

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Department of Development
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Ohio Department of Transportation
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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

April 19, 2007
Ohio EPA, Conference Room A

ABSTRACT

The April 2007 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and presentations by Craig Smith (OEPA-DDAGW) on the Batdorf Road Unsafe Water Supply Investigation, and by Linda Slattery (OEPA-DDAGW) on the Division's Ground Water Impacts Database.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen (SCCGW Chair), Beth Bailik, Michael Eggert, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger,
ODNR: Chris Kasselmann, Rick Pavey, Jim Raab
ODH: Russell Smith
ODA: Bill Goodman
BUSTR: Charles Zepp
PUCO: Sue Daly
ODOT: Doug App, Dave Nicklaus
OSU Ext.: Cindy Folck

--Copies of the Ohio Water Resources Council's Strategic Plan were distributed. Actions involving SCCGW members are bolded, and include items such as:

- ground water metadata database maintenance;
- evaluating ground water/surface water interaction assessment techniques;
- documenting areas with verified ground water contamination;
- update drought plans

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

--Mike Baker and Lindsay Taliaferro III recently attended an annual policy meeting of the national Ground Water Protection Council. They reported that the proposed 2009 Farm Bill includes money for ground water protection.

--Phase Two of the Clark County dye trace study was completed in April, to obtain information on dry-weather ground water flow rates in the karst aquifer. This time a local well was one of the monitoring sites, and the results indicated a slower flow rate

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Allen, SCCGW Chairman:

--In the next month or two the SCCGW Web site will be reprogrammed using a different Web language that will make it easier to update and offer a more contemporary look. This is a good time for SCCGW members to provide additional photos and images, and addresses of Web sites that should be linked.

than that of the previous study, which was conducted following heavy precipitation. A downhole-camera scan of the well provided video of what appeared to be centipedes and a salamander in the well, which was 40-80 feet deep.

--Public water suppliers are expressing concerns about proposed and actual mining operations in or near Source Water Protection (SWAP) areas. DDAGW staff currently review all mine permit applications for proximity to SWAP areas, but the permit decision is ODNR's. DDAGW hopes to conduct some water quality studies around active quarries that will provide information on the ground water quality impacts of mining.

--The siting criteria are being contested for construction demolition and debris (CD&D) rules and Industrial Solid Waste rules.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water:

--The division is still dealing with comments on the sludge rules. The main concerns include bulk handling of aqueous sludge, NRCS standards for agronomic rate, and prohibitions on applying sludge to snow-covered ground.

--The division is still dealing with comments on the general permit for storm sewers. Main concerns include sewer extensions and discharge of hydrostatic test waters (from hydrant testing).

Ohio EPA, Directors Office:

--Early indications of priorities from the Director's Office include a continued effort to streamline the permitting process and to educate the regulated community on environmental compliance

Ohio Department of Health:

--Senate Bill 83 and House Bill 110 require the Public Health Council to rescind the new Sewage Treatment System (STS) Rules and reinstate the previous rules. This backlash is based on perceived costs to install sewage treatment systems that comply with the new rules. (Claims are made that the cost of a new home will be increased by \$20,000). ODH staff are meeting with legislators and the Governor's office, and are compiling more detailed funding information.

--The Ohio Environmental Health Association is working with ODH to sponsor a series of regional roundtable workshops for sanitarians on siting sewage treatment systems in accordance with the new Sewage Treatment Rules.

--ODH developed an examination on the STS rules for installers, service providers and septage haulers. The Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO) has been administering this test in over 25 locations across the state since November 2006. Over 1700 contractors have been tested to date.

--ODH also developed the application form, checklist and instructions for submittal and approval of products for septic treatment systems. Over 30 products have been approved to date.

--ODH worked closely with Ohio EPA to facilitate the issuance of the General Permit for NPDES systems.

--ODH has issued guidance to local health districts on submitting requests for approval of more stringent STS rules.

--The Water Well program has developed new testing requirements. They are proposing an inspection by ODH staff (rather than local health department staff) once every three years.

--The lack of regulation over geothermal wells needs to be addressed. However, it is not clear which of the state agencies should have jurisdiction.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water:

--The division received a grant from the West Lake Erie Commission to develop a water use Web site. (A hard copy showing some of the site's maps, tables and graphics was distributed.) Comments are due to Mike Hallfrisch by the middle of next week.

--Division staff will be conducting field work with USGS at Hellbranch Run in June, to determine ground water/surface water interaction.

--The Mad River project report will be out by mid-June.

--USGS recently turned over the ground water metadata project to ODNR.

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

-- Cynthia Frazzini was named the Department's Chief Council. As Assistant AG, Cindy successfully defended the state's public trust ownership of submerged lands under considerable opposition of private property owners. She is now in charge of all legal/regulatory matters for the Department.

--The Division's budget for the next biennium is essentially flat and federal funds for coastal management, which support several Division functions, were cut slightly. As a result of the Coastal cuts, the Division's proposed development of a Storm Center in northeastern Ohio will not be funded. However, a new project that coastal funds will support is GIS mapping of soils suitability for HSTS location.

--The Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has two proposals for budget increases to augment water quality improvement efforts. One, in the Ohio General Assembly, would provide ~ \$6.6 M in FY08 and ~\$7.2M in FY09 to the Division and SWCDs for agricultural pollution abatement and urban stormwater management BMPs and new technologies. This is an effort to replace cost share/state match funds, which have been nearly zeroed out in recent budgets. Another \$3.9 M for staff to implement more than 18,000 conservation practices is under consideration by Congressman Regula's office.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:

-Work continues on the 3-D mapping of glacial units at 1:100,000 scale. The Division is completing the Mansfield sheet and will start the Findlay sheet in August.

Ohio Department of Agriculture:

--The price of corn has gone up, driven by the anticipated market for ethanol. Six ethanol plants have already been permitted and are under construction in Ohio. However, some concerns with this alternative fuel are:

- More acres planted in corn mean more application of fertilizer and herbicides/pesticides with possible water quality problems associated with the extra usage;
- Ethanol production requires large amounts of water and energy.

The BUSTR representative added:

- E-85 wreaks havoc on USTs and pipelines, which are not designed for such a chemical mixture and rust out;
- Transporting the product will mean more flammable tanker trucks on the freeways. Fire-fighters and EMS crews will need retraining, because ethanol burns pale blue and is hard to see.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

--The deadline for public comment on PUCO's revised Water Rules is April 27th.

--National Drinking Water Week is coming up. PUCO and OEPA were trying to collaborate on activities this year but time didn't permit. The OEPA is considering issuing public service announcements, newspaper articles, and a governor's proclamation. PUCO will present PUCO inhouse activities.

--For next year OEPA hopes to celebrate National Drinking Water Week with an event in Central Ohio similar to Dayton's Water Festival. Interested parties may contact Holly Kaloz or Susan Baughman.

Ohio Department of Commerce, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations:

--Mike Bell is the new State Fire Marshal. He was formerly chief of the Toledo Fire Department. Dan Hoover is the new Deputy State Fire Marshal.

--The Bureau now has all the BUSTR sites in a GIS with Sole Source Aquifer, brownfields, SWAP areas and other shapefiles. The locational accuracy of the BUSTR sites varies, as it is based on address

matching and is more accurate in urban areas than in rural.

--The recently passed Energy Bill will have a major impact on BUSTR, as it requires all USTs to be inspected once every three years. Currently BUSTR has 5 inspectors for 20,000 sites.

--BUSTR is discussing delivery prohibitions as an enforcement tactic, i.e., BUSTR would halt delivery of product to a filling station that is out of compliance.

--There is a movement to get rid of bare-steel USTs within a few years. In 1998 bare-steel USTs were permitted if they had cathodic protection liners. However, it appears that the liners are not effective, as about three-quarters of the lined USTs have failed.

The Ohio State University, Agricultural Extension:

--Extension is focusing on licensing pesticide applicators for the summer season.

--Extension will be working with ODH on mosquito control over the summer months.

--The Ohio State University aquaculture staff are hosting a conference in Cincinnati at the end of April. One of the topics is cultivation of fresh-water shrimp. Because ponds are drained to harvest the shrimp, this enterprise may pose a water quality concern.

--With camping season approaching, Ohioans need to be reminded that the emerald ash borer is still in Ohio and the state is under a federal quarantine regarding transport of fire wood beyond state borders.

PRESENTATIONS

2006 Unsafe Water Supply Investigation at Batdorf Road/Scenic Heights Area, Wayne County, Ohio.
Craig Smith, Ohio EPA, DDAGW

Overview of a Ground Water Quality Impacts database, Linda Slattery, Ohio EPA, DDAGW

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

June 21st, 8:30-11:30 am at USGS.

On the agenda: agency updates, Storm Center website demo, and presentation by Wayne Jones of ODNR Div. of Water: "Relationship Between Land Use, Ground Water Flow and Non-Point Source Contamination In The Upper Mad River Watershed"

REMINDER: Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries will be posted on the SCCGW Web site.
<http://www.ohiosccgw.org/>