

SMALL COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP

December 7, 2009

MINUTES

Attendees: Steve Grossman, Ken Heigel and Gina Sopp, OWDA; Tony Logan and Dave Douglas, USDA/RD; Randy Hunt, RCAP; Nathan Johnson, ODH; Robert Hickey, USDOC/EDA; Jim Bonk, Dave Bornino and Brian Hall, Ohio EPA; Kaye Borchers, Choice One Engineering; Nick Gatz, Senator Voinovich's Office; Charmel Wesel, Buckeye Hills-HVRDD; Dave Frantz and Stephen Porter, US Army Corp of Engineers; Kurt Ericksen, TMACOG; and Mike Miller, OPWC.

Steve noted that Karen Mancl and Tim Leasure were unable to attend the meeting today; however, they have sent their comments for him to give on their behalf. Lori Libby was also not able to attend.

TRAINING COMMITTEE: Randy Hunt - RCAP Training and Steve Grossman for Karen Mancl and Lori Libby - Curriculum

RCAP Training

Randy reported that in 2009, RCAP was able to assist Ohio EPA's Drinking Water Division with a lot of their ARRA projects, including assisting with some additional environmental work.

Thanks to Mr. Bonk and his group, RCAP was able to pick up a contract with Ohio EPA's Department of Environmental Financial Assistance (DEFA) for wastewater ARRA projects.

Randy reported that Ohio is one of the top five states nationally in terms of getting ARRA funds spent. Lots to be proud of; this is a definite reflection on groups such as SCEIG. He has seen other states and he knows that in comparison, Ohio's agencies work well together in coordinating their efforts which resulted in this success.

Curriculum

Steve noted that he would report for Karen who is conducting a contractor's workshop today on "Mound Systems for Onsite Wastewater Treatment".

On behalf of Karen, Steve reported that the new Extension Bulletin entitled "Septic Tank - Soil Treatment Systems for Ohio Rural Homes" is now available for sale at OSU's local Extension offices for \$3.00 each. It is also available online at:
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/b939/b939.pdf>.

The following new publications will be available at <http://setll.osu.edu> and will be published in 2010:

Gaur, RS, L Cai, O. Tuovinen and K. Mancl. 2010. Pretreatment of turkey fat-containing wastewater in coarse sand and gravel/coarse sand bioreactors. *Bioresource Technology*. 101(3):1106-1110;

Tao, J. K. Mancl, and O. Tuovinen, In Press. Attenuation of pollutants in sanitary sewer overflow: comparative evaluation of treatment with fixed media bioreactors. *Bioresource Technology*.

Water and Wastewater:

Steve distributed a brochure for the “Mound Systems for Onsite Wastewater Treatment” workshop for contractors taking place today from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Molly Caren Agriculture Center.

Upcoming Activities:

He also distributed a brochure for the upcoming annual Ohio Water Quality and Waste Management Conference to be held February 4 and 5, 2010 at the University Plaza Hotel just north of the OSU campus. The conference will be on “Waste to Energy for Rural Ohio” including looking at anaerobic digestion to produce bio gas, as well as microbial fuel cells to produce electricity. The brochure is posted on <http://setll.osu.edu>.

New Technology/Research:

“Using Fixed Media Bioreactors to Control the Environmental Impact of Sanitary Sewer Overflow” by Tao, J. K. Mancl, and O. Tuovinen was presented in October at the annual Water Environment Federation meeting in Orlando. This publication is available in the *Proceedings* of WEFTEC 2009 and is the result of the lab study that was completed at OSU.

OSU has also constructed a new wastewater treatment system at the Soil Environment Technology Learning Lab. They have installed a peat biofilter that discharges to an onsite spray irrigation system. This spray system is testing a number of strategies for sprinkler winterization. These strategies were first tested in the laboratory in a freezer before installation in the field.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Jim Bonk

The next Finance Committee meeting is this Friday, December 11, 1 p.m. at OWDA. Currently, there is one project that will be presented primarily driven by Ohio Department of Economic Development in Warren County.

Jim reported that Warren County was approached by Hartz Mountain, a manufacturer of animal care products. Hartz Mountain wants to expand their current facility in Harlan Township to create approximately \$2 million in payroll. On the way to developing this project, it became apparent that the small Village of Pleasant Plain would be impacted. The County is working with the Village to see if there is any way to incorporate serving this residential unsewered area, as well as the industry with this project.

Jim noted that he cautioned them that a lot of the resources present on the Finance Committee are more geared toward residential development than the commercial facility. They are aware and very much want to attend, and are planning to bring someone from the Village to this meeting. Jim views this as a preliminary meeting just to let them know what may or may not be available for them.

He asked Dave Douglas if Jim Cogan or any of his programs would be of assistance to Hartz Mountain. Warren County has offered to take the wastewater from the area and treat it at one of their facilities; but he was not sure which one at this point.

Dave responded that he would check with Jim Cogan.

Jim apologized that there was not more information to report on this project; their profile sheet is very sparse but he is hoping to have a more complete profile prior to the meeting. He will e-mail Tim asking him to do a report for the Village of Pleasant Plain, requesting that he send the Committee his results prior to the meeting.

Jim mentioned to Brian that the Finance Committee has been contacted by Jefferson County over the long-standing pottery addition problem. It is his understanding that they were going to submit a profile sheet and attend the upcoming meeting on Friday. He has not heard from them in two months; however, he will attempt to contact them tomorrow to see if they will be added. This is one of the projects they have been extremely interested in and most of the funding agencies are aware of it. He will do everything he can to get them to attend on Friday.

Brian noted that the problem with this project is that the pottery company discharges directly into the Ohio River; he was not sure how much of an environmental problem this is other than some isolated health issues. Ohio EPA's district office has gone to Jefferson County, not necessarily for the pottery addition, but for a couple of other projects including New Amsterdam. They talked to the County about the unsewered conditions there, as well as some other small communities in the county.

David Frantz commented that Jefferson County has contacted the Army Corps and they have been in the process of completing paperwork for their 594 Program. Some of the County's people have been sending out questionnaires to their constituents talking about the 594 Program and authorization, but it has caused some confusion. The Corps has been working to clear up the confusion as they receive calls; explaining that they already have the 594 Program and need to contact their representatives to work on appropriations for the project, because the Corps already has the authorization in place. This has

prompted the Corps to have internal discussions. As a result, Lisa Morgan would like to put together a road show to take to some of the representative staffers to use this as an outreach opportunity for newer members and staff. Lisa is working on a list of people and they hope to put together this road show over the winter.

DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER WORK GROUP: Dave Douglas

The community training session discussed back in March and June is now going to be discussed at a meeting tentatively scheduled for January 19, 2010. The new training date timeframe will also be discussed at this meeting with hopes of firming up a date in late spring or summer.

There may be a new decentralized project for Farmington starting to move forward in northeast Ohio, with apparent support from Ohio EPA's NE District Office.

Steve asked Dave if he has an update on Amesville which is the first decentralized project that has been operational for more than 1 year.

Dave responded that he believes it is going well and Jim concurred. Neither of them have heard about any problems.

Charmel noted that she has spoken with the Amesville's administrator. She said they have had no complaints.

APPALACHIAN ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY WORKGROUP: Steve Grossman

The December meeting has been cancelled with the next meeting scheduled for March 2, 2010 in Logan. With all the ARRA activities, it was felt that this would help everyone given their current workload.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Ken Heigel

This committee has not met for a while; however, they will meet if there is an issue to be coordinated between agencies. He, Dave Douglas and Stacy Barna have sat on this committee in the past. He encouraged the group to send him any ideas or issues that need resolution.

SMALL COMMUNITY TRACKING SYSTEM: Ken Heigel

The database is working well and upgrades have not been made recently due to the ARRA workload. He has been entering all of the ARRA loans. OPWC has also entered updates and RCAP field agents utilize and update the database extensively. Keeping the database updated is very important because of the next item on the agenda for unsewered projects.

UNSEWERED AREAS - OWDA PLANNING LOANS: Ken Heigel

OWDA began this program in the first quarter of 2009 to give 0% interest rate planning loans to communities that are unsewered. The program was extended through the October OWDA Board meeting. He distributed a list of loans (attached) which total \$7 million noting that the program is not completely dead; however, OWDA is not currently taking applications in order to monitor the projects that have been approved in order to make sure they get to construction to repay the planning loans. This program can be utilized in the future if there is a community in need that qualifies.

Ken noted that all of these projects are listed on the database. RCAP field agents have contacted most of the communities; any that have not been contacted will be contacted shortly. He continues to work with the field agents to assist them with this process. Referring to the far right column on the list, thanks to Dave Douglas at Rural Development, his office is monitoring these projects including whether or not USDA RD is involved.

A few of these loans have already been paid off such as Coshocton County who has gone to construction using ARRA funds. Overall, OWDA is pleased with the progress of these loans.

Brian asked when it will be known if these projects have been successful in order to begin looking at the next potential group.

Ken responded that the plans are to review the status of this list next summer to see where the Authority is headed with the current communities.

Brian offered that Ohio EPA can provide another list of potential communities when the Authority is ready.

Ken asked Brian to continue updating their list and offered that the Authority could meet with them periodically (i.e. quarterly) to see if it makes sense to bring any of these projects to the Authority's Board for approval. If there is a hot area that needs immediate attention, do not hesitate to let him know.

Steve noted that the timeframe for this program was approximately 6 months, including an extension that was approved by the Board. During that time, quite a few communities qualified for loans. He mentioned to the group that there is some risk involved for the Authority on these loans.

Dave Douglas stated that he and Ken suggest that some coordination with OWDA and the funding agencies that may end up being the permanent financiers might be good before the planning loans are made.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS COORDINATION: Everyone

Steve noted that Drinking Water is done as far as obligating ARRA funds; getting the money out the door is the next challenge. DEFA is in the midst of finishing up the wastewater projects for ARRA obligations.

Jim reported that they have 50+ loans scheduled for approval with OWDA this week. They are on track to finish within the allotted time.

Steve stated that the Authority will be holding a special Board meeting in January as well as their regular meeting two weeks later. Hopefully this will be all that is required to finish up the ARRA loan approvals.

Dave Douglas commented that USDA RD had a good year in 2009. They have ARRA money for more than just water and sewer including community facilities, guaranteed housing, as well as business and industry programs. The ARRA money for housing has been used up; however, there is still money available through the end of September 2010 for business and industry, and water and sewer loans/grants; as long as the money holds out.

The money is not allocated to Ohio like it normally is for their program. For ARRA funds, it is held in a pool in USDA RD's national office and it is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. States that are able to use it will be able to and when the money is gone, there is no more.

USDA RD did receive an allocation of regular funding for 2010 which is currently available to them. This allocation is a little higher than they have typically seen in the last few years. There is also still a lot of money left over from the 2009 ARRA; how much they are not sure of because it is not allocated to Ohio.

Steve inquired if USDA RD has done any 2009 ARRA awards in the last several months.

Dave Douglas responded that they have not had any awards for a couple of months; however, they do expect to have one sometime in January for a \$30 million sewer system for Scioto County. This large dollar amount seems to be the trend for these ARRA funds as he monitors Ohio and other states. The more typical dollar amount projects are being funded with regular allocation funds.

Steve asked if all the non-ARRA loans/grants for 2009 have been taken care of.

Dave Douglas responded that they had been. Their regular allocation for 2009 ceases at the end of their fiscal year. ARRA funds were set up initially when the Bill was signed as two year funds, which is why they carry over from 2009 to 2010.

Stephen Porter noted that the Army Corps has a project partnership agreement with Scioto County for the design cost on a portion of this project through their 594 Program.

Dave Douglas stated that there is talk of trying to somehow work in the Eaton Township portion of that project; however, they have not worked the details out completely yet. This project has been around for 3 years and has not gotten off dead center. He believes they think there will be capacity with the new treatment plant to be able to fold everything into one project.

Bob Hickey reported that EDA had \$150 million in ARRA funds which were to be obligated by the end of September. In Ohio, there was only 1 ARRA project for Fremont at \$2.9 million. They had hoped to have 2 projects; however, EDA and EPA were not able to work out the details in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Hopefully an MOU will be done by legal counsel soon should there be another round of stimulus funds or a significant increase in EDA funds for 2010; then they will not have this problem.

This was also the problem they had with the Hillsboro project. EDA had intentions of putting \$2.5 million towards that project; however, when Hillsboro originally came to EDA there was no mention of EPA funds. Eventually Hillsboro received \$4 million of ARRA funds as well as \$4 million from EPA and \$2.5 from EDA.

Steve noted that the Hillsboro loan is on OWDA's agenda for approval this Thursday. Hillsboro came before the SCEIG group a year ago in Athens.

Jim stated that Hillsboro has a healthy funding package that includes funds from OPWC, CBDG Block Grant, Ohio EPA, Army Corps and OWDA. The Army Corps design portion really helped make this funding possible.

Bob commented that EDA is still confused as to whether or not there will be potential for more ARRA funds in fiscal year 2010. Six months ago, they believed they might be rewarded with additional funds since they would be one of the few agencies expending or obligating 100% of their money by the end of September.

Kurt reported that as he has spoken with local wastewater officials, one thing he hears from some of them is that they are dead-set convinced that ARRA did not accomplish anything; that no one received the money. He asked if it would be possible to get a clear and concise list of information as to what the final word is for the ARRA grants. TMACOG is very interested in helping to get this word out.

Steve commented that OWDA is tracking this for Ohio EPA's ARRA funds and suggested to Jim that a press release from Ohio EPA would be helpful.

The group concurred that the Recovery.gov website has been difficult to separate out reporting documentation and to navigate.

Kurt noted that if he can communicate what has been obligated to the local officials of northwest Ohio, it will not help him to have the entire list of all projects with all the different categories. If it is possible to pare the list down to water and sewer projects in a

user-friendly format, this would be very helpful. His greatest interest is with Ohio EPA's projects.

Dave Douglas responded that he has sent out the USDA RD 2009 funding list to different congressional staff as they have requested it. He offered to send this to Kurt and stated that the list is also available through some of the other reporting services.

Jim offered that he could provide Kurt with a list of all the awards they have made through November 2009.

Kurt noted that a list through the end of the deadline in February 2010 would be best.

Steve mentioned that OWDA's list is information that has been retrieved from the Public Information Center at Ohio EPA.

Jim reported that press releases are going out on most every project that is awarded; but not for every one of them. It sounds like a summary report at the end of the funding period, particularly the TMACOG area, would be best for Kurt.

Steve suggested that Dave Bornino could get a summary list together now for Kurt for the drinking water ARRA projects since these are 100% obligated.

Dave Bornino noted that their division is currently preparing for the reallocation. There are 16 states that have not spent any of their ARRA funds yet and they need to be prepared.

Steve reported that his colleagues across the country believe that there is activity within the states; however, there is not much time left to meet the February deadline.

Charmel stated that with the reporting aspect of ARRA, Buckeye Hills just completed town hall meetings in each of their 8 counties that they serve. It was very difficult to go on Ohio's Recovery.gov website to find any sense of what is in each county. It would be helpful if it was in a spreadsheet format that could be sorted by county.

David Frantz mentioned that the Corps still owes the group a project list from 2006 and 2008. He apologized that he did not have this yet; however, they have discussed this and begun work on it several times, but have unfortunately had many interruptions.

He reported that the 2010 appropriations have been announced. For the 594 Program, 15 projects were named in the State of Ohio for a total of \$5 million ranging between \$200,000-\$250,000 each, including a few larger projects, with one for \$1.6 million. This represents a significant decrease from last years' funding of \$21 million, even though the number of projects is staying somewhat consistent. David stated he would forward a copy of this list of projects (attached) to Steve when he returns to his office.

Steve asked if the \$5 million was based on a congressional request as opposed to objective criteria.

Stephen Porter responded that the 594 Program is all based on congressional requests. The decrease is due to the retirement of Congressman Hopson who was the champion for this program.

David Frantz mentioned that North Dakota received \$10-20 million which represents a large increase from last year to this year. This has to do with the seniority of the representatives on the committee.

Steve inquired if the 594 Program is a national program.

Stephen Porter responded that there is a variety of environmental infrastructure programs nationwide. Originally, most of them were like West Virginia which was set up in congressional districts. West Virginia currently has three districts. Ohio was one of the first states to have a congressional district covering just one state. This holds true for several other states and is much easier to work with. When Congressman Hopson was getting ready to retire, the congressman who represents North Dakota liked what he saw in Ohio and decided to duplicate it there.

Steve asked if the total funding for the 594 Program increased or decreased.

David Frantz responded that it is still the same at \$20-\$25 million. The entire program has received \$240 million in authorization. Through last year, they had appropriated \$100.8 million and adding another \$20 million this year, there are still a number of years currently left in the program. However, they did see a shift in resource allocations. Whether this shift is for one year only or not remains to be seen.

Steve credited Senator Voinovich for initiating the 594 Program in Ohio.

Stephen Porter noted that having an entire state under one district helps with the management tremendously. Kentucky also has a couple of environmental infrastructure programs based on congressional districts. District-wide, when the program was set up, it included the boundary of the district; however, the districts have changed leaving some gaps.

Regarding Ohio's 15 projects ranging \$200,000-\$250,000, factoring in \$50,000 for Corps costs to manage those projects, the \$200,000 per project will not go as far. The Corps is very frugal with how they manage. With their reviews, especially if construction is involved, they have to go through the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) process to do the review and those costs add up. Their costs are \$40,000 to \$50,000 and in most cases they have stayed below that. His concern is that communities think they are getting a check for the whole amount of the project; when they find out there are management costs, they are not happy.

The Corps has looked at the potential for a Water Resource Development Act in 2010 with modified language that would fix the non-profit issue. This problem came about in 2007 due to confusion about whether a not-for-profit public or private could be a project sponsor. This impacted 4 of their 594 projects, specifically with Perry Township where Western Water (private not-for-profit) was impacted. The original language in the Flood Control Act said that a sponsor had to be a public non-profit. The Corps requested that this language be changed from now forward, including a 5% management fund for the program based on whatever the allocation would be. Those funds would go to the Corps to manage the program so that they can do more outreach to explain how the program works; instead of relying on project specific funds. For small projects, the Corps does everything it can to maximize the funding for those projects.

Stephen Porter asked the group about a project they have in Marysville for \$1-\$1.5 million. Marysville mentioned they are receiving ARRA funding and they are up against a hard date, which may be the February 17, 2010 deadline. They state they must start construction by then; however, they just figured out what they want to do two weeks ago. The Corps has yet to do the FONSI and environmental impact, and is concerned about making this deadline. They cannot break ground and the Corps cannot reimburse any construction that would occur prior to the date of their FONSI. Marysville's city engineer could not really explain the situation; he is very competent but funding is secondary to what he does. The Corps is funding \$1 million for this sewer line extension project, which represents 75% of the project at approximately \$1.3 million.

Steve asked if anyone in the group is working with Marysville.

Jim responded that they have so many on the list it is hard to tell. He will have to check into Marysville specifically to be sure; it could be an Ohio EPA project.

Jim noted that they are working with deadlines that are necessary because some projects will not make it for whatever reason. Losing ARRA funds is not an option for Ohio. If Ohio EPA is going to guarantee that all ARRA funds are committed by February, they had to set hard dates so that funds could be redistributed in time to complete their review process before they could begin working on a brand new project that just came to them as fundable. For any individual circumstance, he offered that his division could ship the Corps a FONSI to assist them so they do not have to make duplicate submittals to reviewing agencies.

Stephen Porter noted that their money has been in place for a while; however, Marysville did not do anything with it because they had several potential projects going on at once. Now they have decided on this sewer line project; he is not clear what their actual funding stream is based on conversations he has had with their engineer. It appears they may have enough ARRA funds to do the entire project. If this is true, this would give the Corps an opportunity to use the \$1 million on another project for them.

David Frantz added he believes they are not necessarily ready to go to construction by February. They would have to make other commitments by the February timeframe.

Stephen Porter stated that the way they described the project, they would have to move dirt by February 17.

Jim responded that with all the SRF ARRA money, the government gave a one year deadline in which to expend it. By February 16, all of Ohio EPA's ARRA money, at a minimum, has to be under contract or under construction. Ohio EPA cannot wait until February to have Marysville under contract because there is not enough time to process the loan.

Stephen Porter noted that the design is complete for this project. However, he does not believe there is any way they can have a Corps FONSI in place for them to start moving dirt by February 16. He does have this fast-tracked, but there are a lot of people out of the office currently due to the holidays.

Jim asked if it would be acceptable to the Corps for Marysville to be under construction contract; but did not break ground. Stephen Porter affirmed this.

Jim asked Stephen to call him tomorrow so he can make sure what is on his list.

Steve noted that an OWDA loan has not been made yet; Jim concurred.

Charmel noted that Buckeye Hills has 6 CDBG projects that they are working with a wide range of ARRA funding coordinated as part of their funding packages. She is scrambling to get environmental reviews done so that they can be under contract and break ground by the first of the year. They are asking for extensions on the bids for 30 days because the timing is way too difficult. This is the only challenge she has seen so far; that there is not enough time to do an environmental review on a project and get it underway. This was not taken into account at the federal level.

Jim mentioned that if they are using SRF funds, his division can send them copies of their sign-off's.

Charmel responded that with Tappers Plains, she did utilize Ohio EPA's FONSI which was very helpful.

REVIEW OF 2009 OBJECTIVES AND DISCUSSION OF 2010 OBJECTIVES:

Steve Grossman

Steve distributed a copy of each noting that the goals have been the same for several years; however, the objectives have changed along the way. Given where we all are in the midst of ARRA, is this the right time to review these?

For the 2009 objectives, his comments are in bold for what has been accomplished, to the best of his knowledge. He previously requested comments from the group and will e-mail another request; responses can also be handed in today or e-mailed to him later. He

reminded the group that the reason for doing this at the end of the year is for the group to have a sense of what has been accomplished. The only people we are accountable to for reporting is the group itself.

Using the 2009 goals and objects, Steve distributed a clean copy to the group and asked them to also think about what they want to accomplish in 2010. He recognizes that within the next several months, everyone will still be in the midst of ARRA.

Steve reported that for OWDA, while Ohio EPA will have succeeded in obligating ARRA funds, the Authority has \$288 million, the majority of which has to be disbursed next year. Over and above the ARRA loans, the Authority is projecting over \$600 million in loans this year. USDA RD also has their ARRA money to obligate and disburse.

The meeting dates for 2010 are: March 1, June 7, September 13, and December 6, 2010.

For the 2009 accomplishments and 2010 objectives, Steve asked Gina to e-mail them to the group, asking for comments from everyone, including those who were not able to attend.

OUTREACH EFFORTS: Steve Grossman

The two topics that are clearly leftover from the 2009 objectives are the legislative briefings, and the number of finance committee meetings as well as where they are going to be held.

Regarding the legislative briefings, the last discussion the group had was to postpone them until 2010. Steve has been in contact with Ohio EPA's legislative representative, Tracy Freeman. Tracy's advice is to do one in March on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. He suggested that what seems to be the easiest and best way to accomplish this task is to have Randy Hunt do the presentation as he has done in several places, and have as many SCEIG representatives as possible there that can and want to make it. If the Army Corps is not currently included, their information can be easily added and they are also welcome to attend.

The last session was 2-3 years ago. There was a great response from the federal legislators, but not as strong of a response from the state representatives. The briefing was successful to the extent that Brandon Kern from Senator Voinovich's office took this a step further and asked the group to do this regionally. This is how the regional sessions came about. There were four sessions in 2008 in four areas of the state and two sessions in two areas for 2009. The intention, as discussed previously, was to do two in 2010. At our September meeting, Kurt requested a session in the northwest that he would host and John Rauch suggested St. Clairsville in the southeast.

To counter these requests, Steve reported in Tim Leasure's absence that Tim did not feel the Finance Committees remote meetings are a good expenditure of time and money. He

believes they were not that well attended and if the only person that shows up is a communities' engineer, he/she can definitely come to Columbus. Tim suggested quarterly meetings in Columbus only.

For the legislative meeting in March 2010 in Columbus, Steve asked if the group is in favor of doing this. The last sessions were held in the Statehouse and Riffe Center; it is important to go where the legislators are. Suggest doing 2 – 1 hour sessions in 1 day, beginning at approximately 9:30 a.m. with a break in between, and the second session beginning at approximately 11 a.m. The group concurred.

Steve noted that he would work on firming up a date for the site based on Randy's availability. He will also work with Randy on the presentation. As soon as the details are known, he will e-mail everyone. He encouraged everyone to attend if they are able to.

Steve asked if the group wants to continue doing remote Finance Committee meetings.

Brian inquired as to how successful the 2009 meetings were since he was not able to participate.

Steve responded that of the 10 communities that came forward, 8 attended the two regional meetings; 5 in one location and 3 in another. Findlay was well attended because ARRA was just hitting and everyone was anxious for information. Athens was not that well attended in terms of number of people because Congressman Space had 3 sessions in June. Approximately 40% of the people who attended Space's sessions were water and wastewater people. The SCEIG group also attended some of those sessions and then went back to that area in July for the Finance Committee meeting. Overall, he believes the sessions are well attended and that the number of people attending is adequate. In 2008, 40 communities expressed interest in the sessions with approximately 25 attending the regional meetings. In the post-ARRA world, no one can define what the parameters will be; therefore, we may want to think about what information communities will need to assist them with post-ARRA requirements. He suggested that later in 2010 is better than earlier; somewhere between May and October.

Dave Douglas asked the group to think about what the purpose is for these meetings. Is the purpose to make sure that the funding information is available for water and sewer systems because that funding is available; or is it because they do not know where to go. USDA RD is not necessarily going to have the same amount of money going forward as they have had in the past couple of years. Are we creating more outreach than the group can handle from an available funds standpoint?

Steve responded that in looking back to the 1990's and early 2000's, the group did not have the informational sessions; however, they still met with communities who wanted to gain more knowledge. The biggest question in his mind is for the communities who did not receive ARRA funding. Are those requests real? He is committed to "mining" the ARRA website list specifically looking for those small communities and their projects;

then sharing the list with the group based on their needs to ultimately find out if there is a need.

Kurt commented that for northwest Ohio, it is a very real list and is largely driven by Findings and Orders. There are a lot of combined sewers in this area.

Steve asked Dave Douglas if he is suggesting not to hold the informational sessions; but to have the Finance Committee meet with small communities. Dave affirmed this.

Dave Douglas noted that he agreed with Tim's comment. If the group is going to take the time to go do a remote location session, it needs to be clear that the group would like to have the community there; not just a representative from the engineers office for the community. Steve agreed.

Kurt mentioned that the usual attitude that TMACOG hears from local elected officials is, "here is a meeting...that's what we pay our engineer for." To convince them to attend themselves is difficult. He is able to easily obtain a meeting site and he would have knowledge of the projects and their needs. Convincing the local elected officials or local officials to personally attend will take a little bit of doing in some cases. The selling point back to them could be, "we will present what the community will specifically get from coming to this meeting that they would not otherwise know about." The answer we could present is "a better shot at money".

Dave Douglas stated that regarding the engineers, he wanted to be clear that the group is not opposed to having engineers attend by any means; however, the group would like to have communities attend prior to them starting down the road in the process and prior to hiring an engineer so that they can see what their avenues are funding-wise. If they have already selected an engineer and the engineer already has a plan for what they want to do, there is already some work that has taken place that will not necessarily be affected by what funding is available.

Kurt responded that he did not feel there would be many communities attending at that point. Early into their project, a community does not have any concept that they need to build sewers. Once they receive Findings and Orders, usually the first thing they do is hire an engineer.

Steve noted that both Senator Voinovich and Senator Brown's office were provided a list from the group. From OWDA's perspective, the projects have come from communities that have planning loans. If they have a planning loan, they have an engineer. Kurt may know the communities that are out there; however, he is saying that it would be a challenge to get them to come. If the group decides today on some meeting dates, he believes that giving 4-5 months leeway would help to get them there. The goal is to provide them a service that they need. What does the group think about these meetings?

Randy responded that since the southeast and northwest were done this year, maybe northeast and southwest would be the next areas. There are a lot of water and sewer needs in the northeast; a meeting in this area especially would be well attended.

Dave Douglas noted that these meetings are helpful for disseminating information regarding funding rules and processes. Many times people have misconceptions about the steps or process, including how much of the project is grant and how much is loan.

Kurt commented that the other thing local officials do not understand is the need to bundle funding from 3-4 different agencies and what the difference is between Ohio EPA and USDA RD. There are some very fundamental steps involved including who to contact first.

Brian asked if there would be a problem staying with the 2 meetings, alternating locations every other year.

Steve responded that the group could go to 2 sites. For 2009, 4 meetings were scheduled in Columbus and 2 in the field. If there was no demand for one of the meetings in Columbus, that meeting was canceled. Previously for the southwest location, the only site that was available was at the Roberts Center just off I-71. OWDA could pick up the tab for this meeting site again if the group chooses to go there. For the northeast, the technical school was a good site previously and may be available. Suggest that the northeast meeting be held earlier in the year to avoid winter weather conditions.

The group concurred and suggested that Randy do the "dog and pony" show to assist the local officials who are not engineers. Randy's presentation would be in conjunction with the finance committee meeting.

Steve offered to look into dates and meeting sites to report back to the group.

Jim commented that it would be good to make the sessions a little later in the year. If re-allotment occurs by March 1, 2010 at the earliest, Ohio EPA has been notified that they will have 90 days to get that money back out. Ohio EPA's re-allotment has to be completed by the end of June.

Steve noted that the challenge for the federal government will be doing the re-allotment because states will not want to give up any stimulus funding and have it reallocated to another state.

Dave Bornino responded that the federal government has made it clear that states have to have projects under contract by February 17, 2010. States have to give a full report by the end of February so that by March, the federal government will know how much money is available to be reallocated according to the percentage that was originally given to each state. If the money is allocated in March, Ohio EPA is planning to have the new contracts done by the end of June. He believes the money will go to the states that have 100% of their ARRA funds under contract.

Dave Douglas noted that the reallocation will be difficult to work with given the timeframes that were previously mentioned today, especially for environmental reviews.

Dave Bornino concurred; however, he noted that the Drinking Water Division is already working on non-ARRA fund projects. Their coordinators have been contacting Dave Douglas to check if the projects are still planning to be done so that they can gather a list by the end of February for the next round.

Dave Douglas mentioned that the theme of the outreach meetings may need to be, "So you did not receive ARRA money; now what?"

Kurt commented that there may even be a Stimulus II; no one knows for sure.

Bob mentioned that in speaking with the congressional offices, they all give different answers. It is going to be a very interesting year.

Bob announced that he regrets he will not be attending the SCEIG meetings in the future as he is retiring effective January 2, 2010. The announcement for his GS 12/13 position is posted on usajobs.gov, # EDA2010-005. EDA is trying to expedite filling this position and he has been assured that his replacement will be physically located in Columbus. EDA made a commitment to the Ohio delegation that the job will be maintained here.

He extended his appreciation for the work that everyone in the group has done over the years. It has been very helpful to have all the federal and state agencies working together at the same table; the work of the group has been extremely effective with few minor frustrations along the way.

Bob noted that if e-mails are sent to him, his e-mail address and phone will be re-routed to their office in Chicago. They will re-route any requests to his replacement in Columbus. Their hopes are to have that person in place by January.

Steve commented that the SCEIG group has been working with Bob for 18 years and it has been enjoyable! On behalf of the SCEIG group, "you will be missed!"

NEW BUSINESS

Steve asked Nathan to give a report from Ohio Department of Health.

Nathan noted that Rebecca was unable to attend the meeting today and he did not have a report to give on her behalf.

Brian asked how the home sewage issue is coming.

Jim reported that his division has \$3.5 million under contract out of the \$5 million that was available. With the projects that are under contract, their systems will be installed through the winter and into the spring of 2010.

Nathan responded that these systems are evenly distributed throughout the state. The maximum funding amount is \$180,000 with 6 counties receiving that amount including Trumbull, Geauga and Brown County.

Dave Bornino asked what the status is of the state legislation for changes to sewer systems.

Brian responded that there is a 6 month moratorium. The changes have been proposed in legislation that has been approved by the House.

Nathan added that the Department of Health has heard a lot of discussion of possible amendments to SB 110. They are hopeful to hear something in January.

Kurt mentioned that one of the mayors in TMACOG approached him a few weeks ago with an e-mail he received from the Ohio Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies. He was only aware of two metropolitan sewerage agencies in Ohio; one in Hamilton County and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. Has anyone heard of this group? They were asking the City of Fostoria to join them and the mayor wants to know what this is all about.

Brian responded that it may be NACWA. This group is located in Ohio and is comprised of regional sewer districts which include Akron, Columbus, Springfield and Dayton.

Kurt noted that the contact person mentioned in the e-mail works for the City of Columbus. He gets the sense that their issue is unfunded mandates.

Brian responded that their issue is Ohio EPA's rules. This association reviews a lot of their rules and primarily appeals them for operator certification, as well as several others. It would be up to the City of Fostoria if they feel they would get good representation. The confusing thing for Ohio EPA Surface Water Division is that they will receive comments from a community and then receive conflicting rules from their association. He suggested they consult other communities to see if they are receiving good representation.

Brian reported that Ohio EPA's Surface Water Division's Request for Proposal (RFP) from US EPA is out for the Great Lakes restoration. This RFP is for \$120 million with hopes to have 300-400 grantees for these awards. No infrastructure improvements are allowed. The \$120 million includes all the Great Lake states (8 in the USA only) and the RFP goes through January 29, 2010, 11 a.m.

Dave Douglas asked if this applies to wetlands only.

Brian responded that there are 5 categories including areas of concern; base of species; outreach and monitoring; and non-point source/coastal health (combined sewers and septic systems). This is a sizable RFP and he looks forward to the good it will do for the Great Lakes area.

Kurt added that supposedly this will be an annual funding to implement the Great Lakes Regional collaboration to clean-up the Great Lakes.

Brian noted that there is a solicitation for the Surface Water Improvement Fund for non-point source. This was mailed out today and will be posted to their website by Wednesday and includes stream and wetlands restoration. This innovative funding source is comprised of 2 RFP's; 1 specifically for Cuyahoga County for \$1.5 million and 1 for the rest of the state at approximately \$1 million. There is no match for these state funds.

Kurt asked if ODNR can apply. Brian believed they could.

NEXT MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010, 1:30 P.M.

FY 2009 SECTION 594 PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

Project Name	Funding Amount (in thousands)	County	U.S. Congressional District	USACE District
Austinbury Township, OH	\$700	Ashtabula	District 14 - Steven LaTourette	LRB
Brunswick, OH	\$1,000	Medina	District 13 - Betty Sutton	LRB
Cuyahoga River, OH	\$1,250	Cuyahoga	District 10 - Kucinich	LRB
East Banks, OH	\$750	Cuyahoga	District 11 - Marcia Fudge	LRB
Fremont, OH	\$500	Sandusky	District 5 - Robert Latta	LRB
McMackin Road, Madison, OH	\$200	Lake	District 14 - Steven LaTourette	LRB
Streetsboro, Portage County, OH	\$1,600	Portage	District 17 - Tim Ryan	LRB
Thompson Sewerage Project, OH	\$300	Geauga	District 14 - Steven LaTourette	LRB
Toledo, OH	\$1,275	Lucas	District 9 - Marcy Kaptur	LRB
Sub Total - Buffalo	\$7,575			
City of Hillsboro, OH	\$1,000	Highland	District 3 - Michael Turner	LRH
Culpepper, OH	\$600	Fayette	District 7 - Steve Austria	LRH
Marlboro, OH	\$2,000	Stark	District 16 - John Boccieri	LRH
Marysville, OH	\$1,000	Union	District 15 - Mary Jo Kilroy	LRH
Richmond Dale, OH	\$400	Ross	District 18 - Zack Space	LRH
Summit Road, City of Barberton, OH	\$500	Summit	District 13 - Betty Sutton	LRH
Willowcrest, OH (City of Beaver Creek)	\$500	Greene	District 7 - Steve Austria	LRH
Upper Hocking, OH	\$500	Fairfield	District 7 - Steve Austria	LRH
Sub Total - Huntington	\$6,500			
Clark State Community College, Springfield, OH	\$1,000	Clark	District 7 - Steve Austria	LRL
Dayton, OH	\$500	Montgomery	District 3 - Michael Turner	LRL
Fairview Commons, Dayton, OH	\$300	Montgomery	District 3 - Michael Turner	LRL
Route 41, Prime, OH	\$1,000	Clark	District 7 - Steve Austria	LRL
Springfield Hospital, OH	\$2,000	Clark	District 7 - Steve Austria	LRL
Village of St. Martin, OH	\$200	Brown	District 2- Jean Schmidt	LRL
Sub Total - Louisville	\$5,000			
Campbell (Brownfield), OH	\$700	Mahoning	District 17 - Tim Ryan	LRP
Little Squaw Creek, OH	\$675	Trumbull	District 17 - Tim Ryan	LRP
Youngstown, Wick District, OH	\$550	Mahoning	District 17 - Tim Ryan	LRP
Sub Total - Pittsburgh	\$1,925			
Total FY 2009 Funding	\$21,000,000			
Lisa R. Morgan, 594 Program Manager LRH	304-399-5545		David A. Frantz, Project Manager LRH	304-399-5949
Steven M. Porter, Project Manager LRH	304-399-5062			