

**PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP MEETING NOTES**

**May 23, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:**

**Ohio EPA Central Office  
50 W. Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Center for Excellence**

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**I. Welcome**

Brian Hall, SACG Leader & OEPA-DSW Assistant Chief welcomed everyone.

**I. Introductions**

Introductions were made around the table.

**II. OWRC Overview and Advisory Group Mission**

An overview of the OWRC Council Structure and the Public Advisory Role was given by Brian Hall, via a PowerPoint presentation.

**III. OWRC Update**

a. OWRC Council Update

- i. Last Meeting in February 2012
- ii. Resolutions passed for the following:
  - a. Balanced Growth Statewide Strategy
  - b. OWRC Budget
  - c. Endorsement of 4 Balanced Growth Plans

b. BG Plan Update

- i. Four BG Plans were endorsed in the Ohio River Basin by OWRC
- ii. Two BG Plans were endorsed in the Lake Erie Basin by OLEC
- iii. All communities that are part of a BG Plan are eligible for statewide incentives. These range from additional points on a grant application to a reduction in a loan interest rate.

c. Publications Update

- i. Geothermal Guidance was approved. The legislative recommendations for the Geothermal Guidance are still pending.

d. Subcommittees

- i. State Coordinating Committee on Ground Water meets every other month
- ii. State Water Monitoring Workgroup met in March and is initiating a new project to better coordinate water monitoring.
- e. Public Advisory Group Term Limits are for two years. The renewal terms were approved by the OWRC Council for all appointees. New terms expire July 2013 and 2014.

#### IV. Public Advisory Group Administrative Tasks:

- a. Group Structure & Goals
  - i. Ron Janke was re-designated as the Public Advisory Group Leader. Solicitations will go out at the next PAG meeting to see if anyone else is interested in being the PAG leader starting in 2013.
  - ii. Beth Bailik took notes during the meeting and will distribute them to the PAG and the SACG. A formal note-taker for the PAG was not designated.
  - iii. The PAG expressed interest in becoming more involved in OWRC decision making. The PAG also expressed interest in receiving meeting notes and agendas from the SACG and the subgroups on a regular basis.
- b. PAG Technical Discussion
  - i. Development of wind resources in Lake Erie (**tabled**)
  - ii. Utica shale gas development. Discussion included the following items:
    - a. Water quality should be protected (potential use of volunteer monitoring Dickinson College – ALLARM)
    - b. Water withdrawal should be managed so that streams don't disappear and everyone can use the water
    - c. Could be a huge boost for OHIO EPA (what could be a huge boost??)
    - d. Impacts from disposal wells could include earthquakes
    - e. It is important to protect fresh water
    - f. Benefits include people having more money to upgrade their water wells from leasing their land
    - g. Ohio is a riparian state, where we all have the right to a "reasonable use" of water
    - h. Ohio does not have laws to protect water supplies. State guidance/best practices should be provided to avoid impacts to water quality and quantity
    - i. Local municipalities do not have input on the placement of gas wells and they have concerns
    - j. There is a lack of adequate housing and temporary housing offers challenges, such as providing adequate water and wastewater services.

- k. Other sources of water, such as degraded sources (ie. acid mine drainage) or POTW discharges, can be evaluated, but impacts to water resources must be considered on a case by case basis
- l. Oil & Gas looking at legislation that includes requiring a water plan to define what resources will be tapped and how often they will be managed.
- m. The industry wants to use the closest water supply to keep costs down.
- n. Open pit disposal, although an option, has not been seen in Ohio yet. Currently, Ohio does not have rules prohibiting open pit disposal.
- o. Ohio should consider how to keep the flowback waters separate from other waters.

iii. Budget request related to water resources (**tabled**)

**V. Director Nally Remarks**

- a. HABs. Agency is working with the Dept of Agriculture in pursuing fish tissue sample work to allow the agency to better understand the impacts of microcystin in Grand Lake St Marys and Lake Erie.
  - i. World Health Organization has defined limits for microcystin and Ohio has utilized Oregon's model to define limits for notification & prohibition
  - ii. New signage will proactively make public aware of potential impacts. Signs include pictures and are educational in what to avoid.
- b. Shale/gas. Agency is being flooded with technologies for shale/gas. Agency has contracted with Battelle to evaluate and rank 54 proposed technologies
  - i. The Agency is prohibiting POTWs from handling the brine and instead wants to encourage reuse/recycle of this flow-back water.
  - ii. Class II injection wells are also a consideration.
- c. Nutrients. Working with the Dept. of Agriculture and ODNR.
  - i. A workgroup has been formed to provide recommendations to OEPA/ODNR/Ag.
    - a. The revised definition of fertilizer proposes to include manure
  - ii. P2-taskforce has been initiated (replaces P-taskforce) to further evaluate the impacts of phosphorus
    - a. OLEC is tasked with looking at end of tile treatment technologies, as well as flow control structures
    - b. OLEC was also tasked with contacting Oklahoma and Wyoming, as they are dealing with similar issues.
    - c. NRCS assisting with the design of flow control structures & EQUIP funds may be available
  - iii. OEPA-DSW is facilitating a workgroup to assess the point source/urban impacts of nutrients and to develop recommendations for mitigating impacts

**VI. Future Meetings**

- a. Future meetings:
  - i. Next meeting should be in approximately six months & should follow OWRC Council meeting
  - ii. ODNR and USGS are preferred locations and video conferencing is agreeable to everyone
  - iii. SACG should coordinate future PAG meetings, reserve location and send out the agenda.
- b. Future agenda items:
  - i. Provide a status report on the nutrient reduction strategy.
  - ii. Provide for a discussion on climate change and how it impacts our water resources
- c. Future potential speaker: Water Technologies Innovations Cluster

**VII. Other**

- a. A suggestion was made that the meeting minutes should be posted regarding interagency discussions & Brian will discuss this with the SACG
- b. Other states have a “watch-dog” program for water quality monitoring and this could be helpful to Ohio

***\*\*End of Meeting Notes\*\****

**Attachment: Attendance List Sign-in Sheet**