

STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387

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8895 East Main Street
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Ohio Public Utilities Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Ohio Department of Agriculture
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Ohio Department of Development
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Ohio Department of Transportation
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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

June 21, 2007
USGS Office, Columbus

ABSTRACT

The June 2007 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements, an update on Ohio Water Resource Council actions, a presentation by Wayne Jones on the "Relationship Between Land Use, Ground Water Flow and Non-Point Source Contamination in The Upper Mad River Watershed," and a brief demonstration on the new StormCenter web site by Tom Allen.

ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen (SCCGW Chair), Brian Hall, Michael Eggert, Bob Knipmeyer, Heather Raymond
ODNR: Mike Hallfrisch, Rick Pavey, Greg Nageotte, Wayne Jones
ODA: Bill Goodman
PUCO: Sue Daly
ODOT: Doug App
USGS: Ralph Haefner

should be easier to update in the future. Information on each member Agency's ground water related activities and programs was added to the website, based on information the Agencies provided for the 305b report. Please review Agency information and provide updates to Michael Eggert. We would also appreciate any suggestions for education and professional organization links. In July the old site will be abandoned and the new site will go live.

Special Studies. The division is in the final stages of the Catalina MHP wastewater impacts study. Impairments have not been above Safe Drinking Water Act standards. The Buckeye Lake investigation is currently showing there may be more of a problem with sample collection methods than actual source water contamination. The Clark County Mad River Township karst study is complete and a final report should be available in July. Ground water flow rates ranged from 3,100 feet/day (dry weather trace) to 28,800 feet/day (wet weather trace).

AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Allen, SCCGW Chairman:

The August meeting will be held at Horace Collins and will be followed by the summer luncheon.

There were no comments on the April notes.

Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

Revised SSCGW Website. The website was reprogrammed using a different web language and

South Bass Island. There are still some enforcement cases the state is working on, but the current water samples are below maximum contaminant levels. A new conference center requested a Class V injection well permit, and the Division may develop stricter permit requirements for the center due to the sensitivity of the aquifer to contamination.

Darby Stormwater Permits. More UIC Class V wells are expected to be installed in the Darby Watershed due to new ground water recharge permit requirements. Permit applicants appear to prefer installing Class V wells to buying additional land to mitigate for ground water recharge.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water:

401 Nationwide Permits. The nationwide permits expired in March and the division expects they will be out in July. There will be a 60 day comment period, but the permits become effective immediately when they are reauthorized.

Budget. The regional planning agencies (NEFCO, MORPC, TMACOG, etc.) requested an increase in their budgets and the legislature is considering granting their request by taking fee money away from the Division of Surface Water (approximately 5.5 FTEs). The same request was made during the last budget cycle, but Taft vetoed it from the budget. The Director met with Governor Strickland and indicated it would be difficult to meet the goal of quickly processing permit requests with Division of Surface Water staff cuts. He is hopeful that the Division's budget will not be cut.

Wetland & Stream Mitigation. The Division hosted external meetings on the stream and wetland mitigation guidance. The comment period should conclude by September.

Phosphorus Task Force. The task force indicated that the Division may need to develop phosphorus water quality standards for the Central Lake Erie Basin.

TMDLs. Beaver Creek and Grand Lakes St. Mary TMDLs are final and Chagrin River has been sent to USEPA for approval. Water quality surveys this year are focused on: Upper Grand, Mohican,

Kokosing, Ohio Brush Creek, and the lower portion of the Little Miami River.

Ohio EPA, Directors Office:

Directors Office Staff. The only position still open is the Chief of Strategic Management. Pam Allen is the new chief of DSIWM and Dan Harris is the assistant chief.

Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) Landfills. There are still many issues that need to be resolved (See Tom Allen's additional comments).

Ohio Department of Agriculture:

Emerald Ash Borer. The borer was recently found in Mahoning County.

Drought. Ohio EMA is considering convening the drought task force if the current lack of precipitation continues (see ODNR Division of Water update).

Ohio Department of Transportation:

The director is expected to make many hiring and firing decisions very soon.

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

Water Resource Metadata Database. U.S.G.S. is transferring data to the ODNR server. Some updates are still needed to make the database function appropriately. U.S.G.S. commented that its web service will expire by July 4 and the site will be down if it is not on the ODNR server by that time. There have not been too many hits on the website, but that might increase once there is a link to the OWRC website. Ralph Haefner will try to get the statistics on how many hits the site has had before the next SCCGW meeting.

Watershed Coordinators. The Watershed Academy will be held in August. There are currently 29 Watershed Coordinators; 14 are implementation focused and the rest are still focused on watershed action planning. The Division would like to work with Ohio EPA to offer funding for 3-4 additional coordinators in 2008.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water:

Drought. According to the Palmer Drought Severity Index dated 6-16-07, 60% of Ohio is rated as being in a moderate to severe drought and 40% is in a mild drought. The worst conditions are in the southern and eastern areas of the state. The Division has not seen any record-low ground water levels in observation wells. However, generally, levels are running in the 90-95% duration range in southern Ohio (at or below current levels only 5-10% of the time in June) and 60-85% duration (for June) in western and northern Ohio. Northeast Ohio is closer to seasonal normal levels.

Hellbranch Study. The Division will drill and install wells for the Hellbranch ground water and surface water interaction study and the end of July and early August.

New Chief. Debra Hoffman is the new chief of the Division. She was formally an attorney for the City of Columbus.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey:

New Chief. Larry Wickstrom was appointed chief and Mac Swinford was appointed assistant chief of the Division.

Carbon Sequestration. The new well in Muskingum County was completed- 8695 feet deep (handout distributed).

Cores. Received core donations from OSU and Bennett and Williams.

Equipment. The Division's 45 foot research vessel has gone to salvage. Purchased a new energy source for future seismic studies.

Stages Pond (Pickaway County). Earnhart Hills has installed a new one million gal./day public water supply well near Stages pond and there is concern that the ponds could be impacted by the additional water withdrawal. ODNR drilled some monitoring wells and the peat in the area is at least 60 feet thick in places. They may develop a model to determine impacts of new well. Mike Eggert commented that Ohio EPA-DDAGW may have a ground water flow model for that area and can share data with ODNR.

Central Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition. New joint Indiana and Ohio project proposes developing a dynamic ground water flow model for the buried valley aquifer in the Milan and Huron Quads (1:24,000 scale).

U.S. Geological Survey:

Great Miami Study. The study involves using geophysical methods to determine streambed permeability, working from a boat. They will correlate the geophysical data to seepage meter tests and grain-size distribution. So far, the resistivity data seems good but the other data is inconclusive. The City of Hamilton hopes some of the data can be used to help them site a new wellfield.

Lecture. On July 22 Art Bair will give a presentation titled "The Unsaturated Zone is not a Black Box" at the Columbus USGS office. Please contact Ralph Haefner if you plan on attending, since space is limited.

New Publications:

1. Ground-Water Recharge in Humid Areas of the United States- A Summary of Ground-Water Resource Program Studies, 2003-2006. USGS Fact Sheet FS-2007-3007.
2. Microbial Quality of the Nation's Ground-water Resources, 1993-2004. USGS Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5290.

Sole Source Aquifers. There is a petition to designate the glacial sands in northwest Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan as a federal sole source aquifer (MICHINDOH sands).

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:

Utility Operators Corp. Ohio EPA is seeking receivership for this sewer company. The Courts will most likely appoint the City of Byesville as receiver. The case is currently before the judge.

Tom Allen, SCCGW Chairman:

OWRC. July 11th will be the first OWRC meeting with all of the new directors. Ohio EPA's director Chris Korleski is the chair and asked OWRC's State Agency Coordinating Group (SACG) for priority areas. Tom suggested "local planning tied to water

resources.” The next OWRC Advisory Committee meeting will be held in September.

CDD Landfills. The Agency is moving forward, but there were a few issues brought up that need to be addressed. In the next few weeks the Agency will determine engineering options, siting and isolation standards, and what constitutes a leachate. Tom will forward the drafts to SCCGW for review.

Envirocast – StormCenter. A meeting was held to try to find sponsors to help provide needed funds to start StormCenter in either the Columbus or Cleveland/Toledo viewing areas (or both). Dorothy Ferris from ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation is coordinating efforts in northeast Ohio. Many other local nonprofits and regional planning agencies participated in the meeting. Functions of the draft central Ohio StormCenter website include: watershed summaries, information on organizations and agencies that work on water issues, links to educational information, link to river stage data (hazard/flood watch). We still need additional local information. OWRC has funding for maintaining the website and the education workgroup is looking at developing additional content for the site. To be a success we still need the local non-profit or government sponsors. In Dallas, Texas the program was developed with the assistance of a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant. Once the program is operational, corporate ads and sponsors can maintain the site. Review the web site developed for Central Ohio at:
<http://cmh.iewatershed.com>

PRESENTATIONS

Wayne Jones of ODNR Div. of Water: "Relationship Between Land Use, Ground Water Flow and Non-Point Source Contamination In The Upper Mad River Watershed." This study was just completed and included isotope and other chemical sampling in the sand and gravel and bedrock aquifers. Nitrate values greater than 3mg/l were ubiquitous in the area and even deeper wells (>60 feet of casing) occasionally had nitrates greater than 10mg/l. In sampling sites with DO values <2mg/l the sites typically had no or very low nitrates. Nitrification was shown to occur across most of the study area and denitrification occurred as a vertical component of ground water flow. The chemistry (cation/anion

balance) appeared to be the same in the sand and gravel and carbonate aquifers. The nitrogen source (based on N and O isotope data) appeared to plot of as mixed manure and fertilizer, with possibly some septic. A prior study in the King's Creek area had over 50% of the wells fail bacteria tests. There were no herbicide detections and only minor toluene and xylenes in a few of the samples. A MODFLOW model was also developed for the study area and it showed the influence of the deep bedrock on the sand and gravel aquifer. .

NEXT SCCGW MEETING

The next meeting will be on August 16 at the Horace Collins Conference Center.

REMINDER: Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries will be posted on the SCCGW Web site: www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.html

To check the status of OWRC's Four Year Action Items go to: www.ohiodnr.com/owrc