

January 8, 2025
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 Appointee
Mike Fritz	City of Wooster
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Kendra Heiser	Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
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
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources
Patrick Gsellman	Environmental Design Group (Akron Waterways Renewed!)
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
David Kohlmeier	CTI Engineers, Inc.
John Schmidt	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 December meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

"HB 110, Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems and Ohio EPA"; John Schmidt, PE, REHS, Environmental Specialist II, Ohio EPA Northeast District Office

Mr. Schmidt gave an overview of the HB 110 program for local health departments (LHDs) to assume responsibility of O & M inspections of semi-public sewage disposal systems (SPSDSs), under a contract with Ohio EPA. He also gave an overview of the small flow onsite sewage treatment system (SFOSTS) program, which allows LHDs to assume authority of SFOSTS from Ohio EPA after applying through the Ohio Department of Health. Topics covered include:

- House Bill 110 Program – passed in 1984
- ORC 3709.085 authorizes LHDs to charge fees for SPSPDS inspections
 - To be paid by SPSPDS facility owner
- 29 counties across Ohio participate in HB 110
 - Ohio EPA NEDO – 12 of 15 counties participate
- SPSPDSs treat domestic wastewater in amounts of 25,000 gallons per day or less

- SPSPDS facility examples:
 - stores, schools, churches, campgrounds, restaurants, gas stations, mobile home parks
- LHD authority under ORC 3709.085
- Contract requirements and provisions for LHDs
- Ohio EPA responsibilities and provisions for LHDs under contract with Ohio EPA
- SPSPDS design references available (Mr. Schmidt showed slides of various SPSPDS designs)
- Common problems with SPSPDSs (pictures of various SPSPDS failing to treat wastewater)
- Resources for HB 110 coordinators
- SFOSTS Program
- SFOSTS: Onsite system other than a household sewage treatment system that treats no more than 1,000 gallons of sewage per day
- ORC 3718.021 and OAC 3701-29 allow LHDs to assume regulatory authority over SFOSTS – LHDs must notify the director of ODH and Ohio EPA
- ODH can take away authority if rules not followed when ODH surveys an LHD
- LHDs can also give back authority to Ohio EPA by notifying ODH and Ohio EPA
- Determining average daily design flow is less than 1,000 GPD (see OAC 3745-42-05)
- SFOSTS design examples (Mr. Schmidt showed slides of various SFOSTS designs)

Mr. Schmidt's presentation concluded with him fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2025 Work Program

NEFCO board approves FY2025 201/208 facilities planning areas (FPA) update; next steps

Mr. LaPlante reported that after the staff's presentation to the NEFCO board and request for board approval of the FY2025 FPA update at its December 18th meeting, there was a brief discussion between a NEFCO board member who is a county commissioner and a board member who is a wastewater management agency. After that discussion, the board approved the update. Staff are now preparing the update materials for submittal to Ohio EPA for state certification by the agency's January 15, 2025 deadline.

NEFCO website maintenance and updating for the FY2025 208 Plan update; status

Mr. LaPlante noted that closeout letter and board resolution approving the FY2025 Plan update have been posted on NEFCO's website, but the 21 Chapter 3 FPA Appendices from the update and interactive online 208 Plan update map won't be available on the website until about January 15th.

Next annual FPA update opportunity for MAs: Staff revising guidelines/developing timeline

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that FY2026 FPA update will likely begin in mid-February. To prepare for it, NEFCO staff will discuss any changes needed to the update guidelines and develop a timeline.

NEFCO Professional Engineer and Operator Continuing Education Credits Tracking 2024

Mr. LaPlante asked any PE or operator who would like these continuing education credits tracking documents to contact him after the meeting. He noted that he or NEFCO's administrative assistant will email copies to them.

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

Mr. Demasi provided an update on the Gorge Dam removal project, saying that the update is that there is no update because U.S. EPA hasn't awarded the sediment removal contract to date. He noted that he's participating in a conference call today with the local partners of the project and U.S. EPA. He added that the City of Akron has prepared the sediment storage site and it's ready to receive the dredged sediment.

Information items requested

Mr. Demasi requested a copy of selected articles.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

While no copies of Ohio EPA public notice were requested, Mr. Hadley mentioned that another Ohio EPA public notice came in this morning from the Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW). He noted that DDAGW just announced that the rules governing Disadvantaged Community Loans have been reviewed to satisfy the five-year rule review requirements of section 106.03 and 106.031 of the Ohio Revised Code, and it is seeking input from stakeholders during the Early Stakeholder Outreach review period on rule 3745-88-01 Definitions and rule 3745-88-02 Disadvantaged Community Loan; comments are due by February 9, 2025.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

Mr. Hadley mentioned that HB 257 (Remote Meeting Authority) that the Ohio Association of Regional Councils has been pushing is on the Governor's desk and is expected to be Enacted as law. He noted that needing to meet remotely is not much of a problem in our region, but more rural counties may have a problem getting a quorum during in-person meetings.

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 **February 5, 2025** at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.