

March 5, 2025
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Rob Kastner	Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District
Wesley Carder	City of Cuyahoga Falls
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
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Justin Rechichar	Portage County Health District
Julie Reis	Summit County Public Health
Tom Sanderson	City of Canton
Paige Seech	Stark County Health Department
Dennis Tubbs	Summit County Department of Community & Econ. Development
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Pete Wearstler	City of Alliance
Sarah Clutter	City of Canton
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
David Kohlmeier	CTI Engineers, Inc.
Patrick Gsellman	Environmental Design Group / Akron Waterways Renewed!
Mary Helen Smith	Strategic Public Health Consulting, LLC
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 February meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

“Transferring knowledge of ‘Water and Wastewater Management’ to future environmental health professionals”; Mary Helen Smith, MPH, REHS, CPH, Adjunct Professor, Kent State University College of Public Health; Owner of Strategic Public Health Consulting, LLC

Ms. Smith gave the background of her presentation, noting that the Kent State University College of Public Health is developing a new minor in environmental health. In the fall of 2024, she developed and is currently teaching the 'Water and Wastewater Management' course to educate the next generation of drinking water and wastewater professionals about the implementation and enforcement of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. She noted that the course focuses on the following topics:

- Public and individual private drinking water systems
- Publicly owned wastewater treatment works
- Centralized and decentralized wastewater treatment, disposal and discharge

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements and permitting
- Water Quality Management Plans, including CWA Section 303 concerning impaired waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Section 208 planning
- Stormwater management and the six minimum control measures.

After reviewing slides of each of these topics of her course, she concluded her presentation by explaining that as a final project, her KSU students apply the water quality standards to the Cuyahoga River watershed at the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12 level by utilizing the US EPA's *How's My Waterway?* website. After her presentation, Ms. Smith fielded many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2025 Work Program

NEFCO board approves 208 Plan updates for the following facilities planning areas (FPAs): Peninsula, Hudson-Streetsboro, and Mantua

Mr. LaPlante reported that, at its meeting on February 19th, the NEFCO board approved all three 208 Plan amendments that the ERTAC recommended for approval at the committee's February meeting. He noted that the ERTAC's contingencies for the Peninsula FPA and Mantua FPA amendments had been met prior to the February board meeting, as requested by the committee.

FY2026 201/208 FPA update begins; status and general timeline

Mr. LaPlante noted that the FY2026 FPA update started on February 18th. He went over a slide of the general timeline for the update, noting that with this update cycle, NEFCO is requesting that the wastewater management agencies submit their GIS data closer to the beginning of the cycle instead of at the end of it as with the past two FPA updates. He noted that the MAs have a firm deadline of April 18, 2025 to submit their GIS data for any proposed FPA boundary modifications and wastewater prescription changes, if they want their updates to be considered for approval by NEFCO this year.

NEFCO website maintenance and updating for the FY2026 FPA update

Mr. LaPlante described all NEFCO staff's website maintenance and updating that has been completed to incorporate the three recently approved 208 Plan amendments. He noted that the interactive online 208 Plan map now has current data that will be shared with the management agencies participating in the FY2026 FPA update.

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

Ms. Vanah reported that following Governor DeWine's executive order, Ohio EPA is ending hybrid remote/in-office working provisions for Ohio EPA staff. She noted that beginning March 17th, all Ohio EPA staff will be working in-office full-time.

Information items requested

No information items were requested.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

While no copies of Ohio EPA public notice were requested, Chair Kastner drew the ERTAC's attention to the listed proposed issuance of a permit-to-install (PTI) in Wayne County for wastewater improvements for the Sterling area, noting that at the request of Wayne County, NEFCO approved the creation of the Sterling FPA last year to make this PTI consistent with the 208 Plan.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed the two house bills and two senate bills listed on the agenda: HB 49 and HB 93, and SB 29 and SB 45, respectively.

Other Business

Chair Kastner thanked Ms. Smith for her presentation and for all her work at Kent State University where his daughter attends classes.

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 **April 2, 2025** at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.