

## **Drinking Water Advisory Committee**

**Dec. 17, 2002**

**9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Ohio EPA, Conference Room 5A**

### **Abstract**

The following updates and action items are highlights of the Drinking Water Advisory Committee (DWAC) meeting, Dec. 17, 2002. The executive summary follows the abstract.

No comments on the October meeting summary.

Budget, operator certification contact hour tracking and public water system security were the main topics of discussion on the DWAC agenda. A brief presentation was given on risk communication; rules updates were also provided. January 28, 2003 was tentatively scheduled for a plan review workgroup kickoff meeting; time and location to be determined. The division has held one-on-one meetings about the budget and proposed fee increases with some DWAC members and will continue meetings as necessary. DWAC was encouraged to recommend groups to the division to meet with to discuss budget issues. The division plans to create fact sheets for the general public and legislature to explain the fee increases, staffing needs, drinking water program priorities and rules impact. Nine Ohio public water systems have received vulnerability assessment grants. Assessment information gathered will be sent to U.S. EPA and not the division; the intent is to limit access to sensitive information. Ohio has received a \$476,000 grant to be used, in part, to update state's contingency plan, which the division will ask DWAC to review. Resource limitations may require the division to find an alternative to the in-house tracking system for operator certification contact hours that it has been developing. The committee provided ideas for alternative approaches and recommended that the division research other organization's contact hour tracking mechanisms (i.e. Commission on Continuing Legal Education, Registered Sanitarians).

### **Action Items:**

- ▶ **Provide input on drinking water manager's budget report**
- ▶ **Provide names of DWAC constituents/partnerships for one-on-one budget meetings**
- ▶ **Participation on plan review workgroup**