

OWRC SACG Meeting

Minutes

January 20, 2016

9:00 AM

OWDA

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
TYPE OF MEETING	OWRC SACG Bi-monthly
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Hall, OEPA -DSW • Ashley Ward, EPA -DSW • Jim Morris, USGS • Steve Grossman, OWDA • Erin Hazelton, ODSA • Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU Extension • Sue Daly, PUCO
	Next meeting March, 2016

AGENDA TOPICS

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	Brian Hall conducted the meeting which started at 9:00 AM; Brian welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments on the previous notes. There were no comments.
CONCLUSIONS	None.

TESTIMONY ON SUNSETTING THE OWRC

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Testimony was presented in December recommending that the OWRC be. Before the testimony was given Chairman Butler reached out to the Council members about the concept. It was also discussed with Governor's office. In Brian's opinion, the value of the OWRC is with the SACG meetings and he recommended that this group continue to meet. It is beneficial to have contacts in other Agencies and to hear program updates. Will SACG participation drop when it is no longer required by statute? There is nothing preventing Public Advisory Group members from participating in SACG meetings.</p> <p>What will happen to all of the subgroups? That is a concern. The State Coordinating Group on Ground Water includes more managers and has been effective over the years. The SACG has more attendees at the Chief/Assistant Chief level. People who find value should attend.</p> <p>There is \$280,000 left in the account. The current plan is to give equal allocations back to the Agencies that pay into the OWRC.</p> <p>There hasn't been any pushback to the proposal to sunset.</p>
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	<p>Should bimonthly SACG meetings be switched to quarterly meetings? Meetings are scheduled for 2016 as bimonthly and we will keep them as scheduled for this year. Going forward quarterly might be a better frequency.</p> <p>Will the grants that were recently proposed be funded? - No.</p> <p>Will the Strategic Action Plan be kept? There are a lot of good items on the Strategic Action Plan; a form of it should be kept. The Action Items have a lot of people as the lead who aren't with the group anymore, like Gail Hesse. If we continue with the action plan the contacts will need to be updated.</p>								
CONCLUSIONS	<p>An MOU with Directors' signatures could prevent participation in SACG from dropping if the OWRC is sunsetted.</p> <p>The meetings scheduled in 2016 are anticipated to happen, although Brian is not planning to schedule any Council meetings.</p> <p>The Monitoring meeting is already scheduled and is too valuable to end with the Council.</p>								
Action items	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Person responsible</th> <th>Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Send email to PAG explaining the testimony and inviting them to SACG meetings.</td> <td>Brain Hall 3/1/2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Call Agencies that haven't sent a representative to meetings in a while.</td> <td>Brian Hall 3/1/2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Figure out exactly how the sunset process works and advise SACG members.</td> <td>Brian Hall 3/1/2016</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Person responsible	Deadline	Send email to PAG explaining the testimony and inviting them to SACG meetings.	Brain Hall 3/1/2016	Call Agencies that haven't sent a representative to meetings in a while.	Brian Hall 3/1/2016	Figure out exactly how the sunset process works and advise SACG members.	Brian Hall 3/1/2016
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PROGRAM UPDATES

SACG MEMBERS

DISCUSSION	<p><u>USGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a new Deputy Director in Ohio, Kevin Banachowski. • Michigan and Ohio are going to have one common water science center with two locations. Same with Indiana and Kentucky. • In the southeast Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee and the Carolinas have one center in three locations. • USGS is working to determine the most effective size. • The Columbus office is moving in mid-July. <p><u>ODSA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODSA is going to launch a new grant to address abandoned gas stations. Local governments must apply but they can partner with private industry. There is \$20 million available and that is likely to increase. The money is leftover Clean Ohio money. The grants will clean up building and underground storage. The website should go live next week, and then applications a couple of weeks later. <p><u>OSU Extension</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March projects- starting to decide funding. • 21 proposals, 5 funded. • The department is doing well, there have been three new hires and they are looking for
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three more.

PUCO

- Commissioner Haque's term expires in April. There were eight applications, including Haque's. A short list, typically of four applicants will be sent to the governor. There are no term limits.

OWDA

- The 2015 audit is finished, and OWDA completed a billion dollars in loans in 2015. This is most activity ever completed in one year.
- A \$12 million dollar loan was given to a new Easton like shopping center in Butler County, for water retention - permeable sidewalks draining into basins. The water is then recycled and released into streams. The project has been completed, up and running since October.
- There is a proposal by a developer in Cleveland for a similar 40 story multi-purpose building.

DDGW (by DSW)

- Proposing HAB monitoring rules for water treatment systems that will require a lab certification program. They will hopefully be effective by summer.
- OEPA is creating a HAB specific office that will be in DDAGW. Staffing levels are being decided and more information will follow.
- The HAB recreation strategy is being updated, this is done annually. There was previously emphasis on bathing beaches, but more focus in this version of the document will be on open waters. The revised recreation strategy will be completed this spring.

DSW

- The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 4 (nutrient reductions) for Lake Erie, has been finalized last fall. how to measure and manage nutrients. States have two years to develop domestic action plans to reduce the phosphorus loadings to Lake Erie by 40%
- DSW is in the process of updating some of our Water Quality Use Designation rules. In the past some of these changes have been challenging to get through the rule making process.
- Based on the Supreme Court ruling last year about TMDLs needing to go through a rule making process the OEPA is still looking for alternatives avenues. DSW is trying to get traction for a legislative fix.
- With Gail retiring and several staff leaving the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) currently consists of one employee (Sandra). Staffing options are being discussed and Sandra has been reassigned to the OEPA Bowling Green office.
- There is a multiagency water quality reporting group working to develop an annual report on the discharge of nutrients into Lake Erie. USGS, OLEC, OEPA and Heidelberg are working on a document that would compare annual discharges to the lake and report on improvements being made.