

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
1800 WaterMark Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1099

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Fountain Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

Ohio Department of Health  
246 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

Ohio Department of Commerce-SFM  
8895 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ohio Public Utilities Commission  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
65 South Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ohio Department of Development  
77 South High Street  
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Ohio Department of Transportation  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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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

November 21, 1996  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
1800 WaterMark Drive  
Room 1A

### **ABSTRACT**

The November 21 meeting featured a presentation by Ohio EPA's Small Business Assistance Office. Otherwise, the meeting was devoted to Agency and workgroup updates.

### **ATTENDANCE**

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Mike Baker, Barb Lubberger, Flo Sellu

ODNR: Scott Kell, Rebecca Petty, Bob Van Horn

ODH: Scott Golden

ODA: Larry Berger

SFM: Kevin Hodnett

PUCO: Sue Daly

Agriculture Specialist: John Stevenson

### **SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY**

Under Agency Updates and Announcements, State Fire Marshal, the following text was deleted: *including the BUSTR representative to SCCGW (Kevin Hodnett).*

### **PRESENTATION on SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE OFFICE (SBAO)**

Helen Sedoris gave an overview of SBAO's activities and mission. A pilot project established in March 1996 in Ohio EPA's Central District Office, SBAO offers confidential advice to small businesses on how to comply with the environmental regulations that affect them. ("Small" is

defined as any business employing fewer than 100 employees; 97 percent of Ohio businesses are classified as small.) These businesses include many dry-cleaners, service stations, and auto body shops. SBAO staff answer questions about Ohio EPA regulations, and provide guidance on where to obtain answers concerning regulatory requirements that are not administered by Ohio EPA. Since March, the office has assisted about 150 callers. If the program is successful, it will be expanded to all of Ohio EPA's district offices after the pilot program ends in 1998.

Helen distributed two hand-outs:

- o *The Small Business Resource*, July 1996 (newsletter)
- o "Environmental Help for Small Businesses" (brochure)

## **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***OEPA, DDAGW, Tom Allen announced:***

- 1.) The Ohio Water Education Program (OWEP) has received a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund to set up a Web page. OWEP staff are requesting information on subjects dealing with water. They also would like to include a list of professional volunteers.

*Action Item: If you are willing to have your name added to this list, please contact OWEP at (614) 292-6108. They will not include anyone's name without that person's direct permission.*

### ***OEPA, DDAGW, Mike Baker announced:***

- 1.) The Division's data management system (DRINK) is making progress. This system will be a central depository for all ground water quality data coming into the Agency.
- 2.) The DDAGW will provide proposals for expanding the Division's ambient network from 150 wells to about 210 wells. The primary goal of this network is to characterize regional aquifers that are currently being used or are expected to be used as sources of potable water.
- 3.) Ohio EPA's Central Office is scheduled to move to the Lazarus Building on Front Street in downtown Columbus before July 1997. OEPA will occupy the top two floors of the building.
- 4.) As part of a cross-training effort at the senior management level, Ohio EPA is experimenting with "trading Division Chiefs". Within the next six months, DDAGW's John Sadzewicz will begin working as Chief of DERR, and DERR's Jan Carlson will take John's place in DDAGW. The cross-training exercise is supposed to last six months.

### ***ODNR, Division of Oil and Gas, Scott Kell announced:***

- 1.) The Division of Oil and Gas will be laying off 12 staff (out of a current total of 50) by January 1997. Since 1991 the Division staffing has been reduced 57 percent. The Division will lose five of its nine geologists. The Division's ability to handle ground water issues will be impacted, as these five worked on permit reviews, GIS, the orphan well program, underground injection control wells, and citizen complaints on ground water contamination.

- 2.) The requirement for waste disposal plans in oil and gas permits is being deleted from ODNR's roles. These plans tended to be lengthy collections of lists of wells, etc. that were time-consuming to gather, tedious to review, and provided little real environmental benefit.

***ODA, Pesticide Registration Section, Larry Berger announced:***

- 1.) A document called "Protecting Our Sources" is available. (Larry passed around a few copies). This document was completed by a City of Columbus Task Force to rebut some erroneous or misleading statements in "Tap Water Blues" and "Pesticides by the Glass"..
- 2.) Larry also passed around copies of a map illustrating the schedule for targeting various sections of the state for Pesticide Disposal Projects.
- 3.) As part of the Container Recycling Project, 83,000 pounds of plastic containers (previously holding agricultural chemicals) were recycled in 1995. This represents about 20 percent of the total sold. (The containers are "chipped" and reused for "plastic wood" pallets.) Most of the respondents are dealers, and the Project would like to involve more individual farmers.

***ODNR, Division of Water, Rebecca Petty announced:***

- 1.) Phase II of the well log computerization project (data entry) is underway. Prisoners at the St. Clairsville Prison (Belmont County) have entered a few hundred well logs already. A Kentucky firm called Image Entry is directly managing this phase, and tested the prisoners before hiring them for this work. Well log scanning will begin in January 1997 and will be completed by a New Jersey company (InnoData).  
*Note: Many well logs will be temporarily unavailable during this phase (January to June 1997). If you need well logs, plan ahead!*
- 2.) The Division of Water has determined that it has no clear authority for many of its activities (technical assistance, mapping, educational outreach, etc.). When Ohio EPA was created in 1972, some of the Division's authorities were transferred. The Division is re-establishing technical assistance authority to collect, analyze and map water resources data in the ODNR's Omnibus Bill. The proposed language is being reviewed by the Governor's Office.
- 3.) The final report on rehabilitation of the Division's observational network is expected to be available soon. This report was completed by R.G. Zande and Associates and Eagon & Associates.
- 4.) The Division has been involved in the ground water conflict near Delphos, Van Wert County regarding the selection and testing of a new wellfield site for Delphos.\* The Division Chief has been working with legal representatives from all parties regarding the Division's involvement in a consent agreement.

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\*Delphos bought options to land in Washington Township for a new wellfield, but township residents are protesting. They claim a new wellfield would lower water levels unacceptably, and have brought in Division staff to investigate their claim.

- 5.) The final report on Delco's proposed wellfield in Knox County has been received and is under review.
- 6.) Current water rights conflicts between Kent and Brady Lake, and between Sterling and Rittman (both scheduled to go to court in the near future), are likely to set the tone for future clarifications of Ohio's water rights law.

***ODNR, Division of Geologic Survey, Bob Van Horn announced:***

- 1.) Bedrock mapping will be complete in June 1997. Then the Division will begin mapping surficial materials, from the bedrock up, at a scale of 1:100,000. They will begin with the Cincinnati quadrangle, and then work on the Lorain quadrangle. The project is expected to run for ten years.
- 2.) The preliminary mapping of coastal erosion areas along the Lake Erie coast is complete.
- 3.) Ron Rey has been appointed manager of the Geologic Sample Depository. Larry Wickstrom has been promoted to Ron's former position as head of the Petroleum Geology Group.
- 4.) The U.S. Corps of Engineers has approved a site west of Alum Creek for the Division's new sample repository. U.S. Geologic Survey has offered to donate a seismometer, to be located at the site. This will be the first and only seismometer in the state for a number of years..

***State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation, Kevin Hodnett announced:***

- 1.) Rule changes effective January 1 will privatize BUSTR's inspections. BUSTR is looking at extending eligibility for conducting BUSTR inspections to private firms that are certified for Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program (VAP).
- 2.) Forty out of 60 BUSTR staff are likely to be laid off in the next year. These cuts will especially target BUSTR's inspections department.
- 3.) Kevin is part of a three-person "strike force" committee tasked with reviewing every file in each Ohio county, with the objective of issuing No Further Action (NFA) letters where appropriate. There are about 14,000 files to review. In the last three weeks this committee has reviewed over 500 files and identified 100 sites eligible for NFA.

***ODH, Scott Golden announced:***

- 1.) ODH is working with the Legislative Service Commission to draft legislation for the Model Private Water Plan. ODH expects that legislation will be introduced early in the next session. Scott will be hiring someone to help implement the program.

***OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:***

- 1.) The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a teleconference on “Tools for Drinking Water Protection” on March 19, 1997, at 2:30 to 4:30 PM. Ohio EPA may try to use its downlink site at 1600 WaterMark Drive.

### **WORKGROUP UPDATES**

#### ***State Management Plan for Pesticides (SMP)***

- 1.) Draft copies of Ohio’s generic State Management Plan (SMP) are available. No comments have been received yet from U.S. EPA.
- 2.) ODA is working to improve the monitoring program. They are using Wisconsin’s monitoring program as a model (Wisconsin’s generic SMP has been approved by U.S. EPA). However, no strategy has been formulated for conducting a vulnerability assessment, to prioritize new monitoring sites. Another concern is that well log information should be obtained for each proposed monitoring site, and this needs to be coordinated with the Division of Water, especially since many logs will be unavailable at various intervals during the next six months. SCCGW members agreed to convene a meeting of the SMP workgroup early in 1997 to discuss how it may be able to assist with these issues.

#### ***Well Construction***

- 1.) The Well Construction Standards Work Group’s third meeting (October 15) was well attended. The group plans to invite additional participants, including: Contractors Association, Ohio Aggregates Association, Ohio Farm Bureau, Alliance for the Environment, Ohio Environmental Council, Sierra Club, and several others.
- 2.) The group agreed that the scope of the project needs to be clarified. Specifically, should they address construction only of the well itself (casing, screen, etc.) or should they also address equipment such as pumps, pitless adapters, wiring, etc.? If equipment is to be addressed, the group needs to include additional experts. SCCGW members agreed with Scott Golden that the Work Group should focus on well construction issues only for now, and defer the equipment issue for a while. Since ODH expects to begin writing rules for the Model Private Water System early next year, it wants the workgroup’s evaluation on both well construction and equipment, but it is especially concerned that the work group stay on a fast track, and address issues in sequence. Rebecca plans to bring in facilitators, to help with the decision-making process. The next meeting will be held **December 16th**, at USGS, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1.) Mike Baker handed out a summary of the SDWA Amendments of 1996, obtained from U.S. EPA’s Water Web page. He noted that he will be going to Chicago on December 12 for a meeting on U.S. EPA emerging guidance on Source Water Protection.
- 2.) Mike Baker distributed a questionnaire concerning interest in forming a more active Ground Water Division of the Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO). This would involve members meeting at regular intervals to discuss and debate ground water management issues.
- 3.) The group agreed that it’s time to encourage some of the OEPA representatives to SCCGW to participate more actively. Tom Allen will draft a memo requesting their renewed participation.

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**December 19, 1996**  
**Ohio EPA**  
**1800 WaterMark Drive, Room 1A**

9:00-9:05am      CALL TO ORDER  
   -Introductions

9:05-9:10am      NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

9:10-10:20am    AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
   -Legislation/Rules/Policies  
   -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires  
   -Miscellaneous

10:20-10:30am    BREAK

10:45-11:10am    WORK GROUP UPDATES

11:10-11:20am    SELECTION OF NEXT SCCGW CHAIRPERSON (Jan.-June, 1997)

11:20-11:25am    JANUARY SCCGW MEETING AGENDA

11:30am            ADJOURN

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