

OWRC SACG Meeting

Minutes

March 18, 2015

9:00 AM

OWDA Offices

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
TYPE OF MEETING	OWRC SACG Bi-monthly
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Hesse, OLEC • Brian Hall, OEPA-DSW • Marie Barnett, OEPA – DSW • Denise King, ODA • Ashley Ward, EPA-DSW • Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU • Beth Messer, OEPA-DDAGW • Greg Nageotte, ODNR • Sue Daly, PUCO • Pejmaan Fallah, OEPA- DEFA • Tim Hill, ODOT • Charles Dietz, USDA • Scott Jackson, USGS • Richard Lorenz, Westerville • Ken Heigel, OWDA
	Next meeting May 20, 2015, OWDA 9:00am

AGENDA TOPICS

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	Brian Hall conducted the meeting which started at 9:00 AM; Brian welcomed everyone. There were no comments on the last meeting notes.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF 2015-2019 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Most of the Directors are new to the Council and should be briefed on what it is. SACG members will proof read the resolutions.</p> <p>a. 2015-19 Strategic Action Plan The SACG has fully discussed the Plan and it is ready to be finalized.</p>
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	<p>b. Budget and Assessments The OWRC had previously asked for more money from member Agencies to fund a Balanced Growth position that never materialized.</p> <p>There is 1/2FTE included in the budget to pay for OWRC staff work. Historically not much money has been spent on printing and equipment. The OWRC does spend money on projects.</p> <p>Nally was hoping to link the Balanced Growth position to 208 legislation. Balanced Growth is still being funded by OLEC and they do continue to get requests in the Ohio River basin as well as in the Lake Erie basin. They are interested in developing infrastructure guidance. ODOT has the results from a Balanced Growth research project. The program's value is being seen at the local level.</p> <p>c. Advisory Group Members Does the group include the right members? There are 16 members, but the statute allows 24, should more be added? The group is more reactive than proactive and is underutilized.</p> <p>d. MORPC Upper Scioto Balanced Growth Plan This is past due to be endorsed.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It appears that Balanced Growth is not a high priority for this administration. • There are no shy groups in the PAG. Whether or not they make their views known to the SACG, they are making their views known. 	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

PROJECT IDEAS FOR SFY 2016 AND 2017

B. HALL

DISCUSSION	<p>There have been three project ideas submitted.</p> <p>1. Lake Erie Datasonde network support (Proposed by OEPA, DDGW) Funding to support a regional Lake Erie datasonde network would be extremely beneficial. PWSs can use OEPA grant funding to purchase the sondes, but additional funding would be needed to ensure the sondes are inter-calibrated (so data could be compared from sonde to sonde) and to host data on a central repository (so anyone can see information and would not have to go to multiple individual PWS websites). GLOS has budgeted to host Lake Erie PWS sonde data on their web portal, but the PWSs would need support to install the telemetry necessary to share the sonde data in real-time. It is much cheaper to just link data to their SCADA system than transmit data online, but then data is not accessible to others.</p> <p>The grant funding could be used to:</p>
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- Provide telemetry to link real-time sonde data (in a consistent format) with GLOS website. Cost estimate: hardware: \$4600/PWS, installation: \$1600/PWS (this includes overall sonde installation, not sure how to break out just telemetry installation- probably over-estimate), Modem data fee: \$350/PWS (grant could potentially cover first year, ongoing covered by PWS)
- Support inter-calibration of Lake Erie sondes. Cost estimate (monthly calibration/labor for 6 months): \$2200. Grant could pay for first year, PWS responsible for ongoing calibration in future years.
- Support GLOS data management and data-sharing portal. Cost estimate: \$1500/PWS (PWS could do this themselves, but if wanted to have GLOS maintain for data integrity there would be additional fee- this is to ensure all probes are reporting accurate data, if sensor is faulty remove inaccurate data from portal, if sensor temporarily goes offline, remove data from portal, data clean-up, etc.).

The PWS would be responsible for ongoing O&M (~\$1500/year if you have all 6 sensors- covers replacement sensors, annual sonde check by manufacturer, calibration fluids, etc.).

Overall- If the grant covered ALL listed items we would need \$10,250/PWS in network. At a minimum, telemetry hardware, modem fee (1st year), and calibration (1st year), which would be: \$7150/PWS. Once PWS see benefit they will likely want to maintain.

2. Pilot Project for the Development of a Water Withdrawal Evaluation Tool (Proposed by ODNR, DSWR)

Background

The Division of Soil and Water Resources is interested in developing a tool to assist in the evaluation of ecological impacts from water withdrawals on streams and rivers. In a report to the Division dated November 2013, Hull and Associates recommended an approach utilizing flow – ecology relationships for the various types of streams that exist in Ohio.

Inputs to the tool include:

- Stream Index Flow (Mean September flow)
- Sensitive fish species numbers – flow relationship curves
- Stream Classification (based on aquatic life uses)

This proposal is for the development of a pilot scale “Proof of Concept” demonstration for the tool. The pilot area will consist of a “high quality water” or portion of a “high quality water” (as defined by OAC Chapter 3745-1) in the northeastern area of the state.

The approach to developing the pilot tool is divided into two components:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground-truth preliminary flow – ecology relationship curves developed by Midwest Biodiversity Institute. • Develop a method/tool for linking available data input sources to create a functional evaluation tool utilizing the flow – ecology relationship data. <p>If this pilot project proves the viability of the concept, the Division would like to expand the tool to the entire Lake Erie basin and put the tool on-line in the Division’s web page.</p> <p>Proposed Cost: The proposed cost of this pilot project is \$50,000</p> <p>Greg will email more information to Brian for him to distribute to SACG members.</p> <p>3. Contribution to the Lake Erie Protection Fund</p> <p>The Commission is looking to partner a portion of the Lake Erie Protection Fund with one or more external funding sources. The purpose is twofold: 1) to garner a larger impact project than we can fund with the LEPF alone, and 2) create a track record of partnering with other entities to broaden potential future funding opportunities. To that end, OLEC is in the process of working with the Commission on what kinds of projects might be compelling and we have started meeting with foundations to explore partnering opportunities. A smallish contribution from the OWRC, \$25,000 could be a useful ‘shot in the arm’ to help jump start this approach. Since we are working with the Commission members on potential project ideas, I cannot tie anything yet to one of the themes in the OWRC Strategic Plan. Obviously, a commitment could be made that we will ensure that any final project selection would be contingent on alignment with the Strategic Plan. Currently, OLEC is planning on using approximately \$75,000 of the LEPF reserve funds to put towards this initiative.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	<p>More discussion is needed about the project ideas.</p> <p>The sonde data could be used to refine HAB models. There is also a recreational component; it could help predict beach closings.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Email more information to SACG members about the pilot project for the development of a water withdrawal evaluation.	Greg and Brian	ASAP

UPDATES/OTHER BUSINESS

B. HALL

	<p><u>Updates</u></p> <p>Health Water Ohio Summary (HWO) – Several SACG members attended the HWO Public Officials</p>
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work group meeting. A facilitated conversation focused on five areas that relate to water resources in Ohio. The HWO group will be using this input and will be making water resource recommendations this summer.

ODA

ODA is very busy training on how to handle fertilizer as well as with HB 61, SB 1 and SB 64.

OEPA, Drinking and Ground Waters

DDGW is busy preparing for HAB season. USEPA revised thresholds for DW warnings and will be providing information on analytical methods and treatment. DDGW participated in an EMA table top exercise about lessons learned last year.

ODOT

No major water quality news, ODOT is currently focused on maintenance. There is limited research on salt application.

USDA

Charles will be participating in the March 23rd Lake Erie Summit on HABs in Toledo.

ODNR

Busy implementing GLRI. There has been a demand for manure storage.

OSU Extension

National Science Foundation competition still ongoing, there are 7 finalists from Ohio.

OLEC

New nutrient targets are necessary for all great lakes, starting with Lake Erie. Annex 4, subgroup of modelers are working on it, the new targets need to be adopted by February 2016. OLEC has been working with other Agencies on the Lake Erie Quality Index, which is a statement on how Ohio is doing on the stewardship of the Lake. It was last published in 2004. Data collection is wrapping up, and they are trying to get this out by fall.

USGS

USGS, OEPA and ODNR worked together over the winter to add 14 stream gages in the western Lake Erie basin. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is putting in gages to look at potential runoff that may be contaminated by oil and gas wastes. This could be an early warning system, looking at conductance numbers. Flood warning efforts at Marietta should be online by summer.

PAG

WTPs are busy upgrading to deal with new regulations as well as new environmental insults such as atrazine, nitrites, increasing organic loads and salt. Precipitation patterns are changing and fracking waste is an issue.

OEPA – Environmental and Financial Assistance

	<p>DEFA is busy subsidizing nutrient reduction projects. There is \$100 million available at 0% for wastewater and \$50 million available at 0% for drinking water. Projects in the Lake Erie basin get priority for this money. Alauddin and Pejmaan will be starting a new program based on outreach, going out to communities and businesses and letting them know what services are available. DEFA is currently in transition.</p> <p>OEPA – Surface Water</p> <p>Legislative priorities include requiring monitoring of total phosphorus and total dissolved phosphorus for all major municipal treatment plants 0.5 MGD or larger, as well as phosphorus optimization plans for facilities that don't have phosphorus limits. Legislation is being proposed to provide up to a 15 year reprieve for home sewage treatment systems that have had to connect to sewers because they became within a reasonable distance if their current systems is operating properly. There are two dredging projects in Toledo and Cleveland. DSW continues to work on nutrient WQS. SNAP has been working for 18 months with an advisory group struggling with implementation. DSW is also involved with Annex 4.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE