

May 1, 2024
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Rob Kastner	Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District
Sarah Barrow	Summit 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 Gorczyński	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Justin Rechichar	Portage County Health District
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources
Will Duck	Portage County Health District
Stephanie Deibel	Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
David Kohlmeier	CTI Engineers, Inc.
Tomás Parry	Ohio EPA
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 April meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

“*ERTAC Panel Discussion*”; members were asked to share their thoughts about the following example topics:

- Priority projects and challenges your agency is facing in completing them, including:
 - An increase in the number of projects/applications for projects concurrent with an increase in available funding
 - Continued rising cost of materials (pipe, crushed stone/gravel, pumping equipment, etc.)?
 - Materials in short supply but high demand
 - Lack of contractors or contractors' bids higher than anticipated
 - Internal staffing shortages
- New federal [PFAS maximum contaminant levels \(MCL\) rule](#) for public water systems
- Awareness that the H2Ohio program has been expanded to the [H2Ohio Rivers program](#)
- Other ERTAC member priorities or projects

Most of the discussion from the ERTAC focused on the new federal PFAS MCL rule for public water systems. NEFCO staff and ERTAC members transitioned from the PFAS discussion to a discussion on other national and local groundwater contamination problems that affected or threatened public health and the environment.

Chair Kastner and Messrs. Fritz, Givens, and Kohlmeier contributed to a discussion on the options that a public water system will have if it exceeds the new MCLs for six PFAS compounds. Those options are to either drill new source water wells and interceptor wells at a cost of about \$2 million or install treatment technology, such as granulated activated carbon or ion exchange treatment, at a cost of about \$10 million. If drilling new source water wells and interceptor wells fails to reduce PFAS levels below the MCLs, treatment is the only option. Mr. Kohlmeier added that there is not enough understanding about the health effects of PFAS, sampling protocols, and treatment technologies in the private and public sectors and that U.S. EPA should concentrate on educating everyone on PFAS. There was also a discussion on how to handle the waste stream generated by treatment technologies that remove PFAS from drinking water. Mr. Givens said he attended a U.S. EPA webinar on April 30th that addressed treatment technologies and how to properly dispose of the wastewater generated from them.

Mr. Hadley discussed the similarities between PFAS contamination in the environment and the Love Canal environmental disaster, near Niagara Falls, in upstate New York, north of Buffalo. He noted that PBS' *American Experience* series traces the history of Love Canal and a recording of it is available on YouTube.

Ms. Rogalski discussed Summit County Public Health's recent coordination with U.S. EPA and the Ohio Department of Health to ensure that 80 select private water wells in the City of Green provide safe drinking water after continued groundwater monitoring by U.S. EPA determined in 2022 that a plume of dioxane migrated westward and northwestward from the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site. To date, 33 homes in Stark and Summit Counties found to have wells contaminated with dioxane through sampling have been connected to a public drinking water system to ensure that they have safe water.

NEFCO FY2024 Work Program

New Sterling Facilities Planning Area created with NEFCO Board approval on April 17th

Mr. LaPlante reported that with the ERTAC's recommendation of approval on April 3rd, the NEFCO Board approved on April 17th, through an amendment to the Clean Water Plan, the creation of a new Sterling FPA. He noted that the relatively fast and efficient 208 Plan amendment process that allowed the Sterling FPA to be created is due to Wayne County being within NEFCO's 208 planning area. He added that counties outside of an areawide's 208 planning area are subject to Ohio EPA's timeline for 208 updates, which in the past, have taken much longer than NEFCO's amendment process. Mr. Hadley added that the NEFCO Board's approval of this amendment demonstrates that our region's four counties see value in NEFCO's wastewater management planning. He further added that a county outside of an areawide's 208 planning area, e.g., Ashland County, would need to rely on Ohio EPA's 'best science' for facilities planning and wastewater treatment options. Whereas the NEFCO Board controls those treatment options in our four-county planning region.

Ongoing annual 201/208 facilities planning areas update: approximate number of 'update areas' this year, as reported by the participating management agencies

Mr. LaPlante reported that the eight management agencies participating in this year's FPA update reported that they will have a combined total of about 60 proposed update areas, which is an increase of over 500 percent in comparison to the number of update areas proposed by the MAs last year. He added that NEFCO staff has revised the mapping guidelines to address the larger number of update areas and will be sending them to the MAs along with NEFCO's GIS data by the end of the week.

Clean Water (208) Plan website maintenance and updating: interactive online 201/208 map updated

Mr. LaPlante reported that in preparation for providing the MAs participating in this year's annual FPA update with NEFCO's most recent GIS data, the staff has updated our agency's interactive online 201/208 map to reflect the nine updates that the NEFCO Board approved on December 20, 2023. He

added that a hyperlink to updated online map was included with the PDF of the meeting agenda that was emailed to ERTAC members on April 24th.

Venue still requested for the August 7th meeting

Mr. LaPlante asked ERTAC members to contact him with venue suggestions for the August 7th meeting.

DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day; April 27th

Mr. LaPlante noted that while the U.S. DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is an annual event that protects water quality, the environment, and public health, most communities and counties have a U.S. DEA-approved drop box that can be accessed 24/7 at their police departments and/or sheriff's office to properly dispose of unused prescription drugs. Mr. Hadley added that the U.S. DEA's website has query fields to find the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day location or 24/7 drop box location closest to your home. Mr. Demasi reported that on the Drug Take Back Day, April 27th, the City of Cuyahoga Falls collected 80 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs at the Giant Eagle located in the city. He noted that this was 80 pounds of pharmaceuticals that may have otherwise been flushed down a drain or buried in a landfill.

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

Mr. Gorczynski reported that on April 20th, the City of Kent cleaned up two homeless encampments, one of which was near the Kent farmers market. He added that four four-foot by 8-foot totes were filled with encampment debris/solid waste and Dave Tree assisted the city with the clean-up, supplying trucks and a crane.

Information items requested

Mr. Etling requested a copy of selected articles.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

While no copies of Ohio EPA public notices were requested, Mr. Hadley mentioned that NEFCO received a notice after the ERTAC mailout pertaining to an Ohio EPA webinar on *The New Definition of Solid Waste Rules and Requirements for Exclusions*, on May 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. He offered to send the link to register for the webinar to any member requesting it. Mr. Demasi noted that the state stormwater conference would be held May 8-10, 2024, at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center located in Sandusky, Ohio. He added that 'MS4 bootcamp' will be on May 9th at the conference.

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 June 5, 2024, at Sleepy Hollow Lodge – Sand Run Metro Park, 1750 Sand Run Pkwy, Akron, OH 44313. (Note: On May 24th, the next meeting location was moved 2,000 feet to the east to Mingo Lodge – Sand Run Metro Park.)