

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

February 17, 2005
Horace R. Collins Conference Room
ODNR Repository, Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The February 2005 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation on a GIS Application for Preliminary Evaluation of Soil Limitations for On-site Sewage Systems

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Ted Lozier, Greg Nageotte, Mac Swinford
ODA: Bill Goodman
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Jeff DeRoche
Guest speaker: Paul Spahr, ODNR, Division of Water

REVISIONS of JANUARY DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

None requested.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Bill Goodman announced:

-A "quarantine", as provided for in OAC 901:5-56-1-3, has been set up for the emerald ash borer. The quarantine applies to portions of Defiance, Wood, Lucas, Fulton, and Henry counties (Bill distributed maps).

- On February 26th ODA will hold an open house to educate concerned residents about upcoming gypsy moth treatment programs in the following areas: Defiance, Fayette, Franklin, Highland, Logan, Madison, Paulding, Pickaway, and Pike counties. Both microbial and chemical (Dimilin) treatments are planned.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) held a national meeting in Washington D.C. last week. Topics discussed included:

- A directive from the Bush Administration to channel \$44 million to drinking water security, \$40 million of this for early-warning systems to be set up in selected cities and \$4 million for a water alliance for threat reduction training program.
- Peter Shanaghan discussed 'affordability criteria', i.e., an analysis of impacts to consumers when increased costs to utilities are passed on to the consumer.
- States are being encouraged to provide more State Revolving Fund loans to private water systems, especially those states who currently provide less than 10% to private systems.
- NARUC is discussing assistance to low-income families to pay water bills (as well as energy bills). Sue would prefer to see the money used for reducing the causes of high water bills, such as damaged plumbing.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey, Mac Swinford announced:

- The Division of Geological Survey has completed its move from Building B to Building C in the ODNR central office complex. The Division occupies all of the first floor and a portion of the second floor of Building C. An open house is being planned for sometime in the near future. The new address is Ohio Division of Geological Survey, 2045 Morse Road, Bld. C-1, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693. All phone numbers for Survey personnel will remain the same.

- The Division has received formal acceptance of the proposal to produce surficial-geology maps for the Ohio portion of the Ashtabula and Youngtown 30 x 60 minute quadrangles. The Division of Geological Survey will receive \$74,000 for the project, 25% less than the amount originally proposed.

- Doug Crowell, coal geologist for the Division for 28 years, will retire February 24th, 2005. His duties will be transferred to other Survey staff. Potentially three other early retirements might occur with Survey staff members by June 30, 2005.

United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline, Jeff deRoche announced:

- USGS 2005 Budget -- Congress began the process by providing USGS an \$11 million increase over FY 2004; in contrast, most agencies started FY 2005 with a cut from their FY 2004 level. Next, a mandatory government-wide across-the-board 1.4 percent cut was taken. In terms of actual spending power, USGS is dealing with a \$20 million dollar net loss compared to FY 2004. USGS and other agencies are likely to see this pattern repeated in future years as funding for many Federal programs decreases in deference to higher administration priorities.

- Update on USGS Reorganization, One Agency One Mission -- USGS will be restructured into four Regions: Eastern, Central, Western, and Alaska. Within these Regions there will be Regional Executives that will manage all USGS Discipline (Biology, Geography, Geology, Water) activities in smaller 5-7 state areas. Currently all four Disciplines have Regional Executives that cover an entire Region. Some of the areas will be program focused, for example, a Great Lakes Area which might contain all states bordering the Great Lakes. The benefit of this plan is to integrate all USGS expertise and focus on our Mission of Earth Science and the issues at hand.

-Mapping Discipline -- In 2004, the Director of USGS announced the formation of the National Geospatial Programs Office (NGPO) within the Geospatial Information Office as a means to unify the various national geospatial activities for which the USGS has a leadership role and responsibility. As a further step in strengthening and aligning these geospatial activities, USGS will consolidate five existing mapping centers and other geospatial production activities and technical services into a National Geospatial Technical Operations Center. A business strategy for the National Geospatial Technical Operations Center is currently being developed. The strategy will define the specific responsibilities of the Center, establish its organizational structure, and consider opportunities for programmatic and physical consolidation. The strategy will be submitted to the Director in February, 2005.

-USGS Water Availability and Use Program, Great Lakes Basin Pilot -- The Great Lakes Basin Pilot project team will integrate analysis of ground water, surface water, and water use to quantify water availability at a regional scale, demonstrate local scale assessment, and identify data needs. The Ohio District is the lead for three of the project tasks, Surface Water Flux and Storage, Great Lakes Hydrogeologic Summary, and Delineation of Ground-Water Basin Divides. More information regarding the Great Lakes Basin Pilot can be found at <http://www.usgs.gov/budget/2006/wateravail021405.pdf> .

- The Survey just published *Environmental Factors and Chemical and Microbiological Water-Quality Constituents Related to the Presence of Enteric Viruses in Ground Water from Small Public Water Supplies in Southeastern Michigan*, Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5219, written by Franczy et al.

- The last Ground Water Metadata meeting was held on February 11th. Dave Crecilius (ODNR) will take over the technical side of maintaining the electronic database and the Web link. A press release will be sent out soon, and articles will be submitted to AWWA, WMAO, and other state agencies for publication on their Web pages.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Greg Nageotte announced:

- The Draft Ohio Nonpoint Source Management Plan 2005-2010 recently underwent a six-week period of agency review. Overall, reviewers seemed to be satisfied with the content. Edits and enhancements are nearing completion in preparation for a 30-day public review period scheduled for mid-March. This version has a greater emphasis on ground water. The plan may be accessed at the following web address; <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/nps/NPSMP/index.html>

- Rosida Porter, head of the watershed coordinators program, in cooperation with several partner agencies and organizations, is conducting a year-long evaluation of the program to determine program effectiveness, quantify results, and to try to adjust the program accordingly. A kick-off meeting will be held February 23rd.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Ted Lozier announced:

- The NOAA coastal grants are being cut, and this will have significant financial impacts on the division over the next couple years.

- Division staff recently met with staff from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, to offer advice on generating Ground Water Resources maps. The West Virginia legislature is tasking the Dept. of Environmental Protection with producing maps for the entire state within 18 months.

Ohio EPA, Directors Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:

- Media attention lately has focused on Ohio EPA's funding proposal to replace all its General Revenue Funds with an "Environmental Protection Fee". It is proposed that \$2.75 be added to solid waste tipping fees. Some commentators have suggested that this would make the agency too dependent on solid waste companies. Others note that higher tipping fees might keep out-of-state waste out of Ohio. Currently, Ohio's tipping fees are lower than its neighbors', and the proposed fee brings them more in line.

- To reduce costs, Ohio EPA's Central District Office, which is currently located on Alum Creek Drive, will be moving to the Central Office Lazarus Government Center in October.

- The State of Ohio intends to bid for a \$1 billion federal "sequestration project" grant, which involves taking carbon dioxide from coal-fired plants and forcing it at least 5,000 feet underground. A presentation of this project will be given on February 25, 2005.

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

- A meeting will be held with the Ohio Water Resources Council directors on March 11th, at ODA. This meeting will include presentations on:

- Storm Center, by David Jones
- recommendations on critical issues of water quality and quantity, as well as natural hazards;
- the Education Workgroup's charter

PRESENTATION

Paul Spahr, of ODNR, Division of Water, gave a presentation titled: "GIS Application for Preliminary Evaluation of Soil Limitations for On-site Sewage Systems".

This project involved creating a GIS version of county soil surveys, using SSURGO data provided by ODH, and ArcReader (a simplified freeware GIS). Available on CDs for 35 counties, the GIS application is intended primarily for sanitarians who are

reviewing permits to install septic systems. It enables them to search for the site by street address, and then view the distribution of certain soil-related parameters for that site, including:

- average depth to restrictive layer
- average depth to bedrock (where bedrock is shallow)
- average depth to water table
- apparent or perched water tables
- ponding
- permeability
- flooding (occasional or frequent)
- probable presence of surficial karst

Zoom-in and zoom-out features and the ability to measure distances between points are among the standard GIS tools included. The user can download various files into a personal computer to use in a standard GIS program. However, the user cannot alter the functionality of the application, such as changing the colors or symbols used.

The application was created through a cooperative agreement between ODH and ODNR-Division of Water, and was funded by a 319 grant administered by Ohio EPA-DSW.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

Will be held March 17th, at the Horace R. Collins Conference Room, 8:30-11:30 am.

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April 19, 2005

**Horace R. Collins Conference Center, ODNR Repository
Delaware, Ohio**

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|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 - 8:35 | CALL TO ORDER
- Introductions |
| 8:35 - 8:40 | REVISIONS TO FEBRUARY DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY |
| 8:40 - 10:15 | AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |
| 10:15 - 10:25 | BREAK |
| 10:25 - 11:25 | DISCUSSION: GROUND WATER PRIORITIES in reference to OWRC
Strategic Plan |
| 11:25 - 11:30 | MAY MEETING AGENDA |
| 11:30 | ADJOURN |