

October 2, 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
Ron Etling	Portage County Appointee
Mike Fritz	City of Wooster
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
Kendra Heiser	Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Justin Rechichar	Portage County Health District
Pete Wearstler	City of Alliance
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Julie Reis	Summit County Public Health
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources
Stephanie Deibel	Summit County Engineer's Office
Will Duck	Portage County Health District
Patrick Gsellman	EDG (Akron Waterways Renewed!)
David Kohlmeier	CTI Engineers, Inc.
Dave Koontz	Summit County Engineer's Office
Rodney Mackey	Village of Apple Creek
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Chair Kastner called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The September meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

"Summit County's Surface Water Management District: Background, Purpose, Regulations, and Projects"; David L. Koontz, PE, SI, Engineering Project Manager, and Stephanie Deibel, CPESC – SCE SWMD Stormwater Specialist, Summit County Engineer's Office

Mr. Koontz and Ms. Deibel presented the background of the Summit County Surface Water Management District (SWMD) and explained its purpose, the regulations behind the SWMD, and they showed slides of some of the District's stormwater mitigation projects to date. They presented details on how the SWMD was created and expanded to address Ohio EPA's regulations for stormwater discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). They noted that under the Summit County Codified Ordinances (SCCO), Chapter 942 was revised to make participation in the SWMD mandatory for Summit County townships and SCCO Chapter 944 was developed to address Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), under Ohio EPA's stormwater regulations. Topics covered include:

- SWMD is a 'new' approach to managing stormwater:
 - A stormwater utility or legal entity that manages stormwater for a municipality/others
- Summit County Engineer's Office established the SWMD in 2017
 - Utility with a small monthly fee to fund studies and projects to mitigate flooding/erosion
 - Summit County Codified Ordinances Chapter 942 established SWMD regulations/fees
 - Participation was originally voluntary, open to all townships/municipalities in the county
 - Regulations included a SWMD grading and drainage permit policy
- SWMD regulations were updated in 2022
 - Summit County Codified Ordinances Chapter 942 was revised
 - Created an Advisory Committee to review projects/make recommendations
 - Expanded to address Ohio EPA's MS4 requirements
 - Participation became mandatory for all Summit County townships
 - Participation still voluntarily for Summit County cities and villages
 - Fee rates updated/maximum fee rates established by land use classification
 - Chapter 944 was developed to address Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Purpose of the SWMD
 - Manage and improve stormwater facilities and stormwater discharges
 - Protect surface water and groundwater quality
 - Reduce property damage due to excess stormwater discharges
 - Meet the requirements of Ohio EPA's regulations for MS4s, including IDDE
- SWMD MS4 Stormwater Management Plan
- Grading permits (examples of projects requiring grading permits were discussed)
- Drainage concerns (a form for users to submit drainage concerns was discussed)
- Priority projects (examples were discussed)
 - Summit County provided \$15 million in ARPA funding for SWMD efforts
 - Studies of 12 priority regional projects underway throughout the member communities
 - Two projects have been designed and will be bid this year
 - SWMD has initiated additional studies for the Cuyahoga River and Tuscarawas River
 - These studies will identify additional future priority projects

Mr. Koontz's and Ms. Deibel's presentation concluded with them fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2025 Work Program

NEFCO Board releases the FY2025 201/208 FPA update for 30-day public comment period

Mr. LaPlante reported that following the NEFCO board's release of the draft FY2025 FPA update on September 18, 2024 with the ERTAC's recommendation to do so, staff prepared a press release and distributed it on September 27, 2024 to the four major newspapers in the region, noting that the 30-day public review and comment period began on September 30, 2024. He reported that in addition to the media, the press release was sent to board and ERTAC members and each county and local government in the region. He noted that also on September 27th, staff sent a memo to all primary wastewater management agencies in the NEFCO region announcing the public review and comment period. He added that staff filed a legal ad in the major newspaper of each of our counties, noting that the legal ad was published in the Kent Record Courier, Akron Beacon Journal, and Wooster Daily Record on September 27, 2024, and in the Canton Repository on September 29, 2024. Chair Kastner noted that the last day comments will be accepted is October 29, 2024.

Ohio EPA sets January 16, 2025 deadline for submittal of all NEFCO Board approved 208 Plan amendments and updates from calendar year 2024 for 2025 state certification

Mr. LaPlante reported that Ohio EPA has indicated that the six Areawides, including NEFCO, will have until mid-January 2025 to submit all board approved 208 Plan amendments and updates from the calendar year 2024 for state certification next year. He noted that this means that a member requesting an amendment could plan on December board action, which would allow NEFCO staff

time to submit it to Ohio EPA by the agency's mid-January deadline. He added that this also means that board approval of the FY2025 201/208 FPA update no later than its December meeting will allow the Plan update to be submitted to Ohio EPA by the mid-January deadline.

What a change analysis of GIS data received from one management agency reveals

Mr. LaPlante distributed a memo to the ERTAC regarding NEFCO staff's change analysis of GIS data received from one MA during this year's 201/208 FPA update and why MAs should only use NEFCO's data when proposing updates to FPAs under their jurisdiction. He noted that instead of one MA submitting data for only the Update Areas by using data provided by NEFCO as our agency requested, that MA submitted its own data and for the entire county. He further noted that a change analysis performed by NEFCO's GIS specialist revealed that the MA's countywide data was creating 18 new potential Update Areas that had not been reviewed by NEFCO before the July 3rd extended submittal deadline and had not had coordination with affected MAs. He added that we can expect at least these 18 new potential Update Areas to be submitted during next year's FPA update cycle. Mr. Hadley added that there is a limit to what staff can do in-house with GIS technical assistance and he is considering whether to set a limit.

Why management agencies should not have their own in-house '208 Plan' GIS database

Mr. LaPlante referred to the memo to the ERTAC mentioned above. He noted that during the FY2025 FPA update and past FPA updates, it has become apparent that some of the region's MAs have their own database that they call a '208 Plan'. He explained that besides the problems revealed with the above change analysis, other reasons MAs should not have their own '208 Plan' database are that the only valid data for use in Ohio EPA's permitting process or 208 Plan updates/amendments are the FPA/prescription data and maps approved by the NEFCO Board. He noted that since NEFCO moved to having an interactive online 208 Plan map with its 2020 Plan update, there should be no reason for an MA to have its own similar database, noting that NEFCO's official data is always available to MAs.

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

Mr. Rechichar reported that Portage County Health Commissioner, Joe Diorio, is retiring at the end of the month and to celebrate his retirement, there will be a party on October 17th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Portage County Health District, 999 E. Main St., in Ravenna. He noted that all are welcome and cake, desserts, and light refreshments will be provided, with tents and food trucks also onsite for a welcoming space on the front lawn.

Information items requested

Mr. Etling requested a copy of selected articles.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

No copies of Ohio EPA public notices were requested.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

None.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

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 November 6, 2024 at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.