

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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
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Ohio Public Utilities Commission
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Ohio Department of Agriculture
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ohio Department of Development
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

Ohio Department of Transportation
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

TO PROMOTE AND GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE STATE OF OHIO

July 17, 1997

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Assembly Center, Building E

ABSTRACT

The July 17th meeting was devoted to agency updates and announcements, Work Group updates, and discussion of the FY'98 319 project proposals.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Baker, Tim Christman, Vladimir Cica, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Rebecca Petty, Bob Van Horn

ODH: John Wells

ODA: Larry Berger

USGS: Jeff deRoche

JUNE MEETING SUMMARY

Larry Berger pointed out that the program he works with has been listed incorrectly as "Feed and Fertilizer Section". This will be corrected to "Pesticides Section" on final copies of the meeting summary.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Bob Van Horn announced:

- 1.) The bedrock geology mapping project, which was initiated in 1990, was completed on June 30, 1997. All of Ohio's 788 quadrangles have been mapped at the 1:24,000 scale onto Mylar. Blue-line copies can be made upon request. Digitization of these maps is ongoing and should be complete by September 1998.

- 2.) By the end of 1998 the Division will complete a new map of Ohio's geology covering the entire state at a 1:500,000 scale.
- 3.) The Division has initiated the ten-year project to develop 3-dimensional "stack maps" of surficial materials down to bedrock. The Ohio portions of the Cincinnati and Falmouth quadrangles will be mapped first.
- 4.) On June 26, 1997, the Midwest Compact for Low-Level Radioactive Waste voted to terminate funding for siting in Ohio. (A site in North Carolina has agreed to accept Ohio's radioactive wastes.) However, the Compact will continue to fund the karst mapping that it originally requested from the Division to support its siting efforts.

OEPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Vladimir Cica announced:

- 1.) The Division has completed a schedule for review of Ohio's solid waste rules as mandated by House Bill 473. The two items that will interest the SCCGW--siting criteria and ground water monitoring--will be addressed in meetings starting in August and November, 1999. Vladimir distributed copies of the schedule.

SCCGW members noted that it would be useful to have an initial pre-screening process that would be submitted for review before any large expenditures on site characterization occurred. Vladimir stated that such a process has been proposed for discussion.

ODH, John Wells announced:

- 1.) The Sewage Advisory Committee has divided into five Task Teams concerned with: siting, funding, legislative aspects, septic sludge, and other concerns. Team members include representatives of county health departments, installers, waste haulers, and Ohio EPA. ODH's Scott Golden is coordinating. A full committee meeting will be held in September or October.
- 2.) On July 28th and August 7th the Private Water Systems Advisory Council will conduct hearings on recommended actions against two drillers who were recently charged with multiple violations of state environmental regulations.

USGS, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

- 1.) The Division and ODOT have published a report on the geophysical detection of voids beneath Ohio's highways. The report should be ready for distribution in six weeks.
- 2.) In about a month, the Division will begin measuring water levels and sampling water quality at a jet aircraft facility in Evendale, Ohio, where volatile organics and metals threaten the ground water quality.
- 3.) The Division has been assisting the City of Columbus by studying water levels in the vicinity of Dublin Road. The City has been dewatering the area intensively so that it can install the sewer interceptor line. [*Note: this project has been in the news recently because rock-boring*]

equipment has jammed several times in areas of unconsolidated materials that the contractor did not expect to encounter. The project has been criticized for not conducting geophysical studies beforehand that would have identified the problem areas and thus helped avoid the costly malfunctions and delays.]

- 4.) The Division is modeling the effects of collector wells in south Columbus, to assist the City of Columbus' Division of Water in locating a new site to develop public water supply wells.
- 5.) The report on the Division's study at the Ravenna Arsenal will be available soon. Using a geographic information system (GIS), the Division combined coverages of soils, photo interpretations, wetlands, and hydric soils.
- 6.) The USGS is considering upgrading the existing stream and/or ground water gauges with telemetry equipment, and making this real-time data available on its Web page.

OEPA, Division of Emergency and Remedial Response, Tim Christman announced:

- 1.) The Division is considering a research project to study attenuation equations, and try to understand why they tend to underestimate significantly the extent of plumes in certain aquifers. Organic carbon procedures and geochemistry are especially being scrutinized.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen announced:

- 1.) The Division's Annual Plan for fiscal year 1998 is complete and can be made available on request. Tom also distributed copies of the Division's Annual Report (1997).
- 2.) The Farm Science Review will be held this year on September 16-18 in London, Ohio. The Division's contributions to the Review will be coordinated by Tim Krichbaum.

OEPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Mike Baker announced:

- 1.) The Division will have 18 months to submit a State Program for Source Water assessment to U.S. EPA. However, in order to withdraw funds from the State Revolving Fund, it will be necessary to submit an "Intended Use Plan" to U.S. EPA *by November, 1997*, that includes a general work plan for completing source water assessment in Ohio within four years.

On August 6th, a meeting will be held to discuss approaches for developing the Intended Use Plan within this very short time frame. SCCGW members and other stakeholders will be invited to participate.

- 2.) The Ground Water Protection Council's annual meeting will be held in Cleveland at the Sheraton City Center September 20-23. A major focus of the meeting will be source water protection. Please contact Mike as soon as possible about providing posters for a State of Ohio display.

ODNR, Division of Water, Rebecca Petty announced:

- 1.) A meeting to discuss apparent declining water levels in northwest Ohio was held on July 9th. It was well attended, and several participants shared their data on the area. Some questioned whether the apparent decline was localized, regional, or even whether it was “real”; all agreed that a thorough examination of available data was a reasonable first step. Future meetings will probably be held quarterly, and the next meeting will focus on list reduction and prioritizing.
- 2.) Rebecca is cochairing the 1997 Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO)’s annual meeting, which will be held November 19-20. This year’s theme is “Under the Umbrella - From the Lake to the River”.
- 3.) The well log computerization project continues on track. The scanning is complete and staff are checking the CD-ROMs as they come in. Data tables are being loaded into the computer, and a subcontractor is writing an application to load images onto the computer.
- 4.) Eagon and Associates has completed its report assessing the Division’s observation well network, based on slug tests and visual examinations at every well. (Division staff are also conducting downhole camera surveys at selected wells, a task that should be completed this summer.) Eagon and Associates made recommendations on abandoning and rehabilitating the wells, and expanding the network. The report is available upon request.

OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Mike Smith announced:

- 1.) On July 11th the Division mailed out about 500 copies of its recently completed *Guide to Developing Local Watershed Action Plans in Ohio*. A total of \$90,000.00 is available for watershed projects that involve using this plan, and providing feedback to the Division on how it can be improved. The Division expects to select about six proposed projects for funding.
- 2.) A total of 26 applications for Clean Water Act, Section 319 grant funds were received for federal fiscal year 1998. Of these, only two were ground water studies. On August 11th, a meeting will be held at Ohio EPA’s Central Office (1800 WaterMark Drive) to select which of these will be funded. SCCGW’s recommendations will be submitted at that time.

ODA, Pesticides Section, Larry Berger announced:

- 1.) ODA has received a \$40,000 grant from Region V to continue the pesticide disposal Clean Sweep program. The counties bordering Lake Erie will be revisited, and an additional eight counties in northwest Ohio will be targeted. It is hoped that the whole state will have been covered by Spring of 1998.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

State Management Plan

Larry Berger reported that the USGS has completed half of the digital pollution potential maps designed for assessing which areas in Ohio would be most vulnerable to agricultural chemicals in ground water. Overlays have been completed for fourteen (14) counties, most of them in northwest

Ohio. Now Larry needs to identify the agricultural facilities within the “sensitive areas”. This task will be complicated by the fact that the addresses for these facilities often are not very specific.

The department wants to wait until the Global Positioning System (GPS) is working before they begin sampling ground water quality at agricultural sites. The handheld GPS units have been ordered and should arrive soon. Progress continues to be made on installing the base station.

Well Construction

Rebecca Petty reported that discussion of the outline will be completed at the next meeting, and writing assignments will be distributed. The work has progressed very smoothly, and the only unresolved issue at this point is how to deal with “large-diameter wells”, an uncommon technique in which a very large-diameter well is dug with a backhoe. Such wells are occasionally installed in areas where the main source of ground water is very thin sand seams. Backfilling such wells with grout--the usual recommended procedure--is prohibitively expensive.

DISCUSSION OF GROUND WATER-RELATED 319 PROPOSALS

“Evaluation of Relationships Between Land Use Activities and Ground Water Contamination at Selected Sites.” For this OEPA-submitted project, studies will be conducted at two sites in areas of impacted ground water within priority watersheds (to be selected). The studies will include pollution source inventories, review of existing geochemical data and additional sampling, the development of a mass balance model for the watershed, and a study of ground water/surface water interactions. The ultimate goal is to obtain a better understanding of the relationship between land use activities and ground water contamination. From this understanding, it will be possible to identify the most effective management strategies.

“Baseline Water Quality, and Bacteria Concentrations of Groundwater, Northwest Marion County, Ohio.” This USGS-submitted project will obtain baseline data on ground water quality (bacteria, nitrates, trace metals and common ions) in the vicinity of the new Agri-General chicken processing plant in Marion County. (Follow-up sampling may be conducted for endocrine disruptors and antibiotics.) Sampling will be conducted before spreading of fertilizer (chicken manure) on nearby fields, and after spreading and rainfall. This project will provide Agri-General and the local residents with baseline information needed to properly evaluate whether the plant’s activities are affecting ground water quality.

Discussion: Members noted that the chicken manure produced by the plant, which is generally viewed by all as a problem, could also be viewed as a resource. In the western U.S., feedlots convert the waste to methanol which can generate enough power to fuel the entire facility.

Scoring. SCCGW members went through the scoring sheets for both proposed projects, and recommended scores. Larry Berger filled out the sheets and gave them to Mike Smith for submittal to the selection committee.

DISCUSSION OF NPS MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Discussion was deferred to a later meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

The August meeting was canceled, due to time conflicts for many members. The next meeting will be held September 18th, at the Ohio Department of Agriculture (see September agenda).

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR

Tim Christman (OEPA-DERR) was elected new chair for the second half of 1997.

SEPTEMBER AGENDA

1. Presentation by Miami Conservancy District
2. Agency updates and announcements
3. Work Group updates

HAND-OUTS

1. DSIWM Rules Review Dates
2. DDAGW SFY 1997 Annual Report

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September 18, 1997

**Ohio Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Administration Building
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg
Conference Room 308**

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	JULY MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:00 am	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous
10:00 - 10:10 am	BREAK
10:10 - 10:40 am	PRESENTATION BY MIAMI CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
10:40 - 10:50 am	WORK GROUP UPDATES
10:50 - 10:55 am	MISCELLANEOUS
10:55 - 11:00 am	OCTOBER SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
11:00 am	ADJOURN