

# OWRC SACG Meeting

## Minutes

March 19, 2013

9:00 AM

OWDA Offices

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	OWRC SACG Bi-monthly
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Heigel, OWDA</li> <li>• Brian Hall, OEPA-DSW</li> <li>• Marie Barnett, OEPA – DSW</li> <li>• Mike Baker, OEPA-DDAGW</li> <li>• Scott Jackson, USGS</li> <li>• Greg Nageotte, ODNR</li> <li>• Denise King, ODA</li> <li>• Steve Ferryman, Ohio EMA (via telephone)</li> <li>• Ashley Ward, EPA-DSW</li> <li>• Mike Eggert, DDAGW</li> <li>• Sue Daly, PUCO</li> <li>• Dick Bartz, USGS</li> <li>• Matt Nisenoff, Ohio League of Conservation Voters</li> <li>• Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU-OWRC</li> <li>• Charles A. Dietz, USDA Rural Development</li> </ul>

### AGENDA TOPICS

#### REVIEW LAST MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Brian Hall conducted the meeting which starting at 9:00 AM; Brian welcomed everyone and had everyone introduce themselves.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	None.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
None			

#### WORK GROUP UPDATES

B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Each workgroup presented an update on their action/task items.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Education and Outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Hall met with Carolyn Watkins (OEPA, chief of Environmental Education). Education and Outreach used to be an OWRC subgroup. Each Agency does outreach, how much coordination should there be?</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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- There should be more coordination among state agencies, such as a public announcement mechanism to let the public know about events such as “Fix a Leak Week”, “National Ground Water Week” etc.
- Should there be more public education and outreach about nutrients? We could let the public know that we are having some success. How do you measure success?
- Brian will work more with Carolyn. Denise will talk to ODA communications people.
- Sue Daly would like to work with this group.

## 2. **Watershed Management**

- Action Item 1, task a: “Employ and train, and oversee a Coastal Nonpoint Program Coordinator to be housed within the ODNR Office of Coastal Management Office, Sandusky, Ohio” is not cross agency. It will be removed.
- Action Item 1, task b: “Address any comments and/or necessary revisions to the Ohio Dam Management for Water Quality Initiative in order to satisfy Federal coastal nonpoint program guidance.” Should be changed to focus more on implementation.
- Are watershed action plans consistent with new TMDLs? Greg will incorporate TMDLs into the Action Items.
- Greg will send revised Action Items and Tasks out to the SACG.

## 3. **Water Quality**

- Action Item 1: “Incorporate ground water and drinking water nutrient impairment considerations into the Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy.” Needs participation from ODNR and ODA. We need to bring awareness of impairment in drinking and ground waters. Nitrates have been going up in public wells and it is likely happening in private wells also. This is a public health issue – nitrates can cause blue baby syndrome in infants.
- Action Item 2: “Evaluate implementation of the Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy.” USEPA expects updates on the Strategy.
- It would be helpful for the SACG to hear a presentation on the Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
- Should fracking be addressed in watershed management or water quality? Not at this time, we haven’t found evidence of a fracking impact on waterways. The only impacts on surface water have been from pipeline installation. Water quantity is more of a concern when it comes to fracking, and fracking is addressed in the Water Quantity Action Items.
- A “Know your water well” tool was announced last week. It helps people understand their well water sampling results. It would be great to publicize this to rural landowners. When industry does pre-drilling samples and gives results, could they point people to this tool?
- Action Item 3: “Facilitate multi-agency collaboration on hydrologic (water quality and water quantity) conditions issues related to climate change.” EMA is interested in downscaled data for local planning and is interested in being a partner for this Action Item. This action item needs clarity, it is broad. Brian will get more information from Jeff Deshon. Maybe he can do a presentation for the SACG.

	<p><b>4. Water Quantity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream stats is being updated to show water demand in the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas basins.</li> <li>ODA has an interested constituency; Dairy farmers use a lot of water.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Data and Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brian should post the “Know your water well” link on the OWRC website.</li> <li>There needs to be an Action Item on centralized geospatial data, focused on emergency management. Steve and Greg will polish the wording of this Action Item and develop tasks for it.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Water Resource Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve Grossman, the lead was unable to attend the meeting. He did send an email specifying that items a through f under Action Item 1 are tasks and should be separated from the Action Item.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Water Related Natural Hazards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Item 3: “Develop capacity to access climate projection data and information to assist with state and local planning including mitigation, adaptation and Balanced Growth plans.” Does this tie in to Water Quality Action Item 3? No, it is more narrow and focused on downscaling.</li> <li>Is there anything the OWRC should be doing to help with emergency preparedness?</li> <li>Action Item 3 should be changed to be more general. There is a lot of different planning happening besides balanced growth. It is suggested to change “Balanced Growth plans” to “local planning efforts”.</li> </ul>
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<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The groups need to work on finalizing Action Items, tasks and objectives.</li> <li>We need to make the document prettier, publicize how OWRC members work together and what they are working on.</li> </ul>
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<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Complete and submit to Ashley Ward, revised Action Items, tasks and objectives	Action Item work groups	April 15
Compile updated action items into format of current version and send out to SACG for review.	Ashley Ward/Brian Hall	April 22
Review Action Items, tasks and Strategic Plan and come to next SACG meeting with comments prepared.	SACG	May 21

**BUDGET UPDATE AND ASSESSMENT** B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$15,000 per member Agency bill should be sent out within the next week or two.</li> <li>There is about \$200,000 currently in the OWRC account. Part of the reason there is so much money in the account is we were expecting to fund a Part-time Balanced Growth position.</li> <li>Do we have any outstanding projects? Sampling is scheduled in April for Grand St. Marys</li> </ul>
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	Lake, other than that no.	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will be challenging to fund an Agency Balanced Growth Position with uncertain funding. Is it possible to make this a grant? Brian needs to talk with the new Director. Are there other projects to be started? Each Action item work group should come up with a possible project associated with their topic so the group can discuss and prioritize projects/money.</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Develop ideas for projects	Action Item work groups	May 21

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>USGS:</b> USGS has downscaled data. How best to refine it? They are looking at a 100 year period. As you move out the data is divergent. This data is useful for local planning and USGS is 12 months from publishing.</p> <p>The Muskingum Watershed Conservatory has engaged USGS in stream gauging to determine the flow out of reservoirs. They are interested in inflow to lakes. USGS has installed 14 stage and conductivity gauges in lakes which will serve as an early alert to spills.</p> <p>Ralph Haefner is now the Deputy Director of the Michigan Office. Rob Darner is the new ground water specialist.</p> <p><b>EPA DDAGW:</b> HABs are getting a heightened level of attention. DDAGW is looking at response protocols.</p> <p><b>OSU Extension:</b> Several Requests for proposals on topics including dam removals and shale gas water withdrawals.</p> <p><b>PUCO:</b> Chair Todd Snitchler has decided not to be reappointed and is being replaced by Thomas Johnson.</p> <p><b>EPA DSW:</b> The Integrated Water Quality Report comment period was over in February. Not a lot has changed in the last two years. Lake Erie was broken into 10 sections and some of those sections were listed as impaired.</p> <p>USEPA and Army Corps are working on rules to clarify what “navigable waters: means.</p> <p>Farm Bill passed there is a new program for point source and nonpoint source to partner in order to address nutrient discharges.</p> <p>Next Meeting May 21,</p> <p>Remaining Meetings, July 16, September 17, and November 19 All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Ohio Water Development Authority, (OWDA) located at 480 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 from 9:00 to 11:30.</p>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	None.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None.		