisiana.

- 2.) A push is on to completely reformat the USGS budget, and standardize the financial reporting across all four divisions. Budget changes will involve a reduction in overhead and in available co-op funds.
- 3.) The Columbus office of USGS, currently housed on Third Avenue in Grandview, is looking forward to moving to its new location south of the Marriott Inn north in late March or early April.
- 4.) Jeff distributed two reports recently published: (1) Analysis of the Sensitivity of Soils to the Leaching of Agricultural Pesticides in Ohio; and (2) Selected Ground-Water-Quality Data of the Lockport Dolomite in Darke, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble Counties, Ohio.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- 1.) Ohio's budget has been cut for this fiscal year, which is being absorbed by cutbacks on training and travel, and not filling vacancies. However, next year's budget is expected to be cut even further, across the nation.
- 2.) Like the USGS, NRCS is trying to integrate administratively by standardizing the budgeting and accounting systems.
- 3.) The new NRCS liaison to Ohio EPA (replacing Doug Zehner) is Alan Lauver, formerly a state economist.
- 4.) The first round of Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) approvals is complete, with 39 approvals of a total of 1900 acres. Last year, \$4 million was spent on the Wetland Reserve Program. In response to a question about using the WRP to protect land for other environmental agendas, John said that it is commonly used for riparian protection by watershed groups.

PUCO, Sue Daly announced:

- 1.) Alan Schriber will be the new Chair of the PUCO.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Well Construction Guidance Work Group

Rebecca Petty announced that the draft technical guidance for well construction was complete, and will be distributed soon. Comments on the draft are due by April 1st. [Copies were distributed to SCCGW members]

DISCUSSION OF SCCGW and THE OHIO WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

There was some discussion of the relationship of SCCGW with the Ohio Water Resources Council. There appeared to be consensus among SCCGW members that SCCGW should not be considered an "arm" of the Council but rather an external "go-to" group that could initiate work groups and provide consultation on ground water issues. SCCGW would assist in coordinating and implementing the Ohio Water Resources Plan, but remain autonomous from the Council.

It was agreed that the current Chair (Tom Allen) should draft a letter to the directors of SCCGW's member agencies outlining SCCGW's role in implementing the Strategy's action items. This will

be e-mailed to SCCGW members for comment as soon as possible. The final letter must be complete before the Council's next meeting.

There was also discussion about suggesting that the Natural Resources Coordinating Committee may be able to perform a similar role for surface water issues. Tom Allen will speak to the Committee's chairs about making such a suggestion in the letter.

Tom requested that representatives look at the draft Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan and:

- think about where ground water issues fit into the document;
- identify what activities their agency or program is doing or plans to do in reference to ground water protection; and
- pull out what needs to be addressed by SCCGW in the next year.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1.) Bob Van Horn asked to include a presentation on the May SCCGW meeting agenda, about the Great Lakes geologic mapping coalition. He proposed that the SCCGW could then discuss formally endorsing the coalition's program through a letter to the directors of the member agencies.
- 2.) For the next few months, SCCGW meeting locations will be as follows:
March 18th: ODNR, Building D, 3rd Floor Conference Room
April 15th: OEPA, Conference Room 5A
May 20th: USGS new building
June 17th: USGS new building
July 15th: The new OGS sample repository building at Alum Creek

MARCH AGENDA

The meeting will be held at ODNR, Building D, third floor conference room, 8:30 to 11:00 AM. The meeting will include Agency updates and a discussion of SCCGW goals that will involve reviewing the strategic plans for the various programs, and prioritizing items.

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) **Strategic Plan:** Draft Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan - 1998
- 2.) **USGS Report:** "Analysis of the Sensitivity of Soils to the Leaching of Agricultural Pesticides in Ohio"
- 3.) **USGS Report:** "Selected Ground-Water-Quality Data of the Lockport Dolomite in Darke, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble Counties, Ohio"
- 4.) **Guidance:** Technical Guidance for Well Construction and Ground Water Protection (draft guidance by the SCCGW Work Group)
- 5.) **Brochure:** "A Proposed Action Agenda for Ohio Watersheds" (published by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and The Ohio State University Extension)
- 6.) **Draft Rules:** Ohio Department of Health Private Water Systems Rules OAC 3701-28

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March 18, 1999

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Building D, 3rd Floor Conference Room**

- 8:30 - 8:35 am CALL TO ORDER
 -Introductions
- 8:35 - 8:40 am FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY
- 8:40 - 10:00 am AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 -Legislation/Rules/Policies
 -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires
 -Miscellaneous
 -Work Group Updates
- 10:00 - 10:10 am BREAK
- 10:10 - 10:55 am DISCUSSION OF SCCGW GOALS FOR 1999
- 10:55 - 11:00 am NEXT SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
- 11:00 am ADJOURN