

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0588

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
8995 East Main Street
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

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

May 20, 2004
Highbanks Metro Park
Mansion Shelter

**NOTE: The June meeting has been rescheduled to JUNE 29TH
at the Highbanks Nature Center.**

ABSTRACT

The May 2004 meeting consisted of Agency announcements and discussion of ORWA critical issues.

ATTENDANCE

OEPA: Tom Allen, Vlad Cica, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, John Kessler
USGS: Jeff DeRoche
ODH: Rebecca Petty
PUCO: Sue Daly

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Bob Knipmeyer noted that, according to a more recent CDC report, the West Nile virus case identified in Scioto County in April turned out to be a false positive.

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

USGS, Water Resources Discipline, Jeff DeRoche announced:

- USGS has released a set of NAWQA reports, which are available on the Web at http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa_sumr.html

- Jeff distributed copies of

- "Water Quality in the Great and Little Miami River Basins", Circular 1229, 2004 (NAWQA Report)
- New reports on our Nation's water quality, May 2004 (Fact Sheet)
- News release: "Heavily used pesticides found in more than 90 percent of stream samples in southwestern Ohio"

- USGS will be conducting a study on the water quality of effluent from on-lot ET (evapotranspiration) septic systems with curtain drains at the Village of Lodi in Medina County.

Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Vlad Cica announced:

- Ohio EPA has rescinded Columbiana County's authority to regulate its construction and demolition debris (C&DD) landfills.

- The hottest solid waste issue right now is "unrecognizable waste" coming in large amounts from out-of-state to mega-facilities opening up in northern Ohio. This waste is so pulverized, it is impossible to determine visually whether it is sanitary, hazardous or C&DD waste.

Ohio Department of Health, Rebecca Petty announced:

- A vote of the full House on the Home Sewage Bill will take place May 25th.

- Rebecca distributed a copy of a report on the Warren Recycling hydrogen sulfide release: "Health Consultation: Hydrogen Sulfide Exposure in Warren Township Private Well Water Pathway", US Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta, GA, May 4, 2004.

- The Aromet facility in Marietta has announced that they will be working with ODH to test for the presence of heavy metals in residential drinking water cisterns in the vicinity. The concern is that metals in Aromet's air releases may be impacting these sources of drinking water.

- ODH also is sampling 37 private wells in a Wayne County subdivision for impacts from septage related to private septic systems that are inappropriately sited and draining to a common effluent collection pond.

- The next sampling of wells in the Oak Openings aquifer of northwest Ohio (for the presence of pesticides) is scheduled for June 14th.

- ODH will be working with OEPA to conduct water quality sampling at Elizabethtown, a village in Hamilton County with numerous Class V injection wells.

- The Ohio Water Well Association and the National Water Well Association are applying for an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant to develop an interactive Web site to educate private well owners about their well.

- The Ohio Emergency Management Association recently was activated to sample private water systems in Perry and Athens Counties subsequent to severe flooding in southern Ohio.

- John Wells is retiring on July 30th.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, John Kessler announced:

- The Division is preparing to assist ODH with soil evaluations for county septic systems.
- The Division will be working with the Livestock Coalition on ways to address the practice of manure application during the winter, when fields may be frozen and there is minimal vegetation to slow runoff into streams.
- The Division will be issuing a Request for Proposal for two new watershed coordinators. Currently there are 28 in place through the Division's six-year program, and eleven more funded by the 319 Program.
- The Division will be investing in regional training for watershed coordinators on how to make a watershed group and coordinator position financially sustainable at the local level.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Sue Daly announced:

- PUCO extends its thanks to Lisa Morris (Chief of Division of Surface Water, OEPA) for her help in coordinating issues at Cordell Regional Utilities.
- PUCO held its National Drinking Water Week activities on May 6th. It has been proposed that next year this event could possibly be combined with Bring Your Child to Work Day.

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

- The Source Water Assessment and Protection Program will be developing a report on what was learned from the assessments of over 1,300 community public water systems, a task that was completed in December 2003. First it is necessary to complete intensive QA/QC of the susceptibility analyses and sort out some lingering data management and database compatibility issues. The goal is to have a first draft completed by June 30, 2004.
- Ten entities submitted applications for Clean Water Act Section 319 Source Water Protection Planning Grants, starting in 2005. These included two applications for surface water systems, and three regional applications: OKI, three municipalities in the Blanchard watershed, and Fairfield County.
- DDAGW has provided comments to DSW on proposed new rules for land application of treated wastewater.
- The Water Management Association of Ohio's newsletter is now available on-line. Articles for the next issue should be submitted to Tom by mid-June.

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

- Representative Carmichael has invited the Division to a meeting to discuss issues related to the Village of Wadsworth's desire to site a new wellfield in Wayne County.

STATUS OF NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE - John Kessler

It is a Clean Water Act requirement to update the plan periodically. The first version, from the late 1980s, focused on cataloging non-point source programs, with a lot of narrative description. The update will be more like an "environmental business plan", consolidating goals and providing annual targets for load reductions of nitrogen and phosphorus. It will include linkages to national and regional programs, but direct the reader ultimately to the local level where the restoration and protection activities actually are implemented. It also will focus on mechanisms for delivery at the local level.

John distributed an updated timeline for completion of the effort. A draft NPS Management Plan is scheduled to be ready for review by the end of June.

OHIO WATER RESOURCE COUNCIL INITIATIVES - Tom Allen

Tom distributed a hand-out on Issues 1-3 of OWRC's draft 10-year Vision (7/25/03)

- Issues 1-3 (Data and Information, Education and Outreach, and Watershed Management) will be featured topics at various conferences and outreach events throughout the state, including the fall WMAO conference, the State Fair, and Farm Science Review.
- A meeting will be held on May 26th to discuss OWRC's Education and Outreach initiative with water educators and news/communications people, especially the idea of the electronic "water portal" and how to follow up on Storm Center's presentation on developing TV segments on watersheds for the Ohio media market.
- Kristy Hunt described an OEEF grant proposal currently being developed by DDAGW and ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Conservation, to provide a statewide network of resources for disseminating ground water and source water protection education. Teams called "SWEET"s (Source Water Environmental Education Teams) would be formed to apply for a sand tank model and the training to use it effectively as a tool for teaching people about ground water and source water protection. The nucleus of each SWEET would be Soil and Water Conservation staff, but the SWEET could include watershed group staff, public water system operators, and other local partners. The grant proposal is for \$50,000, most of this to buy 54 sand tank models, and the rest to train the SWEETs.

NEXT SCCGW MEETING:

Tuesday, June 29th, at Highbanks Nature Center. Will include an SCCGW review of the 319 proposals received related to source water protection.

Also, we will evaluate OWRC strategic activities in reference to ground water protection. Please be prepared to present your agency/program's accomplishments in SFY'04 in reference to OWRC Strategic Plan actions.

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Highbanks Nature Center

June 29, 2004

- 8:30 - 8:35 CALL TO ORDER
 - Introductions
- 8:35 - 8:40 MAY DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
- 8:40 - 10:15 AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Please provide information on the status of your agency/program's
activities related to the OWRC strategic plan, including accomplishments
of SFY'04))
- 10:15 - 10:25 BREAK
- 10:25 - 11:00 EVALUATION OF GROUND WATER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE
OWRC STRATEGIC PLAN
- 11:00 - 11:25 REVIEW OF 319 GRANT PROPOSALS
- 11:25 - 11:30 JULY AGENDA (Geoprobe presentation and demonstration)
- 11:30 ADJOURN (Bring a Brown Bag Lunch)

NOTE: Please provide articles for the Ground Water section of the WMAO newsletter to Tom by June 25th.