



Ohio Sunset Review Committee  
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Ohio Water Advisory Council -- ORC 1521.031

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Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Ohio Water Advisory Council was established by statute in 1984 for the purpose of providing guidance and making recommendations to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Water Resources in matters related to ground water resources evaluation and development, water supply planning, the identification of flood risks and the management of development in flood plains, and the enforcement of Ohio's dam safety laws.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

The Council is tasked with doing the following:

1. Advise the Chief of the Division of Water Resources in carrying out the duties of the Division;
2. Recommend policy and legislation with respect to water management and conservation that will promote the economic, industrial, and social development of the state while minimizing threats to the state's natural environment;
3. Review and make recommendations on the development of plans and programs for long-term, comprehensive water management throughout the state; and
4. Recommend ways to enhance cooperation among governmental agencies having an interest in water to encourage wise use and protection of the state's ground and surface waters. To this end, the council shall request nonvoting representation from appropriate governmental agencies.

The last meeting of the Ohio Water Advisory Council was July 10, 2010.

The Chief (or Assistant Chief) of ODNR's Division of Water Resources served as facilitator of the Council meetings. An administrative assistant took notes at the meetings, and program managers reported on activities within the Division.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

ORC 1521.031 states that Council members may not receive compensation except for reimbursement for "...actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties."

Funds for reimbursement came from the Division's administrative budget; however, no money has been expended or reimbursed to the Council for over eight years.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

The Council consists of seven members with an interest in water management and expertise in areas such as dam safety, surface water, groundwater and flood plain management.

Members are appointed by the governor for a two-year term. No more than four of the members can be from the same political party. The terms of all members of the council have expired.

Council members receive no compensation for their service other than reimbursement for expenses.

Additional notes

Historically, the council provided little guidance or recommendations to the Division on policy matters relating to water resources, but rather used their meetings to receive departmental updates from Division staff. Therefore, ODNR recommends that the Ohio Water Advisory Council be sunset by the Sunset Review Committee.

ODNR remains committed to maintaining an open line of communication with our water-related stakeholders to ensure the conservation, protection, and enhancement of Ohio's water resources.