

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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77 South High Street
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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

September 17, 1998

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Building I, First Floor Conference Room

ABSTRACT

The September 17th meeting had a full agenda that included Agency updates and announcements, a presentation on the April 9, 1998 storm on Lake Erie, and a brief discussion of the Ohio Water Strategic Plan.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Larry Antosch, Tim Christman, Barb Lubberger
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Scott Kell, Bob Van Horn
ODH: Rebecca Petty
USGS: Jeff deRoche
PUCO: Sue Daly
Guest: Scudder Mackey

AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

Tim Christman noted that the summary incorrectly stated that the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation's rule changes have already been posted with JCARR. (*Note: In the final versions of the August meeting summary this statement has been deleted.*)

PRESENTATION: The April 9, 1998 Storm on Lake Erie

Scudder Mackey, Supervisor of the Lake Erie Geology Group, gave a slide presentation on the April 9, 1998 storm on Lake Erie. This "nor'easter" caused sustained winds of 40-50 knots from the northeast lasting for more than 16 hours. This caused a "wind set-up" (i.e., rise in water levels due strictly to wind) in the shallow western basin around Toledo and Sandusky. The Toledo and Sandusky Gauges recorded their highest readings ever, with 6.85 feet above low water datum in Sandusky, and 8.32 feet above low water datum in Toledo. The set-up, combined with 14-foot waves, resulted in extensive flooding and erosion along the shoreline in Erie, Ottawa, and Lucas Counties. Dikes and erosion-control structures failed; in one residential area, people lost about 25 feet of their back yards to erosion. In some houses, waves crashed through the windows and rearranged the first-floor furniture--including, in one case, a refrigerator that ended up next to the back door! Flood damage throughout these areas was severe.

Erie, Ottawa and Lucas Counties were declared State disaster areas, which entitled claimants to state emergency remediation funds. However, FEMA funds were not available because the area was not declared a Federal disaster area. (During the same weekend, tornadoes ripped through several southeastern states, causing extensive loss of life and property damages. This disaster was the focus of most national news outlets at the time, and the Lake Erie storm was not even reported very extensively in Ohio.) Mackey noted also that insurance companies do not cover flood damages under homeowner insurance. National flood insurance covers structural damages to buildings (provided the flood is not a “cyclical event”) but it does not cover erosional damages such as the loss of a back yard.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- 1.) The Task Force on restructuring the Division will deliver its report to management within a week. The focus of the report is how to more effectively use the broadly-defined authority of Ohio Revised Code 6111 to order abatement of pollution sources.
- 2.) The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation (BUSTR) has drafted new rules but has not filed them with JCARR yet. The Agency (primarily DERR and DDAGW) conducted a review of BUSTR rules and prepared nearly 30 pages of comments on those rules. Division staff have had an initial discussion with BUSTR and currently are working to resolve differences.

PUCO, Sue Daly announced:

- 1.) The Ohio Water Resources Council posted the Ohio Water Strategic Plan on its Web site. (*Note:* All SCCGW members were notified about the report’s availability via an e-mail sent August 28.) No comments have been received yet. The Council will meet again in October to discuss any comments received, then the report will be issued for public comment. Also, the Council is developing a brochure designed for legislators.

ODNR, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch announced:

- 1.) In the week ahead, staff will be measuring water levels around a planned hog farm waste lagoon in Darke County.
- 2.) Private well dewatering complaints have been received in the City of Fairfield where a new public water supply well has been installed.
- 3.) In response to an ongoing water dispute along the Kokosing River, Knox County commissioners are attempting to purchase property from Delco.

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

- 1.) The Division of Mines and Reclamation has rescued the Division of Oil and Gas, at least temporarily, from its immediate fiscal crisis. When the Mine Inspection staff were transferred from Mines and Reclamation to Oil and Gas a few years ago, Oil and Gas inherited a large number of well plugging duties. Mines and Reclamation is acknowledging this, and has agreed to transfer some of its own funds to Oil and Gas. As a result, the Complaints Investigation program will be retained through the ‘99 fiscal year (until July 1999). The Division hopes that ODNr’s new biennium budget will provide for the continuation of this program beyond SFY ‘99. Projections have indicated clearly that the current funding mechanisms--permit fees and severance taxes--will not be adequate.
- 2.) Requests for well drilling permits during SFY ‘98 were the lowest ever on record, since 1888. Scott noted that the Division’s duties include permitting and technical assistance to the drilling industry, but the rest of its duties (plugging orphan wells, complaint investigations, etc.) directly benefit the

public and the environment, and therefore warrant more General Revenue Funds than they have received in the past.

- 3.) The Division is receiving 80-100 well plugging referrals each year and has the resources to plug about 30 per year. Currently there is a backlog of 400 referrals.

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

- 1.) The Division's proposals for the next biennium budget are complete. Major budget items include Source Water Protection Program development and implementation, and development of data management tools and the GIS.
- 2.) The annual Farm Science Review will be held during the next week at the Molly Caren farm in London, Ohio. Ohio Water Well Association will sponsor a demonstration well drilling at the site.
- 3.) The Ohio Water Well Association will hold its annual conference on November 5-6 at the Radisson Hotel. They are looking for exhibits.
- 4.) Earth Science Week will be held October 11-17, with the main events taking place at Highbanks Metropolitan Park on October 11.

ODH, Bureau of Local and Environmental Services, Rebecca Petty announced:

- 1.) The director of ODH resigned effective September 4, 1998. Lou Ellen Fairless is Acting Director.
- 2.) State Senator Gary Suhadolnik has agreed to sponsor the draft legislation for the Private Water Systems and may introduce it this fall.
- 3.) The Private Water System rules, which were updated as part of the five-year rule review process, are still under review by ODH's legal department. They primarily address well construction and abandonment, and disinfection. Copies of the rules will be e-mailed to SCCGW members within a week. Comments will be accepted through the end of December. The rules will be revised in January and go before the Public Health Council on May 1st. They are expected to go before JCARR in June or July, 1999.
- 4.) State Senator Louis Blessing will sponsor the Home Sewage legislation.
- 5.) Recently in the news: a high school water supply well in Perry County with levels of arsenic that are twice the MCL. ODH sampled 19 wells in the vicinity (completed in four different aquifers), and found that all the wells completed in buried valley deposits or sandstone tested positive for arsenic. Levels varied from 9-25 ppb, which is below the MCL of 50 ppb. However, U.S. EPA is proposing to lower the MCL for arsenic.

Rebecca noted that there is some evidence suggesting that high levels of arsenic may be related to deep buried valley aquifers with reducing conditions, and that this evidence has significant implications for public health across the state. Arsenic is very difficult to remove from water.

USGS, Water Resources Division, Jeff deRoche announced:

- 1.) The USGS has been asked by the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) to design an investigative strategy for sampling pathogens around poultry operations. The goal of the study is to determine whether synthetic antibiotics used in poultry operations are causing various pathogens to become

resistant to antibiotics. There is already compelling evidence, for example, that *E. coli*, staphylococcus, and salmonella are all becoming resistant. The Division will also be sampling ground water, surface water, and field tiles for the antibiotics themselves, to see whether they are being transmitted into aquifers or surface water through sewage. This project will be coordinated with the Ohio Department of Health, with Ohio EPA (which may provide assistance with direct-push technologies), and with OSU's Agricultural Extension Office.

OEPA, Division of Surface Water, Larry Antosch announced:

- 1.) The final draft of the Source Water Assessment and Protection program is now scheduled to be available for public review by the end of October.
- 2.) The President's Clean Water Action Plan proposes to double the federal funding being directed to Clean Water Act Section 319 programs. Any appropriation above the last federal fiscal year's funding must be directed to Category One watersheds identified in the Unified Watershed Assessments. The Unified Watershed Assessment process is being developed by a multi-agency team. Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water is drafting the list, which is expected to be completed by the end of September. The goal of the Assessment is to identify watersheds that do not meet clean water and other natural resource goals and where need preventive action is needed to sustain water quality.
- 3.) The Division's strategies and goals are available for viewing on the OEPA Web page. Among them: the Division proposes to increase water quality goals attainment (measured in river miles) by 15 percent over the previous biennium.
- 4.) The USDA/USEPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations is due out today (September 17, 1998).

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

- 1.) Approximately 100 people attended the September 14th ground-breaking ceremony for the Geologic Sample Repository at Alum Creek. The official name of the OGS portion of the building is the "Horace R. Collins Laboratory".
- 2.) Mapping of surficial materials in the Cincinnati-Falmouth quadrangle has been completed in ink-on-mylar format. Because of the 3-D presentation, the map is complex, and the lettering in many cases is barely legible. For these reasons it is not considered suitable for large-scale copying and distribution.
- 3.) The Division has initiated mapping of the surficial materials for the Put-in-Bay/Lorain quadrangle.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Well Construction Work Group

Rebecca Petty reported that the Well Construction guidance document is being prepared for printing. At the next SCCGW meeting, members should be prepared to tell her how many copies they'd like to have, so that they can decide how many copies to print.

Farm*A*Syst

Larry Antosch reported that drafts of nine of the twelve proposed Fact Sheets have been written and reviewed. OSU Extension will do lay-out of the Fact Sheets and pilot-test their dissemination.

DISCUSSION OF OHIO WATER STRATEGIC PLAN

As noted earlier in the meeting by Sue Daly, the draft plan will be issued for public comment in October, so internal comments should be submitted to the Council by then. Some members commented that the Plan seems primarily oriented toward surface water, and toward regionalized water-sewer districts. The group discussed whether it should provide SCCGW comments, since each of their agencies would be providing comments as well. It was concluded that the SCCGW comments would reflect the general stance of each of the constituent agencies, and there was nothing inappropriate in packaging them separately. Members should e-mail their comments to Sue Daly and Rebecca Petty. They will write up the comments in a memo addressed to the Ohio Water Resources Council, and will present the memo to the SCCGW for approval at the October 15th meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

The November SCCGW meeting has been moved to November 12th, to avoid conflicting with the Water Management Association of Ohio's annual meeting on November 17-19. **This meeting will be held at ODNR** (not Ohio EPA, as originally planned), **Building D, third floor conference room.**

OCTOBER AGENDA

The next SCCGW meeting will be held October 15th at ODNR, Building D, third floor. In addition to the regular Agency updates and announcement, the SCCGW will discuss and approve the memo presenting its comments on the Ohio Water Strategic Plan.

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) Report on Storm - April 9, 1998
- 2.) Status of Surficial Materials Mapping (map)

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October 15, 1998

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

8:30 - 8:35 am	CALL TO ORDER -Introductions
8:35 - 8:40 am	SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:10 am	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -Legislation/Rules/Policies -Program Developments/Organizational Changes/New Hires -Miscellaneous -Work Group Updates
10:10 - 10:20 am	BREAK
10:20 - 10:50 am	DISCUSSION OF OHIO'S WATER STRATEGIC PLAN
10:50 - 10:55 am	MISCELLANEOUS
10:55 - 11:00 am	NOVEMBER SCCGW MEETING AGENDA
11:00 am	ADJOURN