

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 20, 2002
Horace R. Collins Conference Room
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building
3307 South Old State Road
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The November 2002 meeting included Agency updates and announcements and a presentation on bacterial source tracking by Donald Stoeckel, USGS.

ATTENDANCE

ODH: Rebecca Petty
OEPA: Tom Allen, Vladimir Cica, Michael Eggert, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger, Heather Raymond
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Rick Pavey,
PUCO: Sue Daly
ODOT: Rob Lang
OSU: Cindy Folck
NRCS: John Armentano
USGS: Jeff deRoche

OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY

Members agreed to forward any comments in writing, as the draft notes were not sent out before the meeting.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Vlad Cica announced:

-The solid waste landfill rules package is on its way to the Directors Office for signature.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

-The NRCS still has no budget and is operating on a continuing resolution effective until January 11th, 2003.

-Ohio NRCS has begun reorganizing into five administrative areas, with district offices in Findlay, Medina, Zanesville, Brookville, and Chillicothe.

- As part of the reorganization, three positions will be eliminated: Lead District Conservationist, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology, and Natural Resource Manager. Staff currently in these positions will be reassigned.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

-Sue has been appointed vice-chair of the Staff Subcommittee on Water for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

- Recently the Commissioners attended a meeting in Chicago on terrorist designs against public water systems. The speakers (a retired major-general and a psychologist) said that foreign intelligence indicates that public water is a definite target. Terrorists understand that the actual damage might be limited but the psychological and economic impacts would be enormous.

OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- Extension is gearing up for its pesticide application training programs, which will run through the winter season. These will include four conferences and a two-day inservice for new commercial applicators.

- There is a bill before the Ohio Senate (Senate Bill 217) that will change the structure of commercial applicator licensing and liability for pesticide application. The fees for different levels of licensing would be combined to pay the same fee. Also, liability insurance will attach to the pesticide license of the business providing the applicator service, rather than to the applicator's individual pesticide license.

- Cindy distributed a graphic of the home page for the CSREES Great Lakes Regional Water Quality Program, a group of Extension affiliates in Ohio EPA's Region V.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch announced:

- The observation well rehabilitation project started about two weeks ago. Three of seven new wells have been completed.

Ohio EPA, Director's Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:

- House Bill 479, the "credible data bill", passed the Ohio House 80-0 and is headed to the Senate. A description of this bill, written by Laura Powell (OEPA Director's Office) follows:

House Bill 479 establishes requirements for the use of "credible data" in administering the Water Pollution Control law. The legislation defines credible data as scientifically valid chemical, physical, or biological water quality monitoring data concerning surface waters, including qualitative scoring of physical habitat characteristics and the sampling of fish,

macroinvertebrates, and water quality, that have been collected by or submitted to the Director of Ohio EPA and that comply with rules to be adopted by Ohio EPA. This legislation is intended to allow volunteer monitoring data to be submitted to Ohio EPA to be used in administering the Water Pollution Control law. The legislation requires Ohio EPA to develop rules establishing the protocol for collecting three levels of sampling data. All state agencies who maintain water quality data are required to submit that to Ohio EPA at least annually. Ohio EPA is required to develop and maintain a computerized database of all credible data and make it available to other agencies and all interested persons.

The bill passed the House of Representatives on November 14, 2002, but did not receive hearings in the Senate. Ohio EPA expects the bill will be reintroduced by Representative Core after the first of the year.

- The West Nile Virus interagency group met to discuss strategy for next year. This year there were 22 deaths in Ohio that were linked to West Nile virus. Most of the human illnesses occurred in Cuyahoga and Hamilton Counties. Horses were also hit hard, especially in Holmes County. The efficacy of the vaccine is being evaluated; in the meantime, it is hoped that immunity will increase with each summer season, and the numbers affected will decrease naturally.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- The Bureau is preparing a joint investigation with Ohio EPA of the situation in Trumbull County, where sewage is being released from inadequate on-lot septic systems completed for new housing developments. Recently Ohio EPA filed a suit against the Trumbull County Commissioners, who then filed a suit against the County Health Board, the group responsible for permitting these systems.

- Representative Niehaus plans to introduce on-lot sewage legislation in early January. The problematic issues are maintenance and monitoring requirements, which can be costly. If these requirements stay in the legislation, it is expected that the House won't pass it.

- Information on 'experimental septic systems' is now available on ODH's Web site.

- The ODH database of registrations and permits for domestic well drillers has been overhauled and updated.

- OWWA is hosting a two-day conference on November 20-21.

- Recently numerous requests have come in to ODH for private well sampling, more than they can accommodate at current staffing levels.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen announced:

- He has 75 copies of Ohio Water Resource Council's Strategic Plan. OWRC-State Agency Group has identified the water data and information issue as a priority for additional consideration in the future and will present it to the advisory group in January.

December 19, 2002 SCCGW Meeting

The meeting probably will be held at the Dutch Kitchen in Plain City (more details will follow by e-mail), with a presentation by ODNR's Division of Water and Ohio EPA about posting ground water data on the Web.

PRESENTATION

"Recent Advances in Microbial Source Tracking", Donald Stoeckel, USGS

Microbial source tracking (MST) is a new methodology that is being developed to determine the sources of pathogens from environmental samples. A major driving force behind its development is USEPA's push to complete TMDL studies. Pathogens are one of the primary causes of water impairment, but the relative contribution of various pathogen sources to a water body's overall impairment is difficult to determine. MST, though very new and experimental, offers a way to make these kinds of determinations. Watershed-specific libraries can be built of the types of pathogens (or isolates of one kind of pathogen, such as the bacterium E. coli).

Molecular methods (DNA finger-printing) may offer the most precise identification of specific types of pathogens, but involve time-consuming, labor-intensive laboratory procedures that limit their cost-effectiveness and usefulness in a large study. Biochemical methods are simpler and less costly. One approach to watershed studies may be to use biochemical methods as indicators of certain types of pathogens, then follow up with the more intensive molecular methods.

In the last six years, twelve methods for microbial source tracking have been proposed. More information can be obtained at the following Web sites:

<http://water.usgs.gov/owq/microbiol.html>

<http://epa.gov/owm/mtb/mtbfact.htm>

<http://oh.water.usgs.gov/microbiol.html>

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Joint Meeting of SCCGW and OWRC State Agency Group

December 19, 2002

at

The Dutch Kitchen, Plain City**

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| 8:30 - 8:35 | CALL TO ORDER
- Introductions |
| 8:35 - 8:40 | NOVEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY |
| 8:40 - 9:20 | BRIEF AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
-Legislation/Rules/Policies
-Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires
-Miscellaneous |
| 9:20 - 9:30 | BREAK |
| 9:30 - 10:00 | PRESENTATION BY ODNR |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | PRESENTATION BY OHIO EPA |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | DISCUSSION ON DATA AND INFORMATION |
| 11:00 | ADJOURN/LUNCH |

*Lunch buffet is about \$13.00/person

**Dutch Kitchen is located on the west side of State Route 42, about half way between Plain City and I-70, northwest of Columbus