

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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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

September 16, 1999
USGS - new location
6480 Double Tree Avenue

ABSTRACT

The September 16th meeting was devoted to updates and announcements, and continued discussion of ground water issues that need to be prioritized and addressed by SCCGW over the next year or two.

ATTENDANCE

BUSTR: Charles Zepp

OEPA: Tom Allen, Mike Baker, Vladimir Cica, Kristy Hunt, John Kessler, Julio Perez

ODA: Larry Berger

ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, David Hanselmann, Rick Pavey

ODH: John Wells

ODOT: Juliet Denniss

PUCO: Sue Daly

USGS: Jeff de Roche

AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

Two corrections were made to the August draft meeting notes. The Drought Assessment and Executive Committee was incorrectly referred to as the Drought Task Force under the Ohio EPA Agency Updates. Also, Bob Vanhorn provided announcements 1-5 under the ODNR Agency Updates instead of Mike Hallfrisch as indicated.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ODNR, Division of Geological Survey, Rick Pavey announced:

- 1.) An open house for the Horace R. Collins Laboratory, the new location of the ODNR Repository, will be held on October 12th, 1999.

- 2.) The next SCCGW meeting will be held at the new facility, which is located in the Alum Creek State Park. Please see attached map for directions to the facility.

U.S.G.S, Water Resources Division, Jeff de Roche announced:

- 1.) Provided a handout describing all of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program studies conducted in Ohio, USGS Fact Sheet 036-99, July 1999.
- 2.) The Jackson County Board of Health has accepted the USGS proposal to conduct a county wide study to look at the extent of arsenic occurrence within the ground water as well as to understand why it is a problem and what is causing it.
- 3.) The USGS will be participating in the Farm Science Review and their booth will be located at the Gwynne Conservation Area.
- 4.) The USGS will be holding an open house of their new office building located at 6480 Doubletree Avenue on October 14th. All Agencies present should have received an invitation. The open house will include a host of different demonstrations that will provide an understanding of what technological capabilities the USGS possesses.

ODH, Bureau of Local and Environmental Services, John Wells announced:

- 1.) Private Water Rules 3 (Permits) and 20(Registration/Bonding) were sent back to the Public Health Council which will meet on September 30, 1999. All rules will be effective January 1, 2000, except for rule 20 which will take effect as soon as it is signed.
 - Two training sessions for the new rules are planned for the first and second weeks of October 1999. These training sessions are planned through December 10, 1999.
- 2.) A tentative rule revision time line for the Home Sewage Disposal Rules is scheduled to take place between November 1, 1999 through April 2001.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, Mike Hallfrisch announced:

- 1.) ODNR's Well Log database is now on the internet. The database can be accessed on ODNR's Division of Water home page under the **What's New?** category. Information available through this database includes pump test data, geologic information, and addresses. This database does not contain picture images of the well logs.
 - A contractor was hired to update the database to Windows NT and that should be completed in 4-5 months (according to the contractor).

- 2.) ODNR is responding to a de-watering situation in the City of Trenton located in Butler County. Mike will be going to Trenton on September 17th, 1999.

- So far five older shallow wells are being effected. There are three monitoring wells in the area. At the end of July these monitoring wells observed water levels at an all time low.

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

- 1.) A portion of the Kirby Tire Pile caught on fire a few weeks ago. In the beginning USEPA took over the emergency until it had spent its Emergency Management Budget. Once the USEPA budget was spent, Ohio EPA DSIWM took over the emergency. The burned area is now buried.

- There is a temporary treatment system set up to handle the surface water contamination that occurred as a result of the fire. The fire also caused the release of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

- A court order has been issued to remove the tires.

- Mike Baker added that the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters did some sampling of area ground water wells in order to establish baseline levels for ground water quality. Ground water sampling will continue in this area to monitor any changes in the ground water quality. Sycamore is the largest PWS in this area.

- 2.) House Bill 473- Siting Criteria Rule Review Workgroup received comments on the May 12, 1999 Concepts and Recommendations Report. The Workgroup has met twice to discuss the comments, some changes will be made based on the comments received. The next meeting should completely finish addressing all comments as well as determine a statement of the Workgroup's use.

- The current rules are not planning on addressing Surface Water SWAP areas.

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

- 1.) Ohio EPA is continuing its Y2K preparation work. Completing detailed risk analysis and contingency plans. Looking at the types of Y2K risks that Public Water Systems face. A

fall staff training is planned to prepare Ohio EPA staff in assisting PWSs with Y2K needs. Continuing outreach to PWSs to help them prepare for Y2K. A Region V mass mailing effort to PWSs is part of the Y2K educational outreach. On October 7th Ohio Water Management will hold a Y2K exercise. The 9/9/99 date passed with no reported failures.

- 2.) During the Kirby tire fire Ohio EPA's DDAGW worked closely with other Ohio EPA divisions to make sure that the Fremont and Tiffin PWSs were kept safe.
- 3.) The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program work continues. A database has been created to store the Resource Characterization data. A recent 3 day meeting with the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Inc. discussed a statewide Agency architecture for storing and capturing GIS data. Presently, Ohio EPA is evaluating the best approach to addressing its GIS needs, which includes having an effective GIS structure within each district office.
- 4.) The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP), with the help of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS)/Computer Services Section, which will aid Ohio EPA in selecting an experienced GPS contractor to geolocate Ohio's NonCommunity Public Water Systems. The selected contractor for this locational program will gather coordinate data to sub-meter accuracy [points will be located within one meter or less of their actual location].

PUCO, Sue Daly announced:

- 1.) She has not heard anything on the future of the Ohio Water Resources Council.

BUSTR, ODA, Ohio EPA DSW, ODOT

- No Agency updates.

HAND-OUTS

- 1.) USGS Document - "Ohio" USGS Fact Sheet 036-99, July 1999.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

- No work group updates.

MISCELLANEOUS (Special Coordination Issues)

I. DROUGHT DISCUSSION

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

1.) Ohio moved into a Level 3 Drought Alert and as a result established the Public and Private Water Supply Drought Task Force. The Task Force met for the first time on September 1, 1999. The Drought Task Force has 3 objectives: Review the status of Public and Private Water Well impacts, review what responses have been made, determine if there is a need for further action. If the need for further action is identified then what steps will be taken and what are the trigger mechanisms that will implement these steps.

- 56 PWSs have implemented drought protection measures. Approximately 20 of these PWSs have implemented mandatory water use restrictions. Ohio has not seen large problems in the PWSs. This may be because systems have learned from the 1988 drought, which also caused ground water supply concerns.

- Currently the biggest concern is decreasing ground water levels with a possible mild winter that would not provide efficient aquifer recharge. This case would cause water shortage problems next year due to continued low ground water levels. PWSs are encouraged to continue the mandatory water use restrictions in order to prepare for possible low water levels during the summer of 2000.

- The Task Force recommended to the Ohio Governor Taft to again ask for water conservation throughout the state. Mandatory restrictions should be put in place on a case by case basis, typically where decreasing ground water levels are threatening water supplies.

ODH, Bureau of Local and Environmental Services, John Wells announced:

1.) ODH sent out memos addressing who to call for help. Responses to an ODH survey have reported only a few encountered problems due to the drought, others couldn't exactly relate their problems to the drought. ODH has been recommending that people hire licensed contractors to do their well drilling. Presently putting a statewide water haulers list together. Attended an Ohio Water Association Meeting and only a few people present had seen work loads increase due to the drought.

ODA, Larry Berger announced:

1.) The state average for corn and soy beans is not going to be that bad. However, low prices coupled with low or average yields will be a problem for farmers. Larry noticed ponds in northwest Ohio that are used as water sources are extremely low.

II. DISCUSSION OF SCCGW ROLE IN 319 Non-Point Source (NPS) PROJECT APPROVAL

Julio Perez of the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water was invited to the SCCGW meeting to address questions concerning the priority of ground water projects in the selection of 319 grant proposals.

- Mike Baker explained to Julio that the SCCGW wanted to talk about the group's role in the selection of ground water based 319 grant projects. There was a 10% set aside of the 319 funding for ground water based projects as well as a National Guidance on the types of ground water projects that are eligible for funding under the 319 grants. Now that the 10% set aside has been removed, the National Guidance for the selection of ground water 319 projects has been vague. Are ground water 319 grant proposals getting adequate attention during the selection process? Is the selection committee recognizing the contributions that ground water makes to surface water? The current proposal is that SCCGW will review ground water 319 proposals, once the grant proposal gets into the final selection committee what are the criteria for ground water projects?

- Julio explained that as long as the issues ground water projects are addressing are contained in the Non-Point Source Management Plan, ground water projects are eligible and anyone can apply. However, there does need to be an umbrella group to provide leadership on statewide ground water issues and it may be that the SCCGW is that group. Julio also mentioned that he doesn't see the removal of the 10% set aside of 319 funds to support ground water projects as a limitation to the selection of ground water proposals. The only thing from the National Guidance that has changed is the removal of the 10% set aside. In order to be eligible for 319 funding, ground water projects must be addressed in the NonPoint Source Annual Management Plan.

- Presently Ohio EPA is scheduled to receive 3.2 million dollars for funding 319 grants. Ohio EPA DSW is currently working on revising the NonPoint Source Management Document, which once submitted and approved by USEPA, Ohio EPA DSW could receive an additional 3.2 million dollars of 319 funding. The first 3.2 million dollars will be used as in the past. The additional funding will be linked to the Category 1 watersheds (priority watersheds with restoration needs).

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- Julio stressed that the State Agencies should be active in addressing their priority concerns. Presently Ohio EPA DSW is forming a team to improve the application - grant funding process. The team will also be looking at review criteria for the selection of 319 grant proposals. The new selection criteria must be finished by October 22, 1999.

- Julio talked with Gail Hesse of OEPA/DSW, the procedure for the review of ground water proposals will not change for this current round of 319 call for grant proposals. Presently the process involves having the SCCGW review ground water 319 grant proposals to provide a score and comments. This score is then provided to the 319 grant selection committee consisting of representatives from Ohio EPA, ODNR, NRCS, ODH, ODA, and the OSU Extension. The score from SCCGW is added to the scores of the agencies in the selection committee and an average for each application is calculated. This average is then used in the final selection of 319 grant proposals. 319 grant funding is then provided to the proposals having the highest averages until all the available funds have been distributed.

- Changes to the NPS Management Plan Document are happening now and this is the opportunity for agencies to be providing comments on the types of changes they would like to see.

- Mike Baker suggested that over the next several months SCCGW members look at the current 319 requirements and suggest changes for revisions. Also, for this current call for proposals, look at the current NonPoint Source Management Plan and get a ground water proposal in before the deadline of October 22, 1999. Reviews for these proposals will occur within the first week of December. SCCGW members need to coordinate an available time to do a review of those ground water projects submitted as a response to the recent call for proposals.

- Mike Baker also suggested that the SCCGW work together to submit a 319 grant proposal for the current submittal period. A possible project would be to look at current data collection needs and identify the gaps where data collection is needed and determine how to fill those needs. Ohio EPA has ideas for data collection needs but does not have the staff available to commit to such a project. Not only is data collection needed but also the ability to compile the data. Once a group has compiled the ground water data collection needs, SCCGW could be used to review the information and provide suggestions on the data gaps. Mike Baker and Tom Allen will identify the availability of Ohio EPA district staff that can support this effort. There is no available staff in Central Office.

- Julio Perez added that someone could be hired to do a 319 grant project, once the data gaps have been identified they could be added to the NonPoint Source Management Plan. A project such as the one described is considered to be all personal cost. A project that has primary goals such as implementing Best Management Practices would need to spend the majority of the funding on the implementation of those BMPs and not on personal project cost. How the grant is viewed in terms of the use of funds depends on the nature of the project. The grant proposal must demonstrate if grant funding greater than \$300,000 is needed.

- Jeff de Roche suggested that the USGS has the flexibility to implement a 319 grant project for the current call for proposals, but he would expect help from all of the agencies represented on SCCGW in the process of writing the grant proposal as well as for the contribution of in-kind funding. Perhaps a Request For Proposals (RFP) could be compiled and the project could be completed as a Masters Thesis project. The agency that is providing the 319 funding would be liable for the completion of the submitted work plan.

- Rich Bendula and Jeff de Roche both added that collecting available information concerning arsenic in ground water would be beneficial.

- Larry Berger noted that a lot of 319 projects evolve into program continuations. The 319 grant proposal is split into sections. Providing a central catalog base to house the compiled data could be part of the 319 grant proposal.

- Tom Allen mentioned that the next SCCGW meeting should discuss the representation of the SCCGW in the selection of 319 grant proposals. SCCGW has defined its priorities in the Ground Water Strategy, how can these priorities be included in the next 319 call for proposals?

- Julio asked Tom Allen to communicate with Gail Hesse to include the Ground Water Strategy document as a reference in the NPS Management Plan document so that everything in the Ground Water Strategy will be included.

III. Speaker Presentation: Rich Bendula/ Ohio EPA DDAGW-SWDO

The Occurrence of Arsenic in Water Wells In Southwestern Ohio by Rich Bendula, CPG

Significant concentrations of arsenic have been detected in raw water samples from water wells which are completed in Silurian age limestone and dolomite bedrock aquifers in Southwestern Ohio. In a limited case study conducted in Northwestern Montgomery County by Ohio EPA, arsenic concentrations in ground water ranged from less than 2 ug/L up to 34 ug/L, while over 80% of the wells sampled had arsenic present. In a special study conducted by Ohio EPA in 1994, arsenic was detected in 22% of the

wells completed in consolidated limestone and dolomite aquifers, 34% in sand and gravel aquifers and 23% in consolidated sandstone and shale aquifers throughout Ohio. The presence of arsenic in aquifers in Ohio may not be related to man-made sources such as pesticides, landfills, or cemeteries. Instead, arsenic may be naturally occurring as trace metal deposits which are coprecipitated with ferric hydroxide in the aquifer.

Explorations for future water supplies need to carefully evaluate the water quality of the aquifer(s) in addition to potential yields of the formations prior to selecting the final location, design and treatment for the water supply.

Rich Bendula is a hydrogeologist and manager of the Ground Water program, DDAGW in the Southwest District Office. He has been employed with the Ohio EPA since 1985 and received a BA in Geology from Miami University in 1982 and a MS in Engineering Geology from Kent State University in 1985.

Formation of SCCGW Workgroups

I. Midwest Ground Water Conference Workgroup

- Mike Hallfrisch received confirmation that Ohio is the host state for the 45th Midwest Ground Water Conference. ODNR agreed to this confirmation with the assumption that other state agencies would support this conference as well. Mike Hallfrisch agreed to lead this Workgroup. Other SCCGW members that will also act as Workgroup members include: Tom Allen and Rich Bendula Ohio EPA/DDAGW, Jeff de Roche USGS, and someone from ODH possibly Rebecca Petty.

- Conference attendance will be within 200-250 people. Tom Allen can have a OEPA Central Office staff member look into the availability of different Conference Room locations. The group will need to put out a call for proposals, possibly in March. The Conference could promote presentations and poster sessions. Tom Allen has received two calls from individuals wanting to have input on getting the conference together. Tom Allen also mentioned that a possible theme for the Conference could be “Aspects of where we use to be as far as ground water in Ohio and where we are headed”. This type of theme would show how local communities are taking the responsibility of protecting their ground water resources. The Conference is a wonderful opportunity for the host state to showcase its work.

- Tom Allen suggested that after the next SCCGW meeting work group members get together and come up with ideas.

II. Ground Water Strategy Workgroup

- Tom Allen will take the lead for coordinating the group. All SCCGW represented State Agencies are requested to identify a contact for the Workgroup. The responsibilities for Workgroup members should not require writing more than a paragraph of the Ground Water Strategy. Other SCCGW members that will be on the Ground Water Strategy Workgroup include: ODH either John Wells or Rebecca Petty, Mike Hallfrisch ODNR, Larry Berger ODA, Jeff de Roche USGS. Anyone else who is interested in being a part of the Ground Water Strategy Workgroup should contact Tom Allen Ohio EPA DDAGW.

Workgroup Achievement Needs:

1. Look at what USEPA has set out as requirements for a State Ground Water Program and identify the things that are going on within Ohio to satisfy these requirements.
2. The Workgroup should try to finalize the Ground Water Strategy by July of 2000 for the next biennium budget in order to allow for funding of priority ground water programs.
3. A final draft document should be done for public comment and outreach by the end of May 2000. Individuals that receive the SCCGW meeting notes can be the initial input group on the revisions made to the Ground Water Strategy.

- David Hanselman suggested that it would be useful to involve 10-20 individuals along the way so that by next July when presenting the funding requests, the group would be able to show the Directors that outside agency involvement is behind the request for funding. Tom Allen added that it is important to have these outside individuals brought into the strategy revision process.

- David Hanselman suggested that it would be useful to have someone working on a description of the quality and attainment goals of ground water in Ohio such as, how many water quality problems Ohio has had to deal with, Monitoring Networks- addressing the quality and quantity of data- is their enough adequate data?

- Sue Daly will be involved with the group as needed and can help identify PUCO requests for changes to the Ground Water Strategy.

OCTOBER AGENDA

The meeting will be held at ODNR'S new Horace R. Collins Laboratory at Alum Creek State Park, 3615 S. Old State Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015 (see attached map), 8:30 to 2:00 PM. The meeting will include Agency updates and further discussion of SCCGW activities. The goal of this discussion will be to set priorities and create a schedule for activities, as well as to discuss updating the ground water strategy.

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