

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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Ohio Public Utilities Commission  
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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

April 16, 2009  
Horace Collins Classroom  
ODNR Repository  
Delaware, Ohio

The April 2009 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and a presentation by Jim Raab and Mike Angle (ODNR) on the 2009 ground water induced flooding in the Bellevue Ohio area.

### ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen, Brian Hall, Scott Heidenreich, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger  
ODNR: Mike Angle, John Kessler, Ted Lozier, Jim Raab  
ODA: Bill Goodman  
ODOT: Doug App  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
USGS: Ralph Haefner

balanced growth pilot studies conducted in northern Ohio over the last few years. The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC) is setting up a package to promote the program statewide.

*Note: "Balanced growth", also known as "Smart Growth" is an initiative to encourage jurisdictions to plan for future growth, by designating Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs) and Primary Development Areas (PDAs) within and surrounding their jurisdictions.*

EcoTrack. Toledo TV station WTOL aired a storyline on properly sealing wells during Ground Water Week (in March).

### AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:**

New Water Well Rules. The rules are scheduled to be filed on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and then distributed for public review. A JCARR hearing is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The earliest effective date would be July, except for the new well siting rules, which are scheduled to take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

--The Toledo program is now financed primarily by sponsors University of Toledo, Andersen's, and Maumee Growers.

--OWRC is working with a group in Cincinnati headed by Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Hamilton County SWCD, to make the program available in the southwest Ohio viewing area.

Balanced Growth. The Smart Growth Institute was in Columbus to present a seminar on March 25 and a full-day workshop on March 26 about balanced growth. Also present were the leaders of the four

**Ohio EPA, Directors Office:**

Most of the director's time is focused on the next biennium budget, applications for Stimulus Funds, and the Clyde cancer cluster investigation.

**Natural Resources Conservation Services**

(provided by e-mail):

Floodplain Easement Funds. NRCS has been busy taking sign-up for the new Flood Plain Easement program, which is funded by the Stimulus Act. Unlike similar Farm Bill conservation programs, it buys *permanent* conservation easements in the floodplain. No farming is allowed in the easement area, though NRCS may authorize managed timber harvest, periodic haying or grazing. More information is available by contacting [rod.yeoman@oh.usda.gov](mailto:rod.yeoman@oh.usda.gov).

**Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water:**

Stimulus Package. The Division has spent much time reviewing and prioritizing wastewater treatment applications for Stimulus funds. For Ohio, \$224 million was allocated to wastewater projects, of which \$5 million will be targeted to upgrades of home septic systems. Approximately 2,000 applicants have requested a total of \$2 billion worth of funds for community wastewater, storm water, combined sewer overflows, etc.

Ohio Valley Coal. The company wants to develop a sedimentation pond for mining wastes in Belmont County. The proposed site would involve damming up Casey Run, a tributary to Captina Creek. The creek is a high-quality stream that also supports the endangered hellbender salamander. The division has denied the company's 401 permit application.

--The Division will be monitoring the creek this summer. Also, the USGS may convert its stream-flow gage on Captina Creek to a water quality monitoring point.

Cleveland Clinic. The Cleveland Clinic has applied to construct a facility on a plot in Twinsburg that includes a Category III wetlands. In the latest negotiations they have agreed to move the facility as far from the wetlands as possible and also provide ground water protection, which is vital to the health of the wetlands.

NPDES Permits for Pesticides. Recently the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Cincinnati ruled that users of pesticides labeled as "safe for use on water" must still apply for an NPDES permit. This is expected to have a substantial impact on farmers and staff responsible for mosquito control. USEPA has applied for a two-year stay so that everyone concerned can prepare for this requirement.

Brine Disposal. The division is discouraging gas well operators from taking brine (a byproduct) to wastewater treatment plants. These plants cannot "treat" brine, they can only dilute it. Deep well injection is considered a more environmentally suitable option, but it is also more costly.

--The USGS is geochemically "finger-printing" brines in eastern Ohio, to enable analysts to distinguish natural salinity in surface waters from brine dumping.

Volunteer Monitoring. Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, an application for becoming a monitoring volunteer will be posted on the Division's website.

Interactive Maps. Recently the Division installed interactive Google maps on its website enabling the user to geographically obtain information on:

- NPDES permits
- water quality
- combined sewer overflows
- wastewater sludge sites

Rule Revisions. In December the Division sent out for public review rules concerning anti-degradation, water quality, and 401 permits. In June rules on stream mitigation will be distributed for public review.

--Other rules being reviewed concern nutrient criteria, bacteriological recreational standards, and prohibitions on open-lake dumping in the Western Lake Erie basin.

Ballast Permits. In December USEPA issued rules requiring permits for ballast water. By 2012, any vessel in the Saint Lawrence Seaway must have onboard treatment for ballast water.

319 Grants. On May 5<sup>th</sup> the application period closes for Clean Water Act Chapter 319 grants (for addressing nonpoint sources). Grants of up to \$400,000 are available, with a required 40% match.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water:***

Consolidation. The Division of Water, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation Services, and the Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention are being combined to form the Division of Soil and Water Resources with Dave Hanselmann as Acting Chief. Also, the property maintenance functions of the Division of Real Estate and Land Management have been transferred to Engineering, and the Canal Program operations are now under Parks and Recreation. No programs or services have been eliminated. These changes will be officially implemented through a proposed amendment to the budget bill.

Water Level Measurement Project. The division has been requested to establish baseline water levels around a new wellfield in Westfield Township/ Medina County, which is scheduled to go online in May.

Great Lakes Compact. The next meeting of the Advisory Board on May 7<sup>th</sup> will address establishing a baseline on how much ground water pumping occurs in the basin. They intend to review the use of every entity pumping more than 100,000 gallons per day.

***Ohio Department of Agriculture:***

Lake Erie Monitoring. The Lake Erie Commission has agreed to provide \$175,000 for phosphorus monitoring.

***Ohio EPA, Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management:***

Ground Water Monitoring. The Division is working on a ground water monitoring rule applicable to all types of landfills. They hope to complete this before the end of the year.

The National Solid Waste Management Association is requesting that sodium, potassium, chloride and ammonia be exempted from regulations concerning releases from landfills.

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geologic Survey:***

Surficial Mapping. Currently the STATEMAP mapping project for surficial stack mapping is the Marion 1:100,000 quadrangle. Staff will start on the Piqua quadrangle this summer.

Karst Mapping. The Division is partnering with the Delaware County/Upper Scioto SWCD on a karst mapping project along the Scioto River in western Delaware County. Lidar data and aerial photography are used to check for new karst areas and recheck previously mapped areas. New maps of this area will be created and field checked, and the statewide karst database will be updated.

Energy Group Projects. The Division's Energy Group is focusing on three main projects:

- a) Carbon sequestration. The East Canton Oilfield (BAARD Energy) project is characterizing a number of sites for either the storage of CO<sub>2</sub> or natural gas.
- b) Mine subsidence. The Division recently submitted a proposal to the Ohio Mine Subsidence Insurance Underwriters Association to assist with initial examination of mine subsidence complaints. The project would include digitizing and updating the data.
- c) Coastal Erosion Areas. The Division is working to finish editing maps and creating background materials for Coastal Erosion Areas (CEAs) on the Lake Erie Shoreline.

***Public Utilities Commission of Ohio:***

New Commissioner. Governor Strickland reappointed Chairman Schriber for a third term as chair and fifth term as a commissioner.

***Ohio State University Extension:***

Pest Management in Schools. Jarod's Law, a 2005 law mandating annual inspections of schools by ODH, requires pest management both inside the facility and outside on the athletic fields.

Restructuring. Due to the economy, OSU Extension has undergone some major restructuring, with 20 County agents laid off in March as well as 25 other support staff. Another 12% cut in the budget is anticipated, which may result in laying off another 30 agents. Each County agent is now covering more than one county, and Allen County has completely closed its office.

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

Supplemental Funds. Although the County offices have been hard hit by the recent economic conditions, the Division has a supplemental fund program enabling it to send a county \$30,000 to keep their agricultural services offices open.

***Ohio Department of Transportation:***

Reviewing applications for Stimulus Funds has been the dominant task for ODOT over the last weeks.

***United States Geologic Survey:***

Stream Gages. The agency has received allocations for this year's stream gaging program, along with matching funds.

Stimulus Funds. Nationwide, USGS received \$140 million in Stimulus funds, of which the Ohio Water Science Center (OWSC) has received \$229,000. This money is allocated strictly for equipment purchases, and will be used to upgrade stream gages and possibly some wells. OWSC would also like to add a well in Bellevue to the statewide network.

WMAO Events. On April 21, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, the Water Management Association of Ohio will present a Water Luncheon Seminar on "Arsenic Leaching from Spent Adsorbent Media under Landfill Conditions." The speakers are John J. Lenhart, Asst. Professor and Mengling Yi, Grad. Student, Dept of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science at The Ohio State University.

--The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held November 4-5 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center. Abstracts for presentations are due by May 29, 2009. More information on both events is available at [www.wmao.org/meetings.shtml](http://www.wmao.org/meetings.shtml).

News Release on Water Quality. According to a recent USGS study, more than 20% of about 2,100 private domestic wells sampled nationwide contain at least one contaminant at levels of potential health concern. Contaminants most frequently found at levels of potential concern included radon, arsenic, and nitrate.

**PRESENTATION**

Jim Raab (ODNR-Division of Water) and Mike Angle (ODNR-Ohio Geological Survey) discussed the findings of a report titled "Ground Water Induced Flooding in the Bellevue Ohio Area Spring and Summer 2008", ODNR Division of Water Technical Report of Investigation 2009-1.

**NEXT SCCGW MEETING:**

...will be held June 18th at the Horace Collins facility  
Agenda will include agency updates and discussion of the following topics:

- Rules/regulations for geothermal wells;
- Driller certification and rules for construction/abandonment of ALL wells;
- National GW monitoring network;
- Exempt utility waste disposal
- Ground water study in Clyde, Ohio

**REMINDER:** Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site: [www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SCCGW/index.html)