

Public Water Supply

Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2019 – 1:30 p.m. – Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant

Welcome:

Kris Barnswell, TMACOG, welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Kris Barnswell, TMACOG

Joy Minarcin, TMACOG

Kelly Frey, Ottawa County

Ron Wetzel, Ottawa County

Jenny Carter-Cornell, Hull and Associates

Scott Miller, Sandusky County

Daniel Bond, Ottawa County

Orin McMonigle, City of Sandusky

Mike Fields, City of Bowling Green

Doug Wagner, City of Oregon

Alice Godsey, City of Perrysburg

Steve Lange, Ottawa County

Tom Borck, Poggemeyer

Mike Jividen, Ottawa County

Jim Best, City of Sandusky

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

A *motion* was made by Alice Godsey, City of Perrysburg, to approve the minutes from June 6, 2019, and *seconded* by Kelly Frey, Ottawa County, *motion passed unanimously*.

Impacts by Harmful Algal Blooms:

Kelly Frey shared a video prepared by News 5 Cleveland that interviewed the plant staff in August. The story is available at <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/state/algae-bloom-now-visible-from-space-is-costing-water-treatment-plants-more-money>.

Ron Wetzel, Ottawa County, led a discussion of the impacts by HABs on raw water.

- Ron provided powerpoint slides showing images of microcystis and planktothrix algae, and data representing their raw water.
- Ron also provided a sample of raw water collected earlier in the day. Green microcystis on top layer and dark brown planktothrix on the bottom layer.
- Ottawa County had the highest level of microcystin in their raw water (intake) on Aug. 12 at 22.34 ppb.
- It was noted that levels greater than 5.0 ppb in the raw water trigger testing to be completed three times per week. This is a requirement by Ohio EPA.
- Orin McMonigle, City of Sandusky, noted the city draws out of Lake Erie, not Sandusky Bay. This has been a great year for them, with no microcystin levels detected in the raw water (the first time since testing was started in 2010).
- Most plants collect raw water samples between 8 and 9 a.m. Microcystin is analyzed using qPCR or ELISA test methods. Results from the tests are available the following day.
- Raw water intakes are near the lake or river bottom.

Kelly also shared stories about his neighbors swimming in Lake Erie during periods when the treatment plant's raw water had elevated levels of microcystin.

- Symptoms from elevated levels of microcystin are similar to the symptoms of the Measles.

- Education and outreach to the public is a problem. How do we get the word out that lake water might be harmful to the public and animals?
- If you knew the water quality was bad, would you tell somebody that is swimming in the lake it is a bad idea?
 - The question was raised whether TMACOG might want to convene representatives from ODH, Ohio EPA, WTPs and others to discuss possible protocols/public outreach activities when microcystin levels are high.

Staff Report:

Kris Barnswell discussed the draft regional effort statement. The statement was written to assist Ottawa County with their HABs General Plan by demonstrating the County is taking an active role in working at a regional level to address water quality issues. TMACOG is requesting comments to the statement and will submit to Amy Jo Klei, Chief of Division of Drinking and Ground Water,s by the end of the year.

Future Meetings:

- December 5, TMACOG Boardroom, will need to nominate Chair and Vice-chair for 2020

Public Comments:

No comments.

Tour of Water Treatment Plant:

Ron Wetzel, Superintendent, led a tour of the plant. The tour was approved by the Ohio EPA for 0.75 O&M contact hours.

ADJOURN: