

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

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
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399

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

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

November 15, 2001

Horace R. Collins - Conference Room

ABSTRACT

The November, 2001 meeting was devoted to Agency updates and announcements as well as a presentation on "Identifying Sensitive Aquifers in Ohio" by Chris Kenah, Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters.

ATTENDANCE

ODH: Rebecca Petty
ODNR: Rick Pavey, Jim Raab
OEPA: Tom Allen, Chris Kenah, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger
ODA: Larry Berger
ODOT: Julie Denniss
SFM: Charles Zepp
OSU-Ext: Cindy Folck
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Jeff DeRoche

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

US Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

- The USGS Budget has been finalized. The U.S. Geological Survey is funded at \$914 million restoring a \$90 million cut in the President's request and providing \$31 million increase over FY01.

- 319 Program funds for 2000 grant awards have been worked out and funds should be available to USGS within the next few weeks for the Ground Water Meta Data-data base project.

The following USGS documents were distributed:

(1) "What is the Ohio Gap Analysis Program (GAP)? - brochure

(2) "Areal Distribution and Concentrations of Contaminants of Concern in Surficial Streambed and Lakebed Sediments, Lake-Erie-Lake Saint Clair Drainages, 1990-97", Water Resources Investigations Report 00-4200, authors: S.J. Rheaume, D.T. Button, D.N. Myers, and D.L. Hubbell - NAWQA report

(3) "Ground-Water Quality in Geauga County, Ohio - Review of Previous Studies, Status in 1999, and Comparison of 1986 and 1999 Data", Water-Resources Investigations Report 01-4160, authors: Martha L. Jagucki and Robert A. Darner - report

(4) "Ground-Water Levels and Flow Directions in Glacial Sediments and Carbonate Bedrock Near Tremont City, Ohio, October-November 2000", Water-Resources Investigations Report 01-4224, author: Denise H. Dumouchelle - 34"x45" map

State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation, Charles Zepp announced:

- BUSTR has been included in House Bill 105 with regards to issuing civil penalties.

Ohio Department of Transportation, Julie Denniss announced:

- Tom Linkous, Assistant Administrator, has been repositioned to focus primarily on policy issues. Two people have been added to handle permits, and one more person will be hired for the Ecological unit.

The Ohio State University Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- A report on Ohio's Clean Sweep Program (collecting unused pesticides) is posted on Extension's website at pested.osu.edu.

- There will be an international training offered via the Internet on riparian corridor improvement.

- Since September 11th, Extension has received numerous calls from the media about the security of pesticide storage sites.

- Due to OSU budget issues, Extension faces the possibility of a hiring freeze for the next two years.

- Extension will be presenting four pesticide training sessions this winter. The Columbus training is scheduled for January 21, 2002.

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic Survey, Rick Pavey announced:

- Budget cuts are taking a deep toll on the department. Retiring staff are not being replaced at present.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- The Service is still operating fiscally under a 'continuing resolution'.

- Currently the Service's attention is focused on the 2002 Farm Bill, which exists in four different versions: the existing bill, the proposed House bill, and versions proposed by Senators Harkin and Lugar. [John passed out a comparison of the four versions.] Some staff are predicting passage by Christmas but John considers this optimistic.

- New hires:

District Conservationist in Clark County - **Kimberly Farr**

Soil Conservation Technician in Darke County - **Jenelle Ott**

Soil Conservationist in the Orwell Field Office of Ashtabula County - **Jay McElroy**

Information Technology Specialist in the Xenia Field Office - **Jim Reisen**

ODH, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- The Bureau has received permission to release the second draft of the Home Sewage Rules.

- Some legislators continue to voice concerns about the monitoring and inspection requirements in the proposed Sewage Rules, which specify monitoring and inspection every 15 months for engineered systems with mechanical components (such as aeration systems) and every five years for standard leachfields.

- Sampling of private wells in Highland County on October 30 revealed high nitrate levels in the ground water. Ten of 30 samples had nitrate concentrations above the MCL, and one sample had a nitrate concentration of 49 mg/l. Testing for bacteria also was done; *E. coli* was detected in all three of the springs tested, and coliform bacteria were found in some wells. Sampling was conducted in response to Ohio EPA's decision to require developers in the area to install sanitary sewers. County commissioners, regional planners, and staff at Ohio EPA's Southwest District are working cooperatively on this issue.

This area displays karst features, including sinkholes. While visiting the area, ODH staff noted a field tile that drained into a sinkhole.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Jim Raab announced:

- The 6% statewide budget cut is not forcing any layoffs at present, but retirees will not be replaced.

- A researcher from Battelle Labs is preparing to conduct tests for arsenic in ground water using various analytical methods, and called Jim for advice. Jim referred him to Rebecca Petty and Rich Bendula, Ground Water Supervisor at Ohio EPA's Southwest District Office.

- The division recently decided to stop monitoring ground water levels at egg farms in Hardin and Wyandot Counties. Several years of monitoring indicate a minimal decline of water levels in Hardin County. In Wyandot County levels declined 6-8 feet and then stabilized.

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Registration Section, Larry Berger announced:

- The Confined Animal Feeding Operations rules should be proposed by January or February, 2002.

MISCELLANEOUS

Concern over the security of public water supplies was discussed. Julie Denniss noted that citizens in the Trenton area (southwest Ohio, Butler County) had asked about Ohio EPA's policy with regard to distributing information on locations of public water systems.

PRESENTATION: "Identifying Sensitive Aquifers in Ohio", Chris Kenah, OEPA

Chris presented maps identifying sensitive aquifers in Ohio, based primarily on DDAGW's water quality data. Nitrate levels are analyzed for every public water system in Ohio, which makes this a particularly good parameter for comparison.

Chris noted that 'sensitivity' is largely controlled by geology. As expected, sand and gravel aquifers filling glacial river valleys tend to be sensitive, as well as areas overlain by glacial till that is less than 25 feet thick. Based on this analysis, approximately 15 percent of Ohio is sensitive to contamination, especially northeast and southwest Ohio.

This analysis is useful for applications of the upcoming Ground Water Rule, which may impose additional monitoring requirements on public water systems located in 'sensitive environments'. It is also useful background for discussions of ground water-surface water interaction, for drinking water protection programs like SWAP and Wellhead Protection, and for siting criteria for regulated facilities.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

No updates provided.

December 20, 2001 Agenda: The December 20, 2001 SCCGW meeting will be held at The Dutch Kitchen at 8690 US Highway 42 South, Plain City, Ohio, phone (614) 873-4518.

Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC): Ohio Strategic Water Resources Goals:

SCCGW members were advised that comments on the latest version of the OWRC goals and objectives were due to Michelle Willis by the following day.

Tom Allen said the Action Plans could be used to identify gaps in such things as funding and coordination. He said members should identify the items in their agency's existing Biennium Workplan that address each Action item, then review the funding and coordination for those items. Another member suggested that the Action Plans could be used to identify duplication of efforts, and the end result might be to make staff available for additional projects.

It was pointed out the OWRC Strategic Plan update does not really serve as an update to the 1986 Ground Water Strategic Plan, as originally hoped, because the OWRC update focuses primarily on surface water. Therefore, SCCGW will need to plan for updating the 1986 Ground Water Strategic Plan in coordination with the OWRC strategic plan.

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SCCGW Holiday Meeting/Luncheon *Coffee and Donuts Provided*

December 20, 2001
Dutch Kitchen
8690 US Highway 42 South
Plain City, Ohio
(614) 873-4518

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	NOVEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:30 am	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous
10:30	BREAK
10:45 - 11:00 am	Presentation: Ralph Haefner, USGS Kick-off of the Meta-Data database project for ground water data
11:00 - 11:25 am	Presentation: Kevin Elder, ODA Development of new livestock rules
11:25 am	AGENDA
11:30	Adjourn (Lunch Buffet (\$11.00/person))