

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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

May 18, 2006
Horace Collins Laboratory
Delaware, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The May 2006 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Denise Dumouchelle (USGS) on the Preliminary Investigation of Wastewater-Related Contaminants near Home Sewage Treatment Systems in Ohio..

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Brian Hall, Bob Knipmeyer, Kristy Hunt
ODNR: Chris Kasselman, Rick Pavey
ODH: Jean Caudill
ODOT: Doug App
PUCO: Sue Daly
USGS: Ralph Haefner
Presenter: Denise Dumouchelle (USGS)

REVISIONS of MARCH DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

No revisions requested.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Brian Hall announced:

- Water Quality Standards for Use Designation:
 - revising 11 of the 23 standards
 - changes in the accuracy of beneficial use
 - adding additional watersheds to the list
- Time line for Wetland Stream Mitigation rules is extended to May 31, 2006.
- USEPA wants DSW to implement an Inland Lakes Monitoring Program. Looking for funds to do this within summer 2006.
- 319 2007 RFP is closed. Received 22 very good applications. The focus for this cycle is implementation and protection.

- Home Sewage Rules:
 - comment period recently concluded
 - working on in-house home sewage guidelines
 - there is some overlap with ODH Home Sewage Rules

- Developing Water Quality Trading Rules. There is buy-in from USEPA and ODNR

Ohio Department of Health, Jean Caudill announced:

-The Home Sewage Disposal rules were adopted May 4, 2006, nearly one year after H.B. 231 became law. The new rules will be effective January 1, 2007. Lead time is necessary to allow for statewide implementation of the new rules. This package of rules produced significant controversy. To make it through JCARR ODH agreed to continue working with interested parties and there will be a three year rule revision instead of the typical five year revision.

- Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water's Home Sewage Disposal rules overlap somewhat with the ODH Home Sewage rules, with respect to low-flow systems. The Ohio EPA's rules and ODH's rules are not completely consistent with each other. Each agency will follow their own set of rules when working with permits that fall within this overlap.

- Residential Sewage Systems existing prior to the rules will not be influenced unless they are creating a public health nuisance.

- ODH marketed the rules at the local level as sustainable infrastructure.

- Private water system rules are being revised.

- Mike Eggert requested further discussion with ODH concerning their reference to DRASTIC for high susceptibility areas. ODNR's DRASTIC maps apply to the upper-most aquifer and when a public water system's wells were set within a lower aquifer, Ohio EPA calculated a DRASTIC for that aquifer before determining the public water system's susceptibility to contamination. Just using the ODNR DRASTIC map is not always appropriate/accurate for the SWAP susceptibility rating.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- Valerie Lemmie is PUCO's new Commissioner. She is a former City Manager for the City of Cincinnati.

Ohio EPA Directors Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:

- FutureGen project: Ohio submitted its proposal by the May 4th deadline. Ohio is proposing two sites, Tuscarawas County (Gnadenhutten) and Meigs County. Ohio will know this summer if its sites made the short list and final site selection will be announced by summer of 2007.

- The State Committee on Pandemic Preparedness, Avian Flu:
 - There will be a statewide exercise on June 13th at EOC.

- The role of the Committee has been proper disposal of diseased animals and infectious waste disposal under pandemic conditions. Current disposal system would be overwhelmed in these conditions. LHD staff would be pulled from environmental issues to handle health issues and OEPA Districts could assist with environmental duties.

- Pat Madigan and Bob Knipmeyer are reviewing OEPA's internal duties that would be influenced by a pandemic.

- West Nile Virus:

- Ohio EPA's Division of Solid Waste Management is conducting mosquito checks at scrap tire facilities this summer.
- Current National Map of the virus shows that it has moved west. Ohio's peak years were 2002 and 2003.
- The task force has not met this year.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Michael Eggert and Tom Allen announced:

- Rick Cobb of Illinois EPA is requesting input concerning risk-based remediation vs. non-degradation. Distributed e-mail and attachment from Illinois EPA. Please contact Rick if you have comments.

- Scenic Heights/Batdorf Road ground water investigation:

- Phase I sampling completed in April, a collaborative effort of ODH, LHD, ODNR, OEPA
- ODNR will be assisting with a water level survey in a few weeks
- USGS will be providing bromide, chloride, low level wastewater compounds and bacteriological DNA marker testing

- DDAGW has been working with the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management and the Division of Surface Water on the Director's Industrial Waste Initiative. The Division is using models and site specific information to assist with development of waste management liner requirements based on waste concentration levels and siting criteria.

- Ohio Water Resource Council(OWRC):

- Web page being updated and revamped.
- In April the four year action plan was approved for the ten year vision.

- The Ground Water Protection Council is announcing a call for Abstracts for its fall conference in Miami.

- The Storm Center contract was signed and approved by the Directors. OWRC is beginning to build messages and the Web site and Storm Center will be meeting with Channels 4 and 10. They are hoping to launch by the end of the summer. Messages will be about local water resources and watersheds to educate Ohio's public about their community's water resources.

- A fact sheet advertising Ohio's Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEETs) has been developed and a SWEET Web page will be online this summer. New SWEETs continue to be developed, currently 40 organized SWEETs representing 47 Ohio counties.

- Tom Allen provided a handout of SCCGW-Ground Water Priority Actions/OWRC 10-Year Vision and 4-Year Action Plan. These are items within OWRC's four year strategy that are of interest to SCCGW. Some of these include:

- ground and surface water interaction and evaluating the techniques used to assess the amount of interaction;
- on-lot sewage;
- compiling the ground water impacts database; and
- a SCCGW committee will be needed to define a strategy for defining ground water impairment in Ohio.

The handout will be posted on the SCCGW Web page, currently located at <http://www.ohiosccgw.org>

- SCCGW members are to review the actions and provide other related actions for ground water priorities to Tom by July 13th.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Chris Kasselmann announced:

- Watershed Coordinator RFP deadline is May 26th. There could be four to six new groups established and sixteen to twenty groups requesting implementation funding. Implementation funding is now contingent on an endorsed watershed action plan. Because of this contingency, the Division has seen an increase in submitted plans for endorsement.

- The Division recently provided scholarships for Watershed Coordinators and related ODNR staff to attend the River Rally in New Hampshire. There was a focus on water-rights and land use planning. This was a great opportunity for the Watershed Coordinators to be educated on ground water concepts and issues.

- John Watkins is the new Acting Chief for the Coastal Management Program.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center, Ralph Haefner announced:

- Mark Myers was announced as the new USGS Director on May 3rd. A former state geologist and head of Alaska's geological survey. Myers, holds a doctorate in geology and is an expert in sedimentary and petroleum geology, led various field programs across Alaska for ARCO, the American oil company that is now a subsidiary of "BP. Myers served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve from 1977 to 2003. Also served for five years as director of Alaska's Division of Oil and Gas.

- Recent Publication:

- The Quality of Our Nation's Waters, Volatile Organic Compounds in the Nation's Ground Water and Drinking-Water Supply Wells. Available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1292>.

Natural Resource Conservation Service, John Armentano announced:

- 300,000 acres applied for the Conservation Security Program in the Upper Great Miami Watershed. This included 379 contracts. Within the next two weeks, the approved contracts will be announced.

-\$212,300 was approved for the Wetlands Reserve Program in the Grand River Watershed. These funds will be used to offer:

- Technical Assistance
- The purchase of easements along the river, with attention to connecting existing easements.
- Hire a group to look for plant invasive species on the easements and control the easements.

- Western Lake Erie Basin is a special watershed EQIP program providing incentives for water quality cost share. Cost share is offered to those who are not currently implementing projects within the watershed.

- Steve Davis took the statewide watershed coordinator position but for now will focus on the Maumee Basin Watershed.

PRESENTATION

Denise Dumouchelle (USGS) gave a presentation on the results of the Preliminary Investigation of Wastewater-Related Contaminants near Home Sewage Treatment Systems in Ohio.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

DATE STILL NOT FINALIZED ... look for an e-mail on this in next week or two.

Will include a presentation from Ralph Haefner on current methods and technology for evaluating ground water/surface water interaction.

REMINDER: The link to the SCCGW Web page is:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.htm>.

The March finalized meeting summary will be posted there shortly. The May summary will not be posted until after the July meeting.

