

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

December 12, 2005

Der Deutchman (formerly The Dutch Kitchen)
Plain City, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The December 2005 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and updates from Wayne Jones (ODNR) on the Upper Mad River Nitrate Contamination Investigation, and from Kristy Hunt (Ohio EPA) on the SWEET Program.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Gail Hesse, Kristy Hunt, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Ted Lozier, Greg Nageotte

ODH: Rebecca Fugitt

ODA: Bill Goodman

PUCO: Sue Daly

USGS: Jeff deRoche

NRCS: John Armentano

OSU Extension: Cindy Folck

Visitor: Larry Berger

REVISIONS of NOVEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

No revisions requested.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center, Jeff deRoche announced:

- Jeff will retire from USGS on January 3, 2006. Ralph Haefner will replace him as representative to SCCGW, with Rod Sheets as alternate.

- The USGS/Ohio Water Science Center is initiating a study of the Tuscarawas River Valley aquifer. During Phase One, ground water and surface water quality will be

characterized. This may be followed by ground water modeling and geochemical studies.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- NRCS is busy with Conservation Service Program contracts, reviewing the '04 contracts for any changes or updates, awarding the '05 contracts, and preparing for sign-up for the '06 contracts.

- Seven NRCS/Ohio staff will retire in January.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Utilities Division, Sue Daly announced:

- She is working on getting permission to show the film "Running Dry", about water conflicts.

OSU Extension, Cindy Folck announced:

- Many staff are retiring; ten counties have had retirements in recent months.

- The federal Endangered Species act has been updated. U.S. EPA has decided that county extension offices no longer will be given the bulletins listing "endangered species". Instead, growers will be expected to check on the Web before applying a pesticide.

- In response to a question about links between Parkinson's disease and pesticides, Cindy said a study of 89,658 farmers and their spouses has looked at a possible link between Parkinson's and pesticides. The study has also looked closely at links between cancer and methyl bromide.

(The link to this study is www.aghealth.org)

Cindy noted that Ohio—like other states—does not yet have a registry for cancer.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Michael Eggert announced:

- The Source Water Protection Program is finishing up SWAP reports for Ohio's 5,800 public water systems, closing the door on a seven-year project. The program's focus will shift to outreach, with the goal of having 50% of the high-susceptibility community systems implementing protective strategies by 2008.

- A guidance for planning protective strategies for surface water systems will be released as a final draft in January 2006.

- Over the past couple years, the 319 program has funded 25 public water systems for source water planning, but USEPA is currently backing off from funding additional systems until the success of the public water systems already funded can be evaluated.

- The Mad River nitrate reduction project looks likely to be funded under the 319 program for '06.

- DDAGW's Water Quality Characterization and Protection Unit is interested in coordinating with USGS on the Tuscarawas River Aquifer study.

- The assessment methodology for drinking water beneficial use has been developed and is included in the Integrated Water Quality Report.

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

- ODH has been investigating private wells along Batdorf Road (Wayne County), where two rounds of sampling have indicated elevated nitrates and *E. coli* in 20-30% of the wells.

- December 16th is the deadline for commenting on the new sewage rules.

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

- The assistant chief position has been posted and will be open till December 28th.

- The new engineer (Jay Dorsey) will be starting soon.

- House Bill 387 proposes to move the Coastal Management Program into the Division of Soil and Water.

- The Division is working to meet the federal requirements for the Coastal Nonpoint Source Program, a condition for its funding from Clean Water Act 319 and NOAA. Twelve management measures remain, including local storm water initiatives, and regular inspections of home sewage treatment systems. The Division is hoping to use its Watershed Coordinator grants program to implement those required initiatives for which the State currently lacks strong authority.

- Another round of Watershed Coordinator grants will be announced in the Spring.

- Recent reevaluation of the Watershed Coordinator program found that "local sustainability" has not been as successful as hoped. The program is moving away from the six-year stepdown, and proposing positions with fixed state support but a required 20% minimum local match. Renewal of currently existing positions will be based on evaluation of the group's turnover and its success in creating a plan and implementing it.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Gail Hesse announced:

- The "Integrated Report" with the 305 b and 303d list, is due to USEPA every two years, and is due this year in April.

- The rules for 'credible data' will be filed with JCARR in December.

- The storm water permit for the Big Darby watershed will be public noticed soon.

- The Division was under a Consent Decree to complete TMDLs for 50 HUCs by 2007. Currently the last TMDL is being submitted to USEPA--two years early.

- Currently half of Gail's time is dedicated to coordinating the Ohio Water Resources Council. The Council is developing the action plans for its ten-year visions. These will be reviewed at a meeting of Agency directors in March or April, then public-noticed.

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

- Representative Carmichael is planning to introduce legislation regarding regulating ground water withdrawals of over 100,000 gallons per day.

- The governors of the Great Lakes states and provinces are getting ready to sign the Great Lakes Charter Annex, which prohibits diversions from the Great Lakes basin (with some allowed exceptions). Ted noted, in response to a question, that the Great Lakes *Charter* is a nonbinding agreement; however, the *Annex* is intended to be binding.

- The Division of Mineral Resources Management has asked the Division of Water to review ground water models completed to meet Mineral Resources' requirements. This will help Mineral Resources with its workload, while providing the Division of Water with additional funds and the opportunity for its hydrogeologists to enhance their modeling skills.

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

- Ohio EPA's Central District Office officially moved to the Lazarus Government Center downtown on December 5th.

- The State of Ohio is still reviewing potential sites for a "zero-emissions" coal-fired power plant, which will involve deep-well injection of carbon dioxide. This is a billion dollar Dept. of Energy project, and twenty other states are planning to bid for it. The main competitors likely are Illinois and Texas.

PRESENTATIONS

Update on the Upper Mad River Nitrate Contamination of the Urbana North Well Field (Wayne Jones, ODNR, Division of Water)

In addition to taking quarterly water level measurements and nutrient sampling, project partners have installed two multi-port wells and created a Modflow/Modpath ground water modeling and particle-tracking program for the site. The new wells have been sampled for isotopes of nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen, and the nitrate-nitrogen ratios indicate the presence of human and animal waste. This suggests that the sources of high nitrates in the aquifer may be more related to manure and septage than to agricultural fertilizers.

Update on the Source Water Environmental Education Team (SWEET) Project (Kristy Hunt, OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters)

Five statewide workshops were held from September through October 2005 to train SWEET teams on Ohio's Source Water program, regional geology and hydrogeology

and outreach techniques. At these meetings OEPA and ODNR staff distributed to each team a ground water simulator (“sand-tank model”), source water assessment reports and county maps of protection areas, geologic maps, and fact sheets on Ohio geology and water quality. Each team has promised to provide a minimum of three outreach events each year, and to assist local entities with their source water protection planning and implementation, as requested.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

The next SCCGW meeting is scheduled for January 19th at the Horace Collins Conference Room, 8:30-11:30 am.

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January 19, 2006
Horace R. Collins Conference Room
Delaware, Ohio

8:30 - 8:35 CALL TO ORDER
 - Introductions

8:35 - 8:40 REVISIONS TO DECEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

8:40 - 9:30 AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

9:30 - 9:45 OWRC Priority Actions (Tom Allen)

9:45 - 10:25 PRESENTATION - Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed Project
 (Steve Davis, NRCS)

10:25 - 10:30 MARCH MEETING AGENDA

10:30 ADJOURN