

OWRC SACG Meeting

MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2016

10:00 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• Kevin Fowler, OEPA – DSW• Jim Morris, USGS• Steve Grossman, OWDA• Erin Hazelton, ODSA• Zuzanna Bohrerova, OSU – Ohio WRC• Sue Daly, PUCO• Greg Nageotte, ODA• Mitch Valerio, ODNR• Keith Banachowski, USGS
	Next meeting May 18, 2016

Agenda topics

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	Brian Hall conducted the meeting, which started at 10:00 AM. Brian welcomed everyone and asked for comments on the previous meeting's notes. There were no comments
CONCLUSIONS	None.

UPDATE ON SUNSETTING THE OWRC

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<p>The Ohio legislature is considering sunseting legislation that could include the OWRC. The current legislative session will end in May and they will not be back until after the election. This could delay any possible decision about sunseting.</p> <p>Chairman Butler has talked about concerns with sunseting the council members. He feels that it is important for agencies to get together and encourages the continuation of the SACG in some fashion.</p> <p>Brian discussed how to continue OWRC with Butler and setting up MOUs was recommended.</p> <p>Should we let the Public Advisory Group know what is going on and invite them to meetings? Yes. There may be many unaware of the proposal.</p> <p>SACG meetings are scheduled through the calendar year on a bi-monthly basis and will continue as scheduled. A decision about scheduling meetings beyond this year is up in the air right now.</p> <p>DNR, who handles the finances for OWRC, has been notified about the sunset bill proposal.</p>
CONCLUSIONS	Public Advisory Group members should be informed and invited to OWRC meetings.

No agency assessment fees will be collected for SFY 2016.

REVIEW 2015-2019 ACTION ITEMS

B. HALL

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>A. Data & Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWRM meeting will now be on April 6th at 9:00 AM and will be a full day of information exchange. It is a workgroup put together to gather all data from state agencies and is being headed up by Dick Bartz and Cathy Alexander. ODNR will be replacing the Soil & Water Information System (SWIMS), which is an enterprise wide software that is required by all Soil & Water Conservation Districts. There has been a lot of analysis and bidding on the new platform. The SWIMS technology is 7 or 8 years old. Despite server issues lately the software still works. <p>B. Water Resource Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held a successful conference last February but had to cancel the second meeting last year due to low attendance levels. Plans to piggyback on 1 or 2 conferences in April. OWDA is using their relationship with the Army Corp of Engineers to try to obtain more funding for infrastructure by using the 594 program. The program is unique to Ohio and has been revitalized in the last couple of years. It is focused on small communities. <p>C. Water Related Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ohio Balanced Growth program still exists in structure. However, with the changes at the Lake Erie Commission there is little activity. It has good tools and should be continued with the plans that have been approved. The Lake Erie Commission is still meeting and is trying to identify future its direction. 	
<p>CONCLUSIONS</p>	<p>PUCO is welcome to join the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure's Group (SCIEG) and define its own role.</p> <p>If sunseting of OWRC does take place, Brian will push hard to continue a 4 year strategy.</p> <p>OWRC Action Items need updated as many assignments are out dated. There have been a lot of changes recently.</p>	
<p>ACTION ITEMS</p>	<p>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</p>	<p>DEADLINE</p>
<p>Send action items to SACG group with Action Items and notes of what particular items need attention.</p>	<p>Brian Hall</p>	

PROGRAM UPDATE AND OTHER BUSINESS

SACG MEMBERS

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p><u>USGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been recent organizational changes. They have consolidated the
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Water programs in Michigan and Ohio.

- Keith is the replacement for Scott Jackson. He has come over from ODNR.
- They have been trying to get a handle on how to compare Lake Erie data with other entities, as they all calculate differently.
- Looking at using more remote sensors in Ohio.
- The water side of USGS has changed their budgeting scheme to include 4 sections: WRI, Water Availability, Monitoring, and WQ. The change will allow for better reporting of efforts put into the different areas.

OWDA

- Getting more loans. Did over a billion dollars last year and the pace is continuing this year.
- Issuing bonds at an extremely low rate. Some are at a lower cost than OWDA is making the loans for. That is resulting in more money to make more loans.
- Implemented an interest rate buy down for anything higher than 4%. Collectively OWDA has bought down \$100,000,000 that communities can invest back into waste water treatment.

ODSA

- A new grant program for gas station cleanup went live a couple of weeks ago. The program is voluntary and sites must meet certain criteria. There are 600 sites statewide that are eligible. It is a \$25,000,000 project and \$3,500,000 has been set aside for the first batch of applicants.
- There is a new grant program for distressed lakes. The \$250,000 for the program will be specifically used for Buckeye Lake dam issues.
- Working with OWDA to market the Alternative Stormwater Program.

OSU – Ohio WRC

- Sent in 2 applications for the 104G national program for green infrastructure and flooding. Ohio has not received 104G funding in the past, as the program is very selective.
- Trying to find ways to help small struggling utilities with complex treatment in the wake of the Flint lead crisis.

ODA

- Fully moved into the new office and had very few issues resulting from the move.
- Kirk Hines has been appointed Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Two positions have been posted that will fill the role of Deputy Chief.
- Will now be using civil penalties instead of Chief's orders.
- Pollution abatement rules need to be written within the next year.
- Just held the annual partnership meeting.
- Looking for a keynote speaker for the Federation meeting that is also changing location.

ODNR

- Waukesha, Wisconsin has applied to divert water from Lake Michigan to meet water needs as the area's groundwater is contaminated. All Great Lakes states as part of the Great Lake Compact must agree to the diversion.
- The Division of Water Resources has split. Stormwater positions were moved to OEPA, and the remaining positions were divided into flood plain and groundwater offices.

- Groundwater has 139 wells currently in the network with 1 being added recently. 14 of those wells report in real time to USGS.

DDGW (by DSW)

- Sebring lead levels immense and causing a lot of issues. Resulted from an the treatment plant not adding chemicals and not notifying OEPA. OEPA is looking at changing the notification process to make turn around times quicker.
- DDGW will now be assuming responsibility for HAB recreation management as well as the HAB drinking water management.
- Will be updating the public notification process for HAB recreation strategy with ODH and ODNR.

DSW

- The GLWQ Agreement Annex 4 has a goal of 40% load reduction. A collaborative implementation plan between Ohio, Michigan and Ontario has been signed that proved time frames for these load reduction goals. Michigan is expected to have a plan in the next couple of months. Goals will be met by 2025.
- Comments to the 2013 Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy have been sent to the USEPA as an addendum to the final document. This information is posed on the DSW web page.
- Looking at best management practices to deal with Senate Bill 1.
- 401 Permits to dredge the Cleveland and Toledo harbors will be issued in the coming months. Last year there was a lawsuit over open lake disposal of the dredge materials.
- USEPA has developed water quality standards to reduce ammonia from WWTPs by 30-40% to protect muscles. OEPA is working with small WWTPs to see if they can meet those standards before rolling it out this new standard.