

Ohio Water Resources Council By-Laws

1. **Authority** – The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) is created by ORC 1521.19
2. **Purpose** – The OWRC will set strategic direction and policy for water resource programs. The OWRC will be assisted by the State Agency Coordinating Group and the Advisory Group.
3. **Membership** – The OWRC consists of the following members with a chairperson appointed by the Governor:
 - a. Governor's Office, Executive Assistant
 - b. Ohio Department of Agriculture, Director
 - c. Ohio Development Services Agency, Director
 - d. Ohio Department of Health, Director
 - e. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Director
 - f. Ohio Department of Transportation, Director
 - g. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Director
 - h. Ohio Public Works Commission, Director
 - i. Ohio Water Development Authority, Executive Director
 - j. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Chairperson

The State Agency Coordinating Group consists of the following members (members may designate an alternate to attend in his/her absence):

- a. State Agency Coordinating Group Leader, appointed by OWRC chairperson
- b. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Chief, Division of Soil and Water Resources
- c. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Chief, Division of Surface Water
- d. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Chief, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
- e. Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office, Executive Director
- f. Ohio Department of Agriculture, Representative
- g. Ohio Development Services Agency, Representative
- h. Ohio Department of Health, Representative
- i. Ohio Department of Transportation, Representative
- j. Ohio Public Works Commission, Representative
- k. Ohio Water Development Authority, Representative
- l. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Representative

The Advisory Group consists of not more than twenty four members, each representing an organization or entity with an interest in water resource issues. A member may designate an alternate to attend in his/her absence. The OWRC will appoint the members and the OWRC chairperson will appoint an Advisory Group chairperson.

4. Meetings –

- a. Notice for all public meetings of the OWRC will be given in accordance with the following procedure:
 - i. Any person may determine (be informed of) the time and place of regularly scheduled meetings or the time, place, and purpose of any special meeting by visiting the OWRC Meetings Schedule website. <http://www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/23912/Default.aspx>
 - ii. Any person may obtain advance notice of all meetings at which any specific type of public business is to be discussed by identifying the type of public business for which he/she desires to be notified and by supplying it to the State Agency Coordinating Group Leader along with an email address. The State Agency Coordinating Group Leader will email a notice of the time, place, and type of business to be discussed at the meeting at least four calendar days before the meeting is scheduled, unless the meeting is an emergency meeting.
 - iii. The State Agency Coordinating Group Leader will maintain a list of representatives of the news media who have requested in writing notice of special or emergency meetings. The Group Leader will notify at least four days before special meetings. In the event of an emergency meeting, the Group Leader will notify immediately the time, place and purpose of the meeting.
- b. The OWRC will meet at least annually.
- c. The State Agency Coordinating Group (SACG) will meet at least bi-monthly and meetings will be conducted as follows:
 - i. The SACG Leader will chair the meetings, prepare the agenda and meeting minutes, arrange meeting times and locations, prepare proposed budget, coordinate invoices, and assist Work Groups. If the SACG Leader cannot attend a meeting an alternate will preside at the meeting.
 - ii. Meetings may be facilitated by an outside party.
 - iii. Decisions will be made by consensus with all members given an opportunity to participate in decisions. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the OWRC leadership.
 - iv. The SACG may, as need and resources provide, consider projects supporting the OWRC Strategic Plan, Action Plan, work group recommendations, and other state water resources priorities. Based on this review, project and funding recommendations may be provided to the OWRC for consideration.
 - v. Meetings will not exceed two and ½ hours in duration.

- d. The Advisory Group will meet at least two times a year. They may participate in the OWRC annual meeting and State Agency Coordinating Group meetings in an advisory role, and participate in Work Groups to develop recommendations on specific issues. The Advisory Group Chairperson will assist in developing agendas and convening meetings, encourage member participation, and serving as liaison for the coordination of activities between the Advisory Group and the Council.
5. **Work Groups** – Work Groups may be authorized as deemed necessary to address specific issues. Work Group members may include State Agency Coordinating Group members, state agency staff, Advisory Group members, and any other public and private sector individuals with pertinent expertise.
6. **Amendments to By-Laws** – Amendments to by-laws may be made at any time deemed necessary by the OWRC.