OKI GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE MEETING
SUMMARY
September 18, 2024
OKI Commonwealth
Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance (in person)	*Institution*
Al Aspacher	Fishbeck
Doug Hunter	Cox-Colvin & Associates
Mike Lippert	City of Wyoming
Tim McClelland	Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium
Michael Opritza	Fishbeck
Phil Sackenheim	Southwest Regional Water District
Bradley Siefker	Fishbeck
Clifford A. Shrive	Shrive Operations Solutions
Richard Stuck	Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Bruce Whitteberry	Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Guests	
Kevin Cox	Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
OKI Staff	
David Rutter	OKI
Travis Miller	OKI
Taylor O'Rourke	OKI
Julia Brossart	OKI

Welcome/Introductions

- Rich Stuck, chair, opened the meeting and introductions were made.

OKI Staff Updates

David Rutter, OKI

- OKI is always looking for speakers for the groundwater committee meeting.

Local Groundwater Management Updates

Tim McClelland, Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium

- In March 2023, McClelland mentioned the Groundwater Consortium's Potential Contaminant Source Inventory. Multiple jurisdictions in the region have adopted similar ordinances, allowing them to take inventory on facilities within drinking water protection areas if asked.
    - They are updating 10-year time of travel (TOT) zones for source water protection of zones this year.
    - Also do 1- and 5-year TOTs in odd years.
    - For 10-TOT zones, there is a 1,000 gallon or more threshold for on-site storage. These facilities must be registered.
        - There are around 120 businesses needed to register. 60 percent are completed so far.
- Mid-Valley Crude Oil Pipeline Update in 7 Mile Creek:
    - Gave presentation on this in December 2023.
    - In follow up, Mid-Valley made Groundwater Consortium aware they do not have to cover the pipe., only need to monitor it.
    - Did meet with Consortium and agreed to cover the pipe. It has been covered as of 9/5/2024.
    - Agreed to do tabletop exercise regarding pipeline.
    - Deemed success to this pipeline issue a success by working directly with company.
- Groundwater Consortium hosted a webinar on outreach and education for Source Water Protection on September 16. Contact hours are available for participants.
- The 24th annual Water Festival is on October 18. They are looking for volunteers and speakers that can appeal to children.
- They hosted a successful 5K Race for Global Water on August 3, raising over $15,000. They 2025 race is scheduled for next August. The City of Fairfield won the Utility Challenge.
- The next Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River is September 21. There are 17 sites, covering Franklin to the Ohio River.
- The Groundwater Consortium recently received three grants:
    - One grant ($14,600) is to cover costs to develop short educational videos to teach the public about groundwater, pollution, and watersheds. Molson Coors donated an additional $3,000 to this project.
    - A second grant will be used to cover overhauling the Consortium's website to improve usability, education, outreach, volunteer efforts, collaboration, and philanthropy.
    - A third grant will be used to cover up a Hamilton production well. There are three gasoline stations with leaking pipes near this well, leaving it vulnerable to pollution.

Travis Menezes, Butler County Water and Sewer (BCWS)

- BCWS buys all their water from City of Hamilton and City of Cincinnati. BCWS averages 10.5 – 20 MGD daily use with peaks up to 24 MGD depending on the season. There has been a 6 percent increase in water use with drought conditions.
- BCWS has added 600 new service connections. There are over 43,000 connections. Around 20,000 are of unknown type. They survived 400 of them in field and have a 95% confidence that there is no lead in the system.
- Designed a new pump station. Waiting on approval from board of commissioners to build.
- Recently had two tanks painted, both inside and outside.

Mike Lippert, City of Wyoming

- City of Wyoming averages 3 MGD plant.
- There are 3,300 taps, 95 percent residential.
- Averages 700,000 gallons of water per day. Averaging 1 MGD right now due to drought.
- 2024 is the biggest year for water usage since COVID.
- 1-million-gallon concrete reservoir is performing well. Added a mixer two years ago but has not done too much to reduce trihalomethanes (THMs)
    - Replacing a water line between two storage tanks.
- Replaced ChemCo units last year. Water pH and hardness levels seem less stable now. Prefer old system. Working to stabilize corrosion.
    - Groundwater appears to be becoming softer.
- Extending a mainline next year.
- Trying to adopt Greater Cincinnati's 1 percent pipe replacement goal for distribution piping. Currently behind schedule.
- PFAS testing has been undetected.
- Updating plant automation for 1999 plant because replacement parts are fine to find.
    - Will cost around one third of operating budget (around $500 thousand).
- Completed a sanitary survey per EPA requirements.

Other Discussion

- Effects of droughts on local water resources were discussed. Overall, water usage is up for suppliers. Demand is high for this time of year.
- Ohio River is slower from US Army Corps of Engineers holding water upstream.
- Static water levels are like 2007 levels at Bolton Well Field.
- It is a "bad time to be a fish in a tributary."
- Groundwater clients are just now getting to the concern phase with shallow drawdowns.
- Water levels are expected to rebound quickly.

Presentations

"PFAS Monitoring Program in Michigan" Kevin Cox, *Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy (EGLE)*

Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are described as "emerging contaminants" that have been known since the 1970s. PFAS were not widely detected in environmental samples until the 2000s but were found in the general American population in the 1990s.

State-wide monitoring did not start until 2001 when Michigan State University worked with the state to do state-wide PFAS and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) testing to understand a "baseline" for PFAS contamination. Surface water PFAS monitoring goals include identifying and differentiating surface water PFAS, monitoring remediation and source reduction efforts, and prioritizing areas for more monitoring. EGLE has two programs: Water Chemistry Monitoring Program and Source Tracking Investigations. The former is probabilistic sampling, and the latter is targeted sampling.

The Water Chemistry Monitoring Program includes 250 probabilistic sites. 50 sites are tested per year and rotate on a 5-year cycle and includes rivers, bays, and other connecting channels. This program monitors for various compounds and PFAS was added in 2017. This program targets 3 – 5 watersheds per year (40 – 120 locations per watershed). Phase 1 focused on watersheds with drinking water intakes (ex. Huron River, River Raisin, and St. Joseph River). Phase 2 looked at watersheds with significant contaminated areas (ex. Kalamazoo River). The current phase, Phase 3, focuses on watersheds with a high number of MPART sites. These are areas with elevated levels of PFOS in fish. Phase 4 will focus on remaining watersheds. EGLE also uses Polar Organic Chemical Integrative Samples (POCIS) for testing to track sources when concentrations are low. EGLE uses ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Navigator, ArcGIS Field Maps, and ArcGIS Survey 123 for monitoring purposes. Using more than 3,000 samples, PFAS is not found to be a statewide problem in significant concentrations.

EGLE has a Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program to evaluate for the need of fish advisories. This program is also used to tack spatial and temporal water quality trends and to assess if existing monitoring programs are effective at eliminating or reducing contaminants. Fish are assessed for persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic (PBT) substances, including legacy contaminants like mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and emerging contaminants like PFOS. All fish tested are tested for mercury and PFAS. Inland waters typically have higher contaminant levels than the Great Lakes. EGLE completed a study on the Huron River to see if PFOS remained elevated in fish because of contaminated sediments. EGLE determined that surface water sampling was not enough to determine elevated PFOS in fish because levels remained elevated in fish despite low levels in surface water.

Closing Remarks

- Next meeting will be September 18, 2024, from 10 AM to 12 PM at OKI.