

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
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77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0413

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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

February 19, 1998

Ohio EPA

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Building D, 3rd Floor Conference Room

### **ABSTRACT**

The February 19th meeting was devoted to agency updates and announcements, Work Group updates, and a presentation by Patrice Gillespie on the Farmland Preservation Task Force's June 1997 Report to the Governor.

### **ATTENDANCE**

OEPA: Tom Allen, Michael Baker, Barb Lubberger

ODNR: Scott Kell, Bob Van Horn

ODA: Larry Berger

ODH: Scott Golden

USGS: Jeff deRoche

PUCO: Sue Daly

NRCS: John Armentano

Visitor/Presenter: Patrice Gillespie

### **JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY**

The January meeting summary was approved as written.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE OHIO FARMLAND PRESERVATION TASK FORCE'S REPORT**

Patrice Gillespie, Planning Programs Coordinator for the Office of Farmland Preservation, gave a presentation on the Ohio Farmland Preservation Task Force's Findings and Recommendations. The 21-member Task Force was convened by the Governor in late 1996 and met for approximately nine months. Among their recommendations:

- **The creation of the Office of Farmland Preservation.** This recommendation has already been implemented. The Office is currently funded for two years and is housed in the Ohio Department of Agriculture's facility in Reynoldsburg. Karl Gebhardt, formerly Director of Local Affairs for the Ohio Farm Bureau, is the Office's Executive Director.
- **The creation of a Family Farm Loan Program,** which provides low-interest loans for first-time farmers. This recommendation has been inserted into a bill that has already been passed by one house, and is expected to pass the other soon.
- **Requirement that other state agencies review their policies and regulations** to ensure that they encourage--or at least do not hinder--preservation of farm land. This recommendation will be implemented by Executive Order that will go into effect June 30, 1998. Each state agency will have a Farmland Preservation liaison.
- **Legislation enabling the creation of agricultural conservation easements.** Senator Grace Drake has sponsored a bill (Senate Bill 223) that will enable local governments, charitable organizations and the Department of Agriculture to acquire agricultural conservation easements. Hearings on this bill are expected to move rather quickly. Karl met with all interested parties and they said they haven't identified any problems with the legislation.

Representatives Gene Krebs and Sean Logan have introduced House Bill 645, legislation that basically incorporates most of the recommendations in the Farmland Preservation Task Force Report. The bill is comprehensive in nature. Due to its broad scope, many different groups are commenting on it and have a stake in its future. Hearings on this bill are expected to begin on March 18.

### **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- 1.) The Division is revising its long-range strategic plan. Tom will make it available to SCCGW members when final.
- 2.) Within the next year, the Division will strengthen its expertise and equipment for ground water modeling issues, based on recommendations from two work groups. One recommendation was to hire an expert modeler to take the lead in training, high-level modeling, and providing expert testimony, as required. Other recommendations that are already being implemented are to designate resource staff in each District Office to receive accelerated training, and to assist with setting up modeling-related software. Finally, all Ground Water Program technical staff will receive additional training focused on reviewing ground water models.
- 3.) The Ohio Water Resources Council met about a month ago and compiled information from the state's Ground Water Strategy, 305b Report, Nonpoint Sources Management Plan, and other documents. This information will be developed as action items in the Ohio Water

Resources Strategic Implementation Plan. Ann Shafor has been hired to prepare this document. (Ann was formerly head of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.) Within two months, the Council hopes to begin convening watershed groups that will take the lead in implementing this plan. By April-May 1998, they expect to have the draft Plan ready for statewide meetings.

- 4.) In response to a question about the Drinking Water at the Tap program, Tom replied that this program is a Division of Hazardous Waste Management initiative. The Division needed a way to prioritize and deal with small-quantity generators, and decided to target these generators within a two-mile radius of community wellfields that are located in hydrogeologically sensitive areas. (These areas were identified by using DRASTIC maps, Ground Water Resources maps, and conferring with DDAGW District geologists.) Selected Hazardous Waste Management staff are conducting enforcement-free inspections of the small-quantity generators identified within these areas, and are distributing information on ground water protection during their site visits.
- 5.) Mike Baker distributed copies of a coloring book/story book developed by his staff titled "Once Upon A Wellfield, or ... The Adventures of Dew". This book tells the story of a water drop that journeys through the water cycle and learns about Wellhead Protection. It is targeted primarily to elementary school children, but can be enjoyed by people of all ages.
- 6.) Mike Baker noted that the development of Ohio's Source Water Assessment Program is continuing, with monthly meetings of a 30-member Technical Advisory Committee, and a 55-member Public Advisory Group. The Technical group is a full-day meeting, with ground water issues addressed during the morning, and surface water issues addressed during the afternoon.
- 7.) Mark Bamberger will be leaving the Division at the end of February to take a position as Assistant Manager of the Miami Conservancy District's Groundwater 2000 program. Mark has led the development of the Division's ambient water quality program over the last four years.

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

- 1.) Tom Tugend is the new acting Chief of the Division, replacing Don Mason who has become commissioner of PUCO. Tom has 20 years of experience at ODNR, and has most recently administered the Division's permitting program.
- 2.) The Division will continue to focus on budget issues. During the 1990s, there has been a 54 percent reduction in staff due to declining permitting of oil and gas wells. Fees from these permits are the Division's main funding source.
- 3.) Another main focus will be the continued development and implementation of the Division's Risk-Based Data Management System. Staff will be developing a Users Manual.

***ODA, Pesticides Section, Larry Berger announced:***

- 1.) Construction of the Agency's Global Positioning Systems tower has been delayed due to weather. Also, because of upgrades to the system's software, Larry now needs a more powerful computer, and acquiring this will involve additional delay. Larry hopes that the entire system will be up and running by June of this year.
- 2.) ODA has revised a policy of not taking enforcement against termiticide applicators for underapplication. A summary of ODA's complaints investigations revealed that most complaints concern failure to control termites, necessitating a repeat application. For this reason, the Agency has decided to enforce a minimum application standard. Larry distributed copies of the complaints investigations summary.
- 3.) Federal researchers recently leaked information from their studies indicating that the MCLs for atrazine are much lower than they need to be. This may have some effect on the state's generic State Management Plan for Pesticides. Larry passed around a sheet from a January 23, 1998 Risk Policy Report, titled "EPA Seeks SAB Atrazine Cancer Review, Major Risk Issues at Stake".
- 4.) Data from the 1997 container recycling program indicates that this is a low-profit endeavor. The program basically broke even. Larry put a summary of these data on the table.

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

- 1.) The north central section of the Geologic Society of America will be holding a conference on March 18-21 at The Ohio State University in Columbus. The conference will feature a symposium on Ohio geology. A number of Division staff will be presenting papers and poster sessions. Also, six field trips are being offered, including visits to the Morton Salt Mine and a coal mine.
- 2.) Sherry Wisecarber recently left the Geologic Survey to become Managing Director for Ohio Aggregates Association. Sherry was with ODNR for 14 years, and was known for her expertise in educational outreach.

***USGS, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:***

- 1.) The Division has published a number of reports lately, including:
  - Effects of Deicing Chemicals on Shallow Aquifers
  - Detection of Underground Voids in Ohio by Use of Geophysical Methods
  - Results of Soil, Ground-Water, Surface-Water, and Streambed-Sediment Sampling at Air Force Plant 85, Columbus, Ohio, 1996
  - Descriptions of Selected Digital Spatial Data for Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant, Ohio
  - Modeling Ground-Water Flow with MODFLOW and Related Programs
  - Ground Water Resources In Vicinity of Cortland, Trumbull County, Ohio

- 2.) The Division is working with Bolton Wellfield on pathogen transport via induced infiltration. This study will provide information related to the federal Ground Water Disinfection Rule.
- 3.) The Division recently was contacted by the Army Reserve in Kings Mills to conduct a study on the site of an old ammunition plant.

***NRCS, John Armentano, announced:***

- 1.) The NRCS has selected a new chief, Pearlie Reed, who will start on March 1st. Other staff changes: Gary Overmeier and Mike Plunkett have left the NRCS.
- 2.) The NRCS has two staff working on Farmland Preservation: Dana York and Deba Mohler.

***PUCO, Sue Daly announced:***

- 1.) PUCO's new Commissioner is Don Mason, who left ODNR's Division of Oil and Gas to take this position.
- 2.) Sue will be organizing a display within PUCO for National Drinking Water Week in May, and is looking for basic educational material.

***ODH, Bureau of Local and Environmental Services, Scott Golden announced:***

- 1.) A series of evening meetings have been held with the eight districts of the Ohio Water Well Association to take comments on the model legislation for the Private Water Program. A series of 15 half-day presentations also has been set up with local Health Departments. The public outreach period should be complete within about two weeks. Plans are to revise the legislation and have it back to Legislative Services by April.
- 2.) The Sewage Committee met last week and finished comments on the draft legislation. They plan to submit the revised legislation to the Director within 3-4 weeks. The Director will then decide which portions will be introduced to the Legislature for action.
- 3.) Sampling of private wells was conducted in Marion recently, to try to determine whether there are any water quality problems that could be linked to the leukemia cluster there. Twenty-two homes have been sampled for volatile organics and radiological constituents, but the analytical results have not come back yet.

**WORK GROUP UPDATES**

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

Larry Berger reported that he has revised the vulnerability assessment portion of the draft generic Plan, incorporating USGS's mapping efforts. He is currently revising the section on OSU Extension, adding information on its history, etc.

[Representatives of other SCCGW Work Groups were not present to report updates]

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Jeff deRoche announced that the Ground Water Division of the Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) will hold a Spring Conference on June 9th at the Holiday Inn East. This will be a ground water technical conference, focusing on ground water investigation tools and techniques.

Larry Berger mentioned that the Big Walnut Creek Water Quality Project held a kickoff meeting on January 29th. This group has emerged from the Hoover Reservoir Task Force. They have hired a consultant to assist with a water quality study.

## **MARCH AGENDA**

The next SCCGW meeting will be held March 19th at ODNR, Building D, third floor. The meeting will focus on updates and announcements. No presentations are planned.

## **HAND-OUTS**

- 1.) Effects of Deicing Chemicals on Shallow Aquifers
- 2.) Detection of Underground Voids in Ohio by Use of Geophysical Methods
- 3.) Results of Soil, Ground-Water, Surface-Water, and Streambed-Sediment Sampling at Air Force Plant 85, Columbus, Ohio, 1996
- 4.) Descriptions of Selected Digital Spatial Data for Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant, Ohio
- 5.) Modeling Ground-Water Flow with MODFLOW and Related Programs
- 6.) Ground Water Resources In Vicinity of Cortland, Trumbull County, Ohio
- 7.) Pesticide Container Recycling Program - 1997 Budget
- 8.) 1997 Pesticide Container Recycling Summary
- 9.) Summary of ODA's Complaint Investigations from 10/1/96 to 10/1/97
- 10.) Report excerpt: "EPA Seeks SAB Atrazine Cancer Review, Major Risk Issues at Stake"
- 11.) Coloring Book: Once Upon A Wellfield, or The Adventures of "Dew"
- 12.) Ohio Farmland Preservation Task Force Findings and Recommendations - Report

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March 19, 1998  
ODNR - Fountain Square  
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8:30 - 8:35 am CALL TO ORDER  
-Introductions

8:35 - 8:40 am FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

8:40 - 10:20 am AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
-Legislation/Rules/Policies  
-Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires  
-Miscellaneous

10:20 - 10:30 am BREAK

10:30 - 10:45 am WORK GROUP UPDATES

10:45 - 10:55 am MISCELLANEOUS

10:55 - 11:00 am APRIL SCCGW MEETING AGENDA

11:00 am ADJOURN