

February 7, 2024
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Rob Kastner	Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dominic DiSalvo	City of Ravenna
Ron Etling	Portage County Board of Commissioners Appointee
Mike Fritz	City of Wooster
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Todd Peetz	Portage County Regional Planning Commission
Justin Rechichar	Portage County Health District
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Mike Vinay	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources
Ella Robertson	Portage County Regional Planning Commission
Pat Gsellman	Environmental Design Group (Akron Waterways Renewed!)
Rick Reed	CTI Engineers, Inc.
David Kohlmeier	CTI Engineers, Inc.
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Chair Kastner called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

Mr. LaPlante noted that the December meeting summary mistakenly stated that the October meeting summary was accepted as transmitted when it should have stated that the November meeting summary was accepted. He reported that he corrected that error. The December meeting summary was accepted with that correction.

Discussion Item

“City of Massillon WWTP – Designing a Major Plant Upgrade for Nutrient Removal within Tight Site Limitations”; Rick Reed, PE, President/CEO, and Dave Kohlmeier, PE, Vice President/Senior Project Engineer, CTI Engineers, Inc.

Messrs. Reed and Kohlmeier discussed how the City of Massillon worked with very tight site limitations to tackle required nutrient removal from its wastewater while upgrading its existing wastewater treatment plant from a 15.8 MGD to 17 MGD design flow. They noted that the plant is bound by a steep embankment on its southeast side and the Tuscarawas River/Ohio and Erie Canal on its northwest side; so, simply expanding the plant by adding tanks to biologically treat for nutrients wasn't an option. They gave details on the challenges of the site and their study that recommended converting the existing biological process to an integrated fixed-film activated sludge (IFAS) system. They explained how this technology facilitates the creation of additional biomass within the treatment

facility to meet more stringent effluent standards for nitrogen and phosphorus, and increased volume of loading, without increasing or adding tank capacity. Their slide of the plant's history showed that these plant upgrades were completed in 2018. They indicated that the IFAS system that CTI Engineers, Inc., designed is the first of its kind for nutrient removal in Ohio. They covered in detail the following topics:

- History of the Massillon WWTP (built in 1937 and has undergone 9 upgrades)
- The problems encountered
- Why nutrient removal? (Harmful algal blooms discussion)
- CTI Engineers' solution
- Liquid process before construction
- Liquid process after construction
- Process of biologic nutrient removal
- The challenge
- Demolition of certain existing components to make room for new components
- Construction of new components of the IFAS system
- Completion and project results

Messrs. Reed's and Kohlmeier's presentation concluded with them fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2024 Work Program

NEFCO Board approved 208 Plan updates March 2023 through December 2023 submitted to Ohio EPA for state certification

Mr. LaPlante reported that NEFCO staff submitted these to Ohio EPA on December 27, 2023 for state certification. He noted that Ohio EPA confirmed receipt of them on January 3, 2024. He further noted that they include the Wooster FPA update that the board approved on March 15, 2023 and the group of eleven FPA updates that the board approved on December 20, 2023.

Lessons learned from the first annual 201/208 FPA update (list was transmitted with agenda)

Mr. LaPlante referred to the list that was sent with the agenda mailout the previous week. He noted that the biggest takeaway from the lessons learned from last year's first annual FPA update is that the wastewater management agencies seemed to need more time to get their mapping data submitted in NEFCO's GIS format.

Next annual 201/208 facilities planning areas update (for FY2025 NEFCO Board approval); general timeline

Mr. LaPlante showed a slide of the overall general schedule for the SFY2025 201/208 FPA update and announced that the update would likely begin on February 16, 2024. He noted that now is a good time for the region's wastewater management agencies (MAs) to begin thinking about what proposed wastewater prescription changes and FPA boundary modifications they would like to submit to NEFCO during this year's voluntary FPA update.

Ongoing Clean Water (208) Plan, Chapter 4 update; status

Mr. LaPlante reminded newer ERTAC members that Chapter 4 of the 208 Plan covers *The Management of Home Sewage Treatment Systems, Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems, and Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems*. He went over a slide of the overall general schedule for completing the Chapter 4 update and noted that he expects to complete the revised draft Chapter 4 update and send it to the subcommittee of local health districts for a final review by the end of February. He indicated that the next steps would include presenting the draft Chapter 4 update to the

ERTAC for its technical review, possibly on April 3rd, prior to public notification of the final draft, with the goal of having NEFCO General Policy Board approval of the Chapter 4 update no later than the board's June 2024 meeting. Mr. Hadley noted that unlike Chapter 3 of the 208 Plan, which covers *Wastewater Management Facilities Planning* and presents recommended policies for governing changes to MAs and FPAs and for making wastewater management plans consistent with the 208 Plan, Chapter 4 presents no policies, just important *recommendations* for improving water quality through better management of these small sewage treatment systems.

ERTAC meeting schedule and venues in 2024

Mr. LaPlante noted that all ERTAC meetings this year will be held at The Natatorium, in the Hopewell Room, on the first Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., except the June and August meetings, for which we still need a venue. He said that he's had preliminary conversations with the City of Kent to see if the ERTAC could possibly tour its wastewater treatment plant in June or August. Mr. Gorczynski noted that he was just made aware that the city's plant will be undergoing an upgrade this year; so, it will be unavailable for a tour in June or August.

ERTAC Professional Engineer and Operator Continuing Education Credits Tracking 2023

Mr. LaPlante asked anyone needing a hardcopy of these documents to see him after the meeting.

Reports from ERTAC members (a chance for members to report on activities or problems affecting their communities)

There were no reports from ERTAC members.

Information items requested

Mr. Etling requested a copy of selected articles.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

Chair Kastner briefly went over the three listed Ohio EPA grant opportunities for public drinking water systems. Mr. Hadly mentioned that on the day before this meeting he received two additional Ohio EPA public notices that aren't listed on the agenda – one pertains to the agency seeking comments on its *Draft 2024 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report* for Ohio's waters, which has a comment deadline of March 8, 2024; and the other pertains to the agency seeking comments on its *Proposed 'Amend' Rulemaking Governing Underground Injection Control Rules*, which has a comment deadline of February 19, 2024. He offered to send these notices to any ERTAC member that requested them.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

No Ohio Environmental legislation was recently signed or introduced.

Other Business

There was no other business.

ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

Chair Kastner drew the ERTAC's attention to the list.

Next Meeting

Chair Kastner said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 6, 2024, at The Natatorium (Hopewell Room) 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.