

July 3, 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
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Justin Rechichar	Portage County Health District
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Paige Seech	Stark County Health Department
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Will Duck	Portage County Health District
Patrick Gsellman	EDG (Akron Waterways Renewed!)
Mackenzie Kaser	City of Cuyahoga Falls
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.

Discussion Item

“Regulatory Updates to the Clean Water Act – Ohio Wetlands Law and Compliance”; Michael Liptak, PhD, Certified Senior Ecologist, EnviroScience, Inc.

This discussion item was cancelled by the speaker due to a family illness.

Meeting Summary

The June meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

NEFCO FY2024 Work Program

Ongoing annual 201/208 FPA update progress report and next steps in FY2025, after the June 26th update submittal deadline (memo regarding the progress report and next steps in FY2025 was transmitted with agenda)

Mr. LaPlante reported that as of June 26th, six wastewater management agencies participating in this year’s annual facilities planning areas update have submitted their draft FPA update maps. He noted that the staff has reviewed those maps as well as revised iterations of them and has met with some of the MAs to assist them with completing their mapping in NEFCO’s format. He presented to the ERTAC the final draft FPA update maps of the proposed Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor FPA update submitted by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the proposed Burbank FPA update submitted by the Wayne County Office of Environmental Services. He noted that beginning on July 1st, the start of FY2025, NEFCO’s GIS specialist will use the GIS shapefiles of the proposed FPA

updates submitted by the MAs to construct an interactive online draft FPA update map. He further noted that staff anticipates requesting that the NEFCO board consider the release of the draft update for public notification at its September meeting, after the ERTAC's technical review of the update and a recommendation to release it. He added that the interactive online draft FPA update map will be used for public notification and that staff anticipates requesting that the board consider approval of the update at its December meeting, after the ERTAC's recommendation of approval. He noted that NEFCO board approval of the update in December will allow it to be submitted to Ohio EPA during the agency's next call for 208 Plan updates from the six areawide planning agencies, including NEFCO.

208 Plan updates approved by the NEFCO Board from March 2023 through December 2023, submitted to Ohio EPA on December 27, 2023 for state certification; status

Mr. LaPlante reviewed the specifics of these Plan updates and noted that state certification of them has been briefly delayed by Ohio EPA while the agency addressed public notification of its own 208 Plan update for the Big Darby Creek watershed in west-central Ohio. He added that Ohio EPA indicated that it expects to handle public notification of NEFCO's and the other areawides' submitted updates in August and that certification of the updates by the Governor is anticipated this fall.

NEFCO receives fully executed FY2025 water quality management planning contracts from Ohio EPA, allowing its contractual work to begin on July 1st, as intended

Mr. LaPlante reported that on June 10th, NEFCO received these fully executed contracts from Ohio EPA. He noted that this year, the agency focused on assisting the six areawide planning agencies in the state, including NEFCO, in receiving their contracts before the start of the upcoming fiscal year. He acknowledged that Ohio EPA's quick processing of the scopes and no delays from its legal section really aided the efficiency and its decision to use the Division Chief to sign for the agency instead of the Director seemed appropriate and prevented possible delays in executing the contracts.

Governor DeWine awards more than \$2 million in H2Ohio grants for public drinking water distribution system equipment, including \$125,000 to NEFCO region communities

Mr. LaPlante showed and discussed a slide that summarized the funding awarded to the NEFCO region communities.

Save the date: August 7th ERTAC meeting to include tour of the City of Ravenna's public drinking water system by Superintendent Amy Wilson and PFAS MCLs discussion by Allen Tyler, Ohio EPA Northeast District Office

Mr. LaPlante asked ERTAC members and their alternates to mark their calendars and invited them to join this PFAS discussion and public water system tour at the August 7th ERTAC meeting.

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

Ms. Rogalski reported that Summit County Public Health Commissioner Donna Skoda is retiring at the end of the year and the new health commissioner will be Christopher Barker, a long-time SCPH employee, following Commissioner Skoda's retirement. Ms. Vanah reported that Ohio EPA will have a booth at the Summit County Fair later this month and the agency's staff will be available to answer questions from the public.

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 another Ohio EPA public notice that isn't listed on the agenda came in on July 2nd, and it pertains to a proposed policy on variances for public water system wells. He indicated that it's listed on Ohio EPA's website.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed HB 534 and HB 616, as listed in the agenda.

Other Business

Mr. Hadley asked if there were any initial reactions from the ERTAC regarding the recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings on Sackett and Chevron. He noted that the 1984 Chevron deference doctrine had allowed vague laws enacted by Congress to be interpreted by U.S. EPA. Ms. Vanah indicated that Ohio EPA will wait to see what U.S. EPA says regarding its rules and how states should enforce them.

ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

Chair Kastner drew the ERTAC's attention to the list. Mr. LaPlante noted that 1.0 contact hour for wastewater operators is still pending for the June meeting discussion item while Ohio EPA decides if Summit Metro Parks' presentation on its recent acquisition and restoration of the Valley View area of Cascade Valley Metro Park, which resulted in the restoration of 5,000 linear feet of Cuyahoga River mainstem and floodplain, and nearby headwater streams and wetlands, is appropriate for wastewater treatment operators. Ms. Vanah clarified that the delay could be due to NEFCO's contact hour application indicating the "operation and maintenance" category instead of the general "X" category.

Next Meeting

Chair Kastner said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on August 7, 2024, at the Lake Hodgson Lodge, 5089 Lakewood Road, Ravenna Ohio 44266