

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Lazarus Government Center  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

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

Ohio Department of Health  
246 North High Street  
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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  
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Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399

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

Ohio Department of Transportation  
1980 West Broad 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 20, 2003

Horace R. Collins Conference Room  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Repository Building  
3307 South Old State Road  
Delaware, Ohio

### **ABSTRACT**

The November 2003 meeting consisted of Agency updates and announcements, and a presentation by Jason Wiles (OEPA, DDAGW) on Class V Underground Injection Well impacts on public and private water systems in Elizabethtown, Ohio.

### **ATTENDANCE**

OEPA: Tom Allen, Vlad Cica, Bob Knipmeyer, John Kessler, Barb Lubberger  
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Ted Lozier, Rick Pavey  
ODA: Larry Berger  
USGS: Jeff DeRoche  
ODOT: Rob Lang  
ODH: Rebecca Petty  
PUCO: Sue Daly

### **OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY**

- The USGS update is revised to read "The USGS will be filling the Lake Erie Coordinator position when Donna Myers takes her new position".

### **AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### ***Ohio Department of Health, Rebecca Petty announced:***

- Private water well driller registrations are being sent out.
- ODH is preparing to address revision of private water system rules by December 2004.

- The joint ODH/USGS study of home sewage systems is proceeding. Sites have been identified for field work, and the geoprobe work and water collection are nearly complete.

***Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:***

- PUCO's "distribution system improvement charge" for replacing aging water system infrastructure will go into effect on January 6, 2004.

- The Cordell Regional Water and Sewer Company (a small private water/sewer company near Orient, OH) may be facing bankruptcy. Their wastewater treatment plant needs major upgrades and Ohio EPA-DSW has issued Findings & Orders. Cordell wants to sell the company but so far there are no buyers.

- At the national Drinking Water Symposium in Colorado Springs, there were discussions on "acquisition adjustments". Small private water companies desire to sell out to larger operations for grossly inflated prices. PUCO regulated utilities are not permitted to pass this extra cost on to their customers. Acquisitions adjustments, if allowed, would permit the utility to recover some of this cost.

- Other topics of interest at conferences Sue has attended:

- elsewhere in the country, TV news stations are successfully promoting watershed education by regularly discussing local watersheds in the weather portion of the local news;
- Climate change is causing the western United States to become warmer and dryer; meanwhile the population continues to shift westward. Western planners increasingly look to move water from the humid east (especially from the Great Lakes) to address this growing problem.

***USGS, Water Resources Discipline, Jeff DeRoche announced:***

- USGS has a new and increased budget, but no word yet on how it will be distributed among the divisions.

- The new Lake Erie Coordinator is Norm Granneman, based in Lansing, Michigan. He replaces Donna Myers, who was based in Columbus. He will coordinate efforts between, and split his time between, the Great Lakes Science Center (Biological Resources Discipline) and the Michigan district Office (Water Resources Discipline).

***ODNR, Division of Water, Ted Lozier announced:***

-The St. John's low-head dam on the Sandusky River (five miles south of Tiffin) was removed recently in a joint effort by ODNR and ODOT. ODOT received stream mitigation credits for this effort. However, some landowners along the stream are claiming it will affect water levels in their private wells. The Division is planning to monitor ground water levels.

- The Division of Water is preparing a Strategic Three-Year and Five-Year Plan on Ground Water Resources, which it will provide to SCCGW for comments.

- A Monitoring Work Group composed primarily of State agency staff expects to charter as an Ohio Water Resources Council work group this month. The goal is to better coordinate monitoring of ground water and surface water done by various programs in Ohio. The work group activities will focus on the OWRC's strategic plan objectives for Water Resources Data and Information.

***Ohio Department of Transportation, Rob Lang announced:***

- In accordance with Phase II stormwater regulations, ODOT will identify and map Class V wells as part of their work in Clark County.

***Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, John Kessler announced:***

- The work group updating the Nonpoint Source Program has requested to charter as an Ohio Water Resources Council work group.

- The Division hopes to reach 80% aquatic life use attainment in Ohio streams by 2010.

***Ohio EPA, Directors Office, Bob Knipmeyer announced:***

- The annual Ohio Association of Health Commissioners conference will be held December 4, 2003. Registration fee is \$65.

- Ohio EPA met with ODOT recently to discuss enforcement of public drinking water rules at several highway rest areas.

- Ohio EPA was scheduled to meet with Trumbull County Health Commissioners on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss a compliance schedule for addressing 22 sites throughout the county with septic discharges.

***Ohio Department of Agriculture, Larry Berger announced:***

- ODA received a grant from the Lake Erie Commissioners to financially assist farmers with the construction of containment structures for fixed storage tanks (for fertilizer or pesticide) with over 5,000-gallon capacity. The cost-share program offers farmers up to \$2,500.

- A corn herbicide has been detected in one ground water sample in the Oak Openings Ground Water Monitoring program in northwestern Ohio. This is the only detect so far, out of the 48 samples. Simazine was detected at 8 mg/l (MCL is 4 mg/l). Another complete round of sampling is being discussed, probably in late Spring, 2004.

- A review of restricted use sales has revealed that most of the pesticides being used still have atrazine in them. This suggests that atrazine continues to be a good indicator pesticide for water resources monitoring.

- This year's Pesticide Container Recycling Program wraps up next week. The Program collected 35,000 pounds of plastic this year.

**Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, Tom Allen and Barb Lubberger announced:**

- A final draft is available of the Ground Water Protection Council's Executive Summary of the Report to Congress on Ground Water. It will be presented to Congress on December 2, 2003. [Copies to be sent via e-mail to SCCGW members]
- To promote the Education component of the Ohio Water Resources Council's critical activities, members would like to create a display on Ohio's water resources, organized on a watershed basis, that would be appropriate for the State Fair, Farm Science Review, and similar venues.
- Barb passed out a multi-state comparison of state Siting Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills, which was completed by Jeff Martin, Ohio EPA, DDAGW.
- OEPA's Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program expects to complete the assessments of community public water systems by December 31, 2003 (for both ground water and surface water systems, except for the Ohio River systems). This represents 25% of all the public water systems in Ohio, but covers over 84% of Ohioans who obtain their drinking water from public water systems.
- In an effort to better integrate drinking water protection activities in watershed management plans, DDAGW's Heather Raymond developed a standardized CD with all of the GIS data the watershed coordinators typically request. For watershed coordinators without GIS software, she developed a watershed mapping project that can be used in conjunction with ArcReader software (available as free ware). The mapping project, available on a separate CD, allows watershed coordinators to view and create customized maps without having to purchase ArcView.

**PRESENTATION**

Jason Wiles (Ohio EPA, DDAGW, UIC Program) gave a presentation on Class V Underground Injection Well impacts on public and private water systems in Elizabethtown, Ohio.

**NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

will be Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Dutch Kitchen restaurant, U.S. Route 42, south of Plain City. A luncheon will follow the meeting. Ralph Haefner (USGS) will present an update of the ground water metadata project.

***Please RSVP to Tom Allen or Barb Lubberger by Friday, December 12, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting and if you plan to stay for lunch.*** Lunch is a buffet, for around \$8.00.

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**December 16, 2003**  
**The Dutch Kitchen**  
**U.S. Route 42 (south of Plain City)**

8:30 - 8:35	CALL TO ORDER - Introductions
8:35 - 8:40	NOVEMBER DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
8:40 - 10:100	AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
10:10 - 10:20	BREAK
10:20 - 11:20	PRESENTATION by Ralph Haefner (USGS) on the Ground Water Metadata Database Project.
11:30 - 1:00	CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON