

# STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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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

February 18, 2010

Horace R. Collins Classroom  
ODNR – Geologic Repository, Alum Creek

The February 2010 SCCGW meeting consisted of Agency announcements and discussion of SCCGW priorities for SFY 2010.

### ATTENDANCE

Ohio EPA: Tom Allen, Michael Eggert, Scott Heidenreich, Bob Knipmeyer, Barb Lubberger,  
ODNR: Ted Lozier, Rick Pavey  
ODOT: Doug App  
PUCO: Sue Daly  
NRCS: John Armentano  
USGS: Ralph Haefner

<http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/NationalGroundWaterAwarenessWeek2010.pdf> . Please let Tom Allen know of any other activities, events or press releases.

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

Michindoh Sole-Source Aquifer. U.S. EPA's comment period has been extended to April 16<sup>th</sup> for this proposed sole-source aquifer, which straddles portions of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

### AGENCY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ***SCCGW Chair:***

Midwest GW Conference. The 2010 Midwest Ground Water Conference is scheduled for October 4-7, 2010, at the Holiday Inn on N. High Street in Worthington. Dr. Lonnie Thompson, from OSU's Polar Studies program, will be the banquet speaker. The first call for papers will go out April 20<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for submittal will be June 30<sup>th</sup>. The website should be up and running by Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact: Jim Raab, ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources.

Salt Pile Investigation. Ohio EPA's northeast district office recently finished a report on ground water quality impacts from a salt pile in Chardon Township, Geauga County. Elevated levels of sodium and chloride were detected in about 12 wells in the vicinity of the township's salt storage facility. Ohio EPA will meet with the township next week to discuss next steps.

#### Cyanide as an Indicator of Road Salt Contamination.

As part of a salt-pile investigation in Clark County, a private consultant is analyzing for cyanide in the ground water. Sodium ferrocyanide or ferric ferrocyanide are used as an anti-caking agent in salt.

National Ground Water Awareness Week ... is March 7-14. Ohio EPA has drafted a fact sheet that focuses on source water protection. It can be found at

CDC Proposed Water Well Database. The Center for Disease Control is interested in developing their own national well data repository. Their goal is to have easily accessible information on the nation's water well quality to determine whether disease clusters/outbreaks may be related to the local water.

Geothermal Well Workgroup. On February 17 the first meeting of a workgroup was convened to develop: 1) guidance on geothermal wells; and 2) recommendations concerning possible regulations for geothermal wells. The meeting included representatives from ODH, ODNR, Ohio EPA, OWWA, and several Ohio drilling companies. The workgroup agreed on a list of topics the guidance should address. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Nitrate Investigation in Washington County. Ohio EPA continues to evaluate nitrate contamination of the ground water that supplies public drinking water to the Putnam Community Water Association, which serves the community of Devola in Washington County. The system's finished water has frequently exceeded MCLs for nitrate, and the agency wants to determine the source(s) of the nitrate, which may be agriculture or local septic systems or both. Two-thirds of the community lacks sanitary sewers. A more comprehensive study is being considered that partners with USGS and Friends of the Lower Muskingum watershed group.

#### ***Ohio EPA, Director's Office:***

Ohio Leads in Funding ARRA Projects. On February 18, it was announced that Ohio leads the nation in funding the largest number of water pollution projects (247) and the third largest number of drinking water projects (62) with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The announcement was issued jointly by Gov. Strickland, OEPA Director Korleski, and U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. For more details, see the OEPA press release at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/47/nr/2010/february/ARRA2-18-10Event.pdf>

OSHC/OEPA Meeting. A joint meeting hosted by Ohio EPA and the Ohio Society of Health Commissioners will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Sanese Services

on Busch Boulevard. OEPA Director Chris Korleski is the keynote speaker.

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

NARUC Meeting. The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) held its Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C. recently. Among the topics was hydraulic fracturing ("hydro-fracking") and how to balance the need for new gas supplies with environmental uncertainties.

U.S. Water Use Declines. The Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> edition of *News Flow* (a publication of the National Association of Water Companies) reported that, according to USGS estimates, the U.S. used less water in 2005 than in the previous peak years of 1975 and 1980, despite a 30% increase in population over that same time period. The change is attributed largely to improvements in irrigation technology.

New Commissioner. Commissioner Rhonda Ferguson's term has expired. Steve Lesser, the current chief of staff, will replace her as commissioner.

#### ***Ohio Department of Transportation:***

##### Funding:

ODOT and local transportation partners received the final federal authorization on the last of the 395 original stimulus projects - an investment of more than \$935.7 million in stimulus dollars. Under the Recovery Act, Ohio was allocated these funds through the Federal Highway Administration with a deadline to have all dollars authorized for specific projects by midnight March 1, 2010. Throughout the entire Recovery Act process, Team ODOT met every deadline. Because of that, it is assured that every transportation stimulus dollar made available to this state is invested to put Ohioans back to work building our multi-modal transportation system of the future.

##### Staff Changes:

- Andrea Stevenson is now the Administrator of Multi-modal Planning; her previous position as Administrative Assistant of the Policy Section is still vacant.
- Matt Perlik is now the (newly created) Green Project Manager.

- Don Rostofer is no longer the Ecological Systems Coordinator Supervisor but now with PUCO.
- Mike Pettegrew switched over to Don's old position and is no longer the Waterway Permits Coordinator Supervisor [now vacant].
- Kevin Davis (Document Coordinator) is the Policy Section's new Supervisor.

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

Funding. The division's funding appears to have stabilized; there are numerous potentially funded projects in development, including carbon sequestration and deep geothermal studies. The division may have to post some positions for geology and GIS staff.

Underground Fire Geohazard. It has been reported that the Ohio Shale is smoldering in the vicinity of the Erie County line, along the Huron River.

***U.S. Geological Survey:***

Podcast. The Survey has put together a podcast on "Understanding Contaminant Occurrence in Public-Supply Wells", available on the USGS NAWQA TANC home page at <http://oh.water.usgs.gov/tanc/NAWQATANC.htm>

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The Survey has received \$22 million that will be used to upgrade stream gages and conduct studies of bacterial contamination at beaches.

Ravenna Arsenal. The Survey was contacted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct ground water monitoring at Ravenna Arsenal. Explosives byproducts have been detected in the ground water but so far volatiles are minimal. Since there is an expectation that the site will be redeveloped and wells will be installed for drinking water, the clean-up standards (MCLs vs. risk-based standards) are an issue to be resolved.

***Natural Resources Conservation Service:***

WRP Funding. Funding for the Wetland Reserve Program quadrupled with the latest budget, and there suddenly is more money than applicants. Staff

are stretched more than ever, especially with the goal to obligate monies for all programs by April.

New Hires.

- Matt Harbage—Farm and Ranchland Protection Program
- Barb Baker – Wetland Reserve Program and Floodplain Easements
- Dan Huss – Conservation Reserve Program, assists with Wetlands Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives.

Current Assignments.

- Felicity Weatherspoon – Conservation Security Program
- Tatrechia Wesley – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- John Armentano – Grasslands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Conservation Innovative Grants, CCPI

Retirement. State Soil Scientist Rich Gehring retired in December 2009.

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

GW Monitoring Rules. The division is still working on rules to unify ground water monitoring throughout the Division's programs.

Moratorium. The Ohio Environmental Council requested a moratorium on siting or expanding Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) landfills. Currently there are around 20 expansions awaiting approval.

Liner and Cap Rules. Liner and cap rules are on the Director's desk for approval.

Landfill Fires. Currently two C&DD landfills are on fire. The division is convening a workgroup to develop a project-management process for responding to these kinds of fires.

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

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The division is working with USGS on studying surface water-ground water interaction within the Lake Erie basin.

Michigan has a statewide ground water modeling program that potentially could provide a benchmark. River Basins Meeting. A meeting will be held in Columbus, February 23-25, of the Ohio River Basins Water Resources Collaboration Initiative.

**Ohio Department of Health (provided by e-mail): Private Water Systems Rules**. Notice of second draft of private water system rules was posted on the ODH website on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The rules will be filed with the Public Health Council for their March 11, 2010 meeting. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for the April 22, 2010 meeting, with final adoption (pending no changes) at the June 10, 2010 Public Health Council meeting. Proposed effective date of rules is July 1, 2010.

The primary changes include:

- PWS Contractors - adds requirements for continuing education, tiered bonding levels, testing and inspection for new applicants;
- Bacterial standard - sets the system approval standard at less than or equal to four total coliforms, or presence of *E. coli* or fecal coliform, or primary pathogen as identified by the Director;
- Process - makes modifications to the administrative process at the local health district level, adds new definitions;
- Defines saline water – uses the USGS definition for different levels of salinity. These levels are used to determine when a water source cannot be used (at 3,000 ppm TDS) and the well, or that producing zone, must be sealed;
- Well standards – allows less than 25 feet of casing (as before where no deeper or usable ground is present) with requirement for continuous disinfection or demonstration of water quality (2 tests in opposing seasons, doubled isolation distances). Allows wells with 15 to 10 feet of casing with required continuous disinfection and cyst reduction. Prohibits the use of bentonite grouts where TDS of the annular space water exceeds 1500 mg/l TDS or where chlorides and calcium exceeds 500 mg/l and iron 15 mg/l cumulatively.

Sewage Program Rules. The program is still waiting on status of modifications proposed by Senator Grendell to Senate Bill 110. ODH is working with senators to reschedule a meeting between ODH, Senators Niehaus and Grendell and some health

districts with remaining concerns to try to work through the remaining issues: local vs. state rules. Also to be discussed are mandatory maintenance, public health nuisance definition, and creation of a local appeals board. Suspension of rules was extended to July 1, 2010 at the end of 2009 in another bill to allow for time to work through these issues.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **SCCGW Priorities for 2010**

Please review the SCCGW priority issues of which two are identified as OWRC 4 year action items and provided comments. Also provide Tom Allen with any additional ground water priorities or specific activities associated with the priorities. A hand-out of the priorities was distributed at the meeting and included in a previous e-mail.

### **NEXT SCCGW MEETING**

... will be held April 15th at ODNR Building "I" (as in "ice"), first floor conference room.

**REMINDER:** Meeting agendas and final meeting summaries are posted on the SCCGW Web site: <http://www.wapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/SCCGW/>.