

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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77 South High Street
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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 19, 2015
ODNR Fountain Square Campus
Building E, East Assembly Room**

The February 19, 2015 meeting consisted of Agency announcements, a presentation by Chris Kenah about "Strontium in Ohio's Ground Water", and discussion about organizing a SCCGW workgroup to develop information for the Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke
ODNR: Mike Dillman, Rick Pavey, Jim Raab, Rick Trippel
ODH: Rebecca Fugitt
ODOT: Kevin Hodnett
USGS: Denise Dumouchelle
NRCS: John Armentano
PUCO: Sue Daly

Presenter: Chris Kenah (Ohio EPA)

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic Survey:
Mapping. Currently the Division is working on the Hillsboro 30x60 sheet, the Bainbridge quad for the Great Lakes Coalition, and the Hillsboro 24K karst map. Next in line are the maps for Belfast and Chillicothe East.

Relocation. The Geologic Survey will move to Building A soon to accommodate the merger of the divisions of Watercraft and Parks.

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) The national announcement of program funding is currently open in grants.gov. It closes on February 27, 2015. This is for the national CIG program administered through the NRCS National Office. Ohio will not be offering a state CIG signup this year. On a national CIG agreement the applicant can be eligible to receive up to a million dollars. Under a state sign up the applicant can only receive up to \$75,000.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Ohio has not received its final allocation yet; we should be receiving it soon.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The 2016 announcement of Program funding will be announced in the next month or two.

2015 Projects. For 2015 Ohio was approved for four projects, as follows:

- Two state projects are from the Delaware SWCD (Upper Big Walnut) and Clermont SWCD (East Fork Watershed).
- The national RCPP is in SE Ohio and is for creating Cerulean Warbler Habitat on mined land. Ohio is just a small portion of this five state project; West Virginia is the lead state.
- The CCA project is the Western Lake Erie basin. Ohio and Michigan are the co-lead states. 70% of the project will be in Ohio. This project will include EQIP type portion to treat the land to help in nutrient reduction and a conservation easement portion.

Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI). Ohio NRCS will be working with its partners, including OEPA's Division of Surface Water and others, to develop a game plan for 2016. For 2015 watersheds in Adams County were selected to submit a proposal for MRBI Funding. In the new Farm Bill, \$10 million was authorized in 2015, and \$30 million each year for 2016, 2017, and 2018 for the multistate MRBI area.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health:

Reorganization. ODH has undergone a major reorganization, with a new director and chief of staff. Environmental Health has expanded significantly to incorporate numerous programs that were formerly housed in other bureaus, including lead, asbestos, radon and radiation protection.

Sewage Rules. The bureau is busy developing forms and answering questions related to implementation of the sewage rules that became effective January 1, 2015. They are also organizing training for service providers.

Great Lakes Basin. ODH is working with Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) to provide funding to repair/replace discharging septic systems with focus in the Great Lakes Basin.

5-Year Rule Revision. The water program is beginning the required 5-year rule review process for OAC Chapter 3701-28. ODH will also be developing rules related to the use of recycled water as a private water system source based on recent changes to state law. One anticipated revision will address various use categories for recycled water. The first meeting will be held March 6, 2015.

CDC Project. Work has continued on The Centers for Disease Control's grant project (studying the relationship between reported water-borne illnesses and sensitive hydrogeologic settings). ODH is currently working with OSU, College of Public Health to obtain a new college intern to assist with the project analyses and research work.

HABs Fact Sheet. ODH has produced a Fact Sheet on how to treat hazardous algal blooms in ponds and other water sources used for private drinking water.

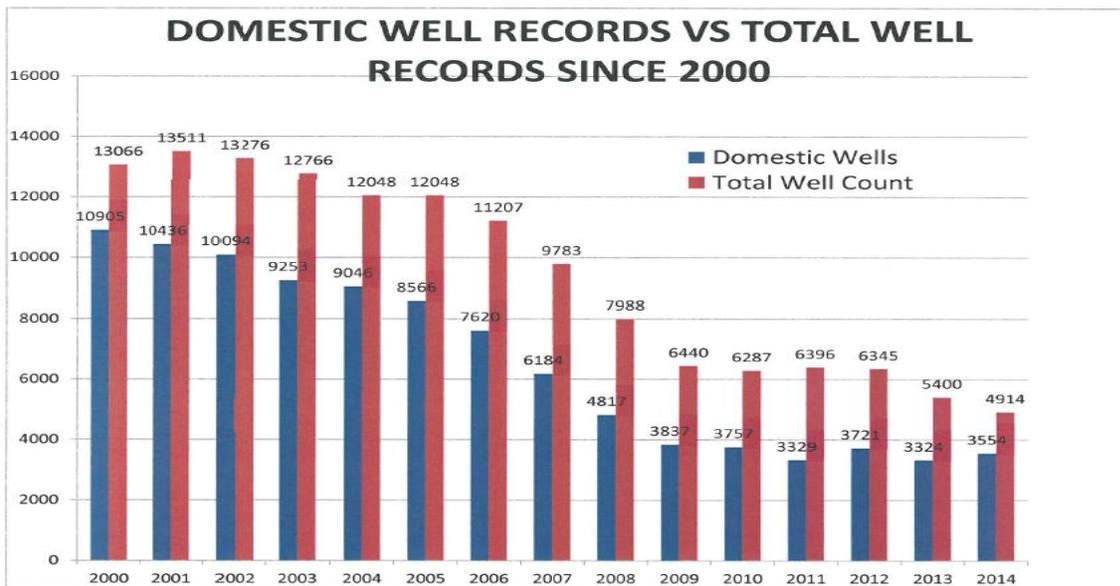
GW Investigations. ODH is coordinating with Ohio EPA, DERR and DDGW, and the Tuscarawas County Health Department on the investigation of the presence of diesel range organics in private wells in an area near Newcomerstown. They are also working with USEPA

and Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR) on a ground water contamination investigation at the Jesse Beer Elementary School in Mansfield.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources:
Dewatering Investigation. The division is modeling a mining site near Chesterville for potential dewatering impacts.

GW Awareness Week. March 8-14 is Ground Water Awareness Week.

Well Log Statistics. The total number of well log received in 2014 was the lowest in recent years, at 4,914. (See graph below)



Well Sealing Guidance Document. The Ohio Water Resources Council's Advisory Committee met last month and agreed to recommend the guidance for OWRC approval during the next Directors meeting on March 31st.

Jim Raab will be giving a presentation on this document for the National Drilling Association-Buckeye Chapter's meeting on March 19th.

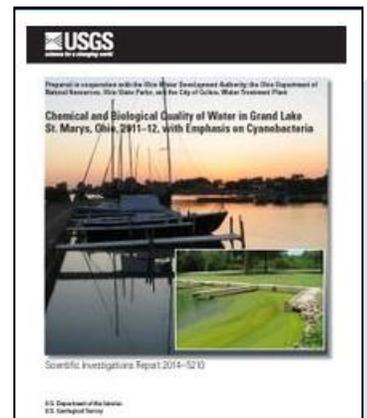
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

Staff Changes. PUCO Commissioner Steve Lesser's term expires at the end of March.

Max Walton Glen. PUCO has ordered the current owner to continue providing water until all the residents formerly served by the system have drilled private wells. PUCO is investigating how many residents currently have wells.

United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:

Grand Lake Saint Marys Report. USGS recently published a report titled Chemical and biological quality of water in Grand Lake St. Marys, Ohio, 2011-12, with emphasis on cyanobacteria, authored by Denise Dumouchelle and Erin Stelzer, Scientific Investigations Report 2014-5210. <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20145210>



National Ground Water Monitoring Network. The national ground water monitoring network, to be hosted by USGS, has been funded. It is expected that states will be encouraged to apply for grants to develop their portion of the network.

Data Conversion. This fall the Ohio Water Center will be replacing its continuous data database with "Aquarius", a database system designed by a Canadian company. A webinar is scheduled for April to familiarize users with the ground water components.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

National Ground Water Week. For National Ground Water Week, DDAGW plans a news release reporting on the results of the 2015 source water protection implementation survey.

Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy. USEPA provided comments on Ohio's Nutrient Reduction Strategy that require some collaboration among several agencies to address questions concerning nutrients in ground water. The deadline for resubmitting the Strategy is March 2015, but can be extended.

SCCGW members agreed to form a workgroup to deal with these questions. Representatives of ODH, ODNR (Soil & Water), DDAGW and USGS agreed to participate. Jeff Patzke will call ODA to request a representative. He will also formally request a year's extension of the deadline to submit the revised Strategy to USEPA.

PRESENTATIONS

Chris Kenah gave a presentation titled "Strontium in Ohio's Ground Water".

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

Will be held April 16th at ODNR's Building H-2 Conference Room, 8:30 am -11:30 am.

REMINDER:

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site:

<http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>