

April 2, 2025
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Rob Kastner	Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District
Dominic DiSalvo	City of Ravenna
Ron Etling	Portage County Commissioners Appointee
Mike Fritz	City of Wooster
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
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
Amy Reichlin	Portage County Regional Planning Commission
Julie Reis	Summit County Public Health
Tom Sanderson	City of Canton
Dennis Tubbs	Summit County Department of Community & Econ. Development
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Pete Wearstler	City of Alliance
Bob Brooker	Village of Marshallville
Sarah Clutter	City of Canton
Emily Collins	City of Akron
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources
Will Duck	Portage County Health District
Stephanie Deibel	Summit County Engineer's Office
Riley Eggeman	Village of Marshallville
Katherine Holmok	Kimley-Horn Consultants
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Kris Kendle	Village of Marshallville
David Kohlmeier	CTI Engineers, Inc.
Patrick Gsellman	Environmental Design Group/Akron Waterways Renewed!
Terry Taylor	City of Akron
Heather Ullinger	City of Akron
Geary Visca	City of Fairlawn
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO
Maia Peck	NEFCO

Chair Kastner called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The March meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

"An overview of the City of Fairlawn's Rosemont Preserve wetland and stream restoration project";

Katherine Holmck, Professional Landscape Architect, Kimley-Horn Consultants

Ms. Holmck gave an overview of the City of Fairlawn's Rosemont Preserve wetland and stream restoration project, which her team planned, designed and is soon to have under construction. She explained and showed slides illustrating that the Schocalog Run watershed where the project site, a former golf course, is located is a subwatershed of the Pigeon Creek watershed, which flows into the Upper Tuscarawas River watershed. She acknowledged the funders of the project and went over its general timeline. She presented details on the goals of the project, which are to restore and preserve nearby wetlands, restore nearby stream segments that were previously channelized, mitigate flooding, and ameliorate biological and water quality impairments. She presented additional details on the benefits that this wetland and stream restoration project will have on Schocalog Run, which is currently in non-attainment with respect to benthos (macroinvertebrates) and on Pigeon Creek, which is currently in partial attainment for benthos. She also provided details on the water quality benefits of the project's wetland and stream restoration/preservation components to help reduce runoff, erosion and sediment transport, and phosphorus loading in the watershed. After her presentation, Ms. Holmck fielded many questions from the ERTAC.

Consideration by the ERTAC of a Recommendation to the NEFCO Board

*Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan for the Marshallville Facilities Planning Area to modify the wastewater treatment prescription (option) for the "Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer" (yellow areas) **ACTION REQUESTED** (transmitted with agenda mailout)*

Mr. LaPlante went through the specifics of this amendment request from the Village of Marshallville. He noted that Mr. Brooker, Service Director for the Village of Marshallville, was present to answer any questions about the amendment that he couldn't answer. He explained that the Village of Marshallville is requesting an amendment to the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 Appendix 3-44-Marshallville FPA to modify the written wastewater treatment prescription for the "Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer". He further explained that a wastewater prescription text amendment is needed to allow the Wayne County Health Department to abate a public health nuisance cause by a failing septic system in the FPA. He noted that the entire FPA is in "Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer" and the current wastewater prescription requires all failing septic systems to connect to sewer even when sewer isn't available, such as this situation. He showed slides of the FPA map from the appendix and the proposed prescription text changes. Referring to the FPA map in Appendix 3-44, he noted that neither the FPA boundary nor the prescription color (yellow) will change with the amendment. He explained that the amendment will only modify the wastewater prescription text in Appendix 3-44-Marshallville FPA to allow failing sewage treatment systems to be repaired or replaced when it's determined by the village and/or Wayne County Health Department and/or Ohio EPA that sewer is not available and/or accessible. He added that the map in the appendix will only be changed to show the correct location of the existing POTW, as shown on the slide and agenda documents. He noted that the Wayne County Health Department is the only local government entity affected by the amendment, and it agrees with the amendment after the agency's initial comments were incorporated into the draft prescription text. He further noted that the village placed a public notice in the Wooster Daily Record on March 16, 2025, and no comments or questions were received by the village during the required 15-day public comment period.

Mr. LaPlante recommended approval of the amendment. He requested the ERTAC's recommendation to the NEFCO Board to approve the amendment and offered to answer any questions about it. Chair Kastner asked the ERTAC if there were any questions. Ms. Reis asked why Wayne County Health Department added "...or illegal..." to the original prescription that requires failing sewage treatment systems to connect to the existing sewer system. Mr. LaPlante explained that this is the standard language in all the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 appendices for FPAs under Wayne County's wastewater management jurisdiction, and while the Marshallville FPA is not under Wayne County's jurisdiction, Wayne County Health Department requested similar prescription language in the past for some of the

FPA's under a village's jurisdiction. He clarified that "illegal" is intended to mean recently installed or repaired without a permit. Hearing no further discussion or questions, Chair Kastner asked if there was a motion to recommend approval of the amendment by the NEFCO Board. Mr. DiSalvo made that motion. Ms. Reis seconded it. There were no abstentions or objections. The motion carried.

NEFCO FY2025 Work Program

Ongoing FY2-26 201/208 facilities planning areas update; status

Mr. LaPlante reported that, as of the date of this ERTAC meeting, the City of Canton is the only wastewater management agency to have submitted its GIS mapping data to NEFCO. He reminded the ERTAC that April 18th is the GIS data submittal deadline and MAs that don't submit their data by that date will need to wait until the next FPA update starts in early 2026 to make changes to their FPA's.

NEFCO's GIS specialist will be available immediately following the end of this ERTAC meeting for FPA mapping subcommittee members or any MA GIS staff with questions

Ms. Peck invited FPA mapping subcommittee members and MA GIS staff with questions to meet with her immediately following the end of this ERTAC meeting.

NEFCO's and the other Areawides' state certified 208 Plan updates from calendar year 2023; status of approval by U.S. EPA and what that approval means

Mr. LaPlante noted that immediately following Governor DeWine's certification on January 30, 2025 of NEFCO's and the other Areawide's 208 Plan updates from calendar year 2023, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water staff submitted them to U.S. EPA for approval. He further noted that on March 18, 2025, U.S. EPA approved the updates pursuant to Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, and with U.S. EPA's approval of the updates, they were added to Ohio's Water Quality Management Plan. Mr. Hadley confirmed that while Ohio EPA has previously informed the Areawides that 208 Plan amendments and updates become effective immediately upon approval by the Areawides' governing boards, U.S. EPA approval of the updates means that they are more legally defensible should they be challenged in a court of law.

FY2025 201/208 FPA update and Sterling FPA amendment submitted to Ohio EPA on January 14, 2025; status of state certification

Mr. LaPlante reported that public notification by Ohio EPA of NEFCO's 208 Plan amendment to create the Sterling FPA in April 2024 and the extensive FY2025 201/208 FPA update approved by the NEFCO Board in December 2024 is now expected to occur in late May 2025. He noted that this public notification is Ohio EPA's first step in the state certification process for the Areawides' submitted 208 Plan amendments and updates from the calendar year 2024. He added that Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water staff anticipate responding to public comments in July before sending the amendments/updates to Governor DeWine for certification in late July/early August. Following state certification of the 208 Plan amendments/updates, Division of Surface Water staff will submit them to U.S. EPA for approval.

Draft scopes of services for NEFCO's FY2026 water quality management planning contracts under review by Ohio EPA; next steps

Mr. LaPlante noted that on March 13th, staff submitted to Ohio EPA NEFCO's draft scopes of services for our agency's two FY2026 contracts with Ohio EPA. He added that after the agency's Division of Surface Water staff completes its review, it anticipates sending final contract packages to the six Areawides in the state for their review and signatures by May 1st. He noted that, as with some of the more recent contracts, the draft scopes of services for NEFCO's FY2026 contracts are focusing on core 208 planning work.

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

Mr. Gsellman introduced Emily Collins as the City of Akron's new Environmental Services Manager. He noted that Ms. Collins will plan and direct the Akron Waterways Renewed and sustainability programs of the Public Service Department. Mr. Gsellman also reported that the Gorge Dam sediment removal contract has been approved by U.S. EPA, but funding to remove the dam is yet to be determined, due to federal budget cuts.

Information items requested

Mr. Hadley noted that future agenda mailouts won't contain such a lengthy list of information items since Bloomberg is cutting back on these. Mr. Etling requested copies of selected items.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

No copies of Ohio EPA public notices were requested.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed the three senate bills listed on the agenda: SB 118, SB 122, and SB 132. Mr. Givins noted that HB 182 was recently introduced to prohibit the addition of fluoride in public drinking water systems. Mr. Fritz added that the City of Wooster has never added fluoride to its system.

Other Business

Mr. Hadley asked ERTAC members if they had any concerns about recent federal funding cuts possibly affecting state funding for drinking water and wastewater projects in the NEFCO region.

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 **May 7, 2025** at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.