

May 7, 2025
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

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| Kevin Givins | City of Orrville |
| Wes Carder | City of Cuyahoga Falls |
| Stephanie Deibel | Summit County Engineer's Office |
| Ron Etling | Portage County Commissioners Appointee |
| Mike Fritz | City of Wooster |
| Eric Gorczynski | City of Kent |
| Genny Hanna | City of Akron |
| Bob Hempel | Wayne County Health Department |
| Kendra Heiser | Summit Soil and Water Conservation District |
| 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 |
| Amy Reichlin | Portage County Regional Planning Commission |
| Tom Sanderson | City of Canton |
| Patricia Vanah | Ohio EPA |
| Gordon Cromley | Portage County Water Resources |
| Dan Joseph | City of Akron |
| David Kohlmeier | CTI Engineers, Inc. |
| Paul Pira | Geauga Park District |
| Ivan Spangler | City of Cuyahoga Falls |
| Bill Zawiski | Ohio EPA |
| Joe Hadley | NEFCO |
| Tom LaPlante | NEFCO |

In absence of Chair Kastner and Vice Chair Rutledge, Mr. Givins volunteered to serve as 'chair-for-the-day' and 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

"Coldwater Stream Restoration and Native Ohio Brook Trout Conservation"; Paul Pira, Biologist and Supervisor of Natural Resource Management, Geauga Park District

Mr. Pira gave an overview of Geauga Park District's Coldwater Stream Restoration project, the first phase of which was completed in 2021, and its goal of providing high quality, self-sustaining habitat for Ohio's only native brook trout population. He acknowledged that the first phase of project was completed with \$219,000 in funding from a Section 319(h) nonpoint source (NPS) program grant through Ohio EPA. He noted that the project is expected to be completed this year with additional funding (\$1,107,662) from Ohio EPA's WRRSP program and \$159,000 from a USDA-US Forest Service-GLRI grant. He explained and showed slides of the project site, a former golf course, where Spring Brook, a previously degraded tributary of the Chagrin River is located, is now restored. He presented details on the goals of the project, which include ameliorating the NPS pollution impacts from the former golf course and restoring 800 lineal feet of Spring Brook to support and provide additional habitat for native brook trout. He also provided details on the water quality benefits of the

project, which include reducing erosion, and sediment and NPS pollution transport to the Chagrin River and Lake Erie. After his presentation, Mr. Pira fielded many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2025 Work Program

Ongoing FY2026 201/208 FPA update; status after April 25th GIS data submittal deadline

Mr. LaPlante reported that four wastewater management agencies submitted GIS mapping data for a combined total of over 400 parcels or combinations of parcels with proposed FPA updates on or before the April 25th data submittal deadline. He noted that these MAs are the Portage County Water Resources Department, City of Canton, Summit County DSSS, and NEORSD. He added that these four MAs have until June 20th, to coordinate with any affected MAs with jurisdiction in the update areas then submit their draft graphics to NEFCO. He noted that the draft graphics are PDFs of the Figure 1 update location/index map and the Figure 2, Figure 3, etc., split-screen existing/proposed FPA update maps.

Text-only updates to the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 appendices for FPAs still being accepted

Mr. LaPlante reminded the ERTAC that the FPA update guidelines were sent to the region's 36 MAs in February and were discussed at the Teams mapping meeting with the MAs in March. He explained that Step 1 of the guidelines asks the MAs requesting an FPA update to provide their GIS mapping data to NEFCO in April, which they've done. He added that Step 2 asks the MAs to provide mark-ups of the FPA appendices showing proposed wastewater prescription text changes to NEFCO for review and comment. He clarified that while NEFCO staff isn't accepting additional FPA map changes, the staff is still accepting text-only updates to the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 appendices. He noted that these text updates should be submitted to NEFCO by June 20th.

Ohio EPA Central Office staff changes: new director appointed

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that on April 14th, Governor DeWine nominated John Logue to be the next director of Ohio EPA, after the agency's former director, Ann Vogel, was named as Region 5 Administrator for U.S. EPA. He noted that Mr. Logue was previously appointed by the governor as deputy administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation in November 2024. Ms. Vanah commented that Ohio EPA district staff have communicated with the new director, and he seems to be satisfied with the way the agency's various divisions are currently operating.

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

There were no reports from ERTAC members.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

There were no Ohio EPA Public notices requested.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed the two house bills and one senate bills listed on the agenda: HB 182, HB 222, and SB 147, respectively. Mr. Givins asked Mr. Hadley if there had been any new developments with HB 182, which proposes to prohibit a public water system from adding fluoride to its water. Mr. Hadley noted that he isn't aware of any new developments with HB 182. Ms. Vanah noted that public water systems should make sure that the final bill doesn't prohibit naturally occurring fluoride; because if it does, treatment to remove it would be required.

Information items requested

Mr. Etling requested copies of selected information items.

Other Business

Ms. Kiper asked Mr. Hadley if he had the status of Ohio Issue 2, the Local Public Infrastructure Bond Amendment. Mr. Hadley noted that the unofficial results of Tuesday's vote have the majority in favor of Issue 2, and if it passes, the bonds will fund public infrastructure projects for another 10 years.

ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

Mr. Givins drew the ERTAC's attention to the list.

Next Meeting

Mr. Givins said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on **June 4, 2025** at The Natatorium, Erie Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.