

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Public Utilities  
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Ohio Department of  
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Ohio Department of  
Transportation  
1980 West Broad Street  
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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**

**February 18, 2016  
ODNR Fountain Square Campus  
Building E, Assembly Center East**

*The February 18, 2016 meeting consisted of Agency announcements. A presentation by Greg Koltun, USGS, on the hydrologic effects of potential climate changes was deferred to April's meeting.*

## **ATTENDANCE**

Ohio EPA: Barb Lubberger, Jeff Patzke  
ODNR: Jim Raab, Mike Angle  
ODH: Rachel Townsend  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
USGS: Rob Darner

## **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources:***

Reorganization. The division reorganization is complete. Several folks went to Ohio EPA, one to Forestry, one to ODOT, and over thirty to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (almost a third of these to district offices). The Division of Soil and Water Resources now numbers 36 staff distributed among the programs of ground water, floodplain management and dam safety.

Lake Erie Diversion Issue. The city of Waukesha, Wisconsin (population 70,000) wants to start purchasing water from another public water system that uses Lake Michigan as a source. The water would be returned to the basin as wastewater. However, Waukesha lies within a county with the Great Lakes watershed boundary running through it, and by the language of the Great Lakes Compact, this request would constitute a "diversion" requiring the approval of the other Compact signatories. ODNR staff are therefore involved in reviewing the request to make a recommendation for Ohio's response.

Pataskala Well Complaint. A homeowner living near the Pataskala wellfield recently reported that his well is going dry. This is an area that ODNR studied in 1993, when the Pataskala wellfield was first being proposed. At that time ground water flow modeling indicated pumping at the wellfield would result in an equilibrium water level drop of eight feet at the homeowner's location. Measurements taken last month indicated the drop was slightly more, at 9.5 feet.

Rehabilitation of Geothermal Well. Moody's, a Dayton consulting firm, has applied to the State Fire Marshal for a dynamite permit to "power scourge" a 50-year old geothermal well. This involves unclogging and cleaning the well by applying controlled bursts through the casing into the surrounding geologic material. The application is complicated by the fact that the well is located in the basement of a private home.

Request to Study Water Levels. Consultants for the Henry County Regional Water Authority have requested permission to measure water levels on property owned by ODNR's Division of Forestry, as part of an effort to locate new public drinking water sources.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:***

New Seismometers. The division is installing three new real-time seismometers during the next month or two, in Henry County, Kiser Lake State Park (Champaign County) and at Shawnee State Forest (Scioto County). Throughout the State of Ohio there is a network of some 80 seismometers, operated by different agencies.

Retirements. Lately many OGS employees have retired, and the division currently has quite a few postings up. They hope to add 6-10 employees over the next year.

Mapping. Progress continues with the following mapping projects:

- Surficial mapping in the Chillicothe area
- Karst mapping in Highland County
- Bedrock mapping of Mississippian units near Portsmouth.
- Mapping the Silurian Salina Formation salt sequences in eastern Ohio.

***United States Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center:***

Online wells. Funding was recently approved for equipment to enable real-time web transmission of ground water level measurements in three research wells in the Lake Erie basin. Installation is planned for March.

Proposed Corrosive Water Study. In the wake of the lead issues in Flint, Michigan's drinking water, USGS has proposed a study to compile, compare, and present corrosion characteristics from existing surface-water and groundwater quality analyses from a pilot area of Great Lakes states. The study would:

- Identify and evaluate appropriate datasets.
- Compute corrosion indices using previously defined methods.
- Present corrosion index data in a GIS dataset and through an on-line web portal.
- Compare consistency of results obtained from different corrosion indices.
- Compare corrosion-index values for selected samples to mineral solubility estimates for common carbonate and phosphate scale-forming precipitates and common corrosion products from iron, lead, and copper pipe.

The objective is to clarify the distribution of corrosive characteristics in natural surface water and groundwater of the Great Lakes states and identify other characteristics that could be important to a broader evaluation of corrosive characteristics in waters of the United States.

***Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:***

Ohio Water Resources Council. On December 14, Ohio EPA went before the “Sunset Review Committee” to recommend that the Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC), its State Agency Coordinating Group (SACG) and its Advisory Group all be discontinued. (OWRC was established by statute in 2001 and was funded by its member agencies.) The SACG may decide to continue as an informal, unfunded entity. How to distribute the remaining funds has not yet been decided.

Commission Expiring. Commissioner Asim Haque’s term expires in April; he has applied for reappointment.

***Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection:***

Reorganization. Under the reorganization, the Bureau of Environmental Health now incorporates radiation protection, but tobacco has been moved into other programs. Rachel Townsend now heads up the water and wastewater programs, replacing Rebecca Fugitt who was promoted to assistant chief.

Five-Year Rule Revision. The bureau hopes to issue the preliminary draft of the revised private water system rules for informal comment by the end of March. Formal filing should occur by the end of September.

***Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:***

Hudson Salt Solution Well. The City of Hudson has applied to install a deep well into the Salina formation, to dissolve and withdraw the salt for use in softening water at the water treatment plant. The proposed well site lies within the one-year time-of-travel area for their public water wells; however, this would be a Class 3 injection well regulated by ODNR-Division of Oil and Gas and there is no prohibition over siting within a source water protection area. If the well is permitted, DDAGW is considering requiring Hudson to implement best management practices to avoid spillage or releases of brine.

Water Quality Complaint. The owner of a home near a former strip mine in Stark County has contacted ODNR, ODH and Ohio EPA about the water quality in his private well. The water is highly acidic, suggesting potential impacts from acid mine drainage, and the homeowner’s well is old and badly corroded, but he is resisting ODH’s recommendation to drill a new and deeper well into a higher quality formation.

Arsenic Detection. A well newly added to DDAGW’s ambient network, at the ODNR Dillon Sportsman Club, was found to have arsenic at levels of 70 and 90 ug/l; the MCL is 10 ug/l. The club is now selling bottled water, "Non-Potable Water" signs are posted and the drinking fountain is being removed. Water services are only being used in restroom facilities.

Iron/Manganese Studies. Technical papers are being prepared on the distribution of iron and manganese in Ohio’s ground waters.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Rules. In June, new rules will require surface water systems to conduct weekly sampling and analysis for microcystins (a cyanotoxin). They also will be required to submit weekly samples to Ohio EPA’s lab for qPCR analysis, which identifies the kinds of cyanobacteria present, and whether they are capable of producing toxins.

New HABs Section. The division has created a new HABs section, with AmyJo Klei as the acting manager, and the expectation of hiring one person in the outlying districts to work primarily on HABs. This releases the source water protection (SWAP) staff to return to implementing the SWAP program. However, looking ahead, SWAP staff will be focusing their efforts on surface water systems.

Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy. SCCGW will initiate a workgroup soon to develop a section on the role of nutrients in ground water and drinking water for the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The deadline for updating the Strategy is June 2017.

### **PRESENTATION**

The scheduled presentation by Greg Koltun, USGS, on the hydrologic effects of potential climate changes was deferred to April's meeting.

### **NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

... will be held April 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:30-11:30 am, at ODNR's Assembly Center East, Building E.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

#### **REMINDER:**

Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW website at <http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/sccgw.aspx>