

September 3, 2025
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Rob Kastner	Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District
Stephanie Deibel	Summit County Engineer's Office
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
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
James Taylor	Summit County Dept. of Community and Economic Development
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Pete Wearstler	City of Alliance
Ty Clark	Wayne County Planning Department
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources Department
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
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 August meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Consideration of a Recommendation to the NEFCO Board

*Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan to modify the Fish Creek facilities planning area (FPA) boundary to allow the Fish Creek Water Reclamation Facility to serve a portion of Boston Township presently in the Akron FPA. **ACTION REQUESTED***

Mr. LaPlante went through the specifics of this amendment request from Summit County Sanitary Sewer Services (DSSS). He noted that Mr. Nicholson from DSSS was present to answer any questions about the amendment that he cannot answer. He showed a slide of Figure 1 (amendment location map) and explained that sanitary sewers tributary to the Akron WRF are not readily available to the amendment location, which is in a southeast portion Boston Township. He further explained that DSSS concluded existing sanitary sewer within the Fish Creek FPA could be extended to the area in question in Boston Township, pending a 208 Plan amendment by NEFCO and PTI approval by Ohio EPA. He added that the Fish Creek WRF has the capacity to accept and treat the additional flow and loading of wastewater from the amendment location. He showed a slide of Figure 2A/2B (existing/proposed FPA boundary and prescriptions) and explained that with the amendment, the Fish Creek FPA boundary that is currently located along the north/south trending City of Hudson/Boston Township boundary will be expanded farther westward to absorb the amendment location in Boston Township. He noted that with the amendment, there will be no wastewater prescription change for the Fish Creek FPA map. He added that proposed changes to Appendix 3-28 Akron FPA and to Appendix 3-31 Fish Creek FPA pertain to the FPA maps, reflecting the FPA boundary modification. He further

added that written prescriptions for the City of Hudson and Boston Township are being added to Appendix 3-31 Fish Creek FPA for 'orange' and 'green' areas on the FPA map; and references to rescinded OAC 3701-29-02, -02(M) are being replaced with the current equivalent code requiring a connection to sewer when it becomes accessible, OAC 3701-29-06(I). He went over the six local governments/government agencies that would be affected by the amendment and explained that they all have indicated that they either agree with the proposed amendment or don't object to it or responded that they have no comment. He noted that the legal notice was published in the Akron Beacon Journal on August 2, 2025, and no inquiries or comments were received by DSSS during the required 15-day public comment period.

Mr. LaPlante said that NEFCO staff recommends approval of this amendment. After hearing no substantive discussion, Chair Kastner asked the ERTAC if there was a motion to recommend approval of the amendment by the NEFCO Board. Ms. Reis made that motion. Mr. Wearstler seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

*Consideration of a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to release the FY2026 Clean Water (208) Plan FPA update for public review and comments. **ACTION REQUESTED***

Mr. LaPlante and Ms. Peck, NEFCO's GIS specialist, each showed slides to help the committee understand what's being requested by NEFCO staff and to see how the mapping of the FPA updates is presented in two distinct forms – .pdf maps and an interactive online map that should be used together to view the FPA updates. Ms. Peck gave a presentation on "NEFCO CWP FY2026 Update Mapping Intro ('Part 2')". She showed slides refreshing the ERTAC on the importance of mapping scale and explained that the ratio of map to world determines precision and visibility of map details. She showed examples of a large scale map and small scale map side-by-side and explained how smaller scale maps, like the static .pdf maps of the FPA updates, hide details, such as small prescription changes of only tens of feet that can only be seen when the viewer uses the interactive online map to enlarge the map by zooming way in to the parcel level. She showed slides demonstrating how the interactive online map can be used to view existing FPA boundaries and wastewater prescriptions and proposed FPA boundaries and prescriptions by turning those layers on and off. She noted that the .pdf maps and interactive online draft map will be posted on NEFCO's website during the public comment period, and she showed a slide to demonstrate how the public will be able to post comments directly onto the online map for any update area.

Mr. LaPlante noted that subject to public review and comment are 41 proposed FPA update maps, consisting of 57 proposed Update Areas, which amount to about 431 updates – parcels or combinations of parcels, and slivers and overlaps with proposed wastewater prescription or FPA boundary changes. He noted that in all, four MAs are proposing to update the wastewater prescriptions for 13 FPAs across Portage, Stark, and Summit Counties, plus for one area outside of any FPA in Summit County; and they are also proposing to modify three FPA boundaries across Portage and Summit Counties. He further noted that 3 of the participating MAs have submitted proposed text-only updates to prescription language for the following Chapter 3 Appendices: 3-11 Windham FPA, 3-30 CVI FPA, 3-33 Springfield No. 91 FPA, and 3-35 Summit County Metropolitan Sewer District Jurisdiction Areas not part of and FPA. He added that all proposed FPA updates have had coordination between the MA requesting the updates and affected MAs with jurisdiction in the update areas. He showed slides of each update location map (index map) and selected existing/proposed maps for each of the proposed FPA updates, organized by county, with the total number of Update Areas and total number of updates to parcels or combinations of parcels, and the total number of acres being updated for each FPA update. He went over the specific proposed text-only updates to the prescription language for Chapter 3 Appendixes being updated. He noted how the public will be informed of the FPA update's release by the NEFCO Board with the ERTAC's recommendation to do so, adding that this would be done through a press release to all 4 major newspapers, local governments, and all primary MAs, a legal notice published in those newspapers, and through NEFCO's Annual FPA Update website. He then requested the consideration by the

ERTAC of a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to release the FY2026 Clean Water (208) Plan FPA update for public review and comments.

Mr. Hadley commented that the ERTAC is a very important part of this FPA update process and the NEFCO Board depends on the ERTAC's review and recommendation when it considers the release of the update for public review and comments. Chair Kastner added that he appreciates staff's time and detailed work in coordinating with the MAs and reviewing all the draft maps that were submitted to NEFCO for the FY2026 FPA update.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Kastner asked if there was a motion from the ERTAC to recommend that the NEFCO Board release the FY2026 draft FPA update for public review and comments. Ms. Reis made the motion. Mr. Givens seconded it. No ERTAC members were opposed. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.

NEFCO FY2026 Work Program

Ongoing 201/208 FPA update; challenges thus far and steps to be taken to overcome them

Mr. LaPlante and Ms. Peck summarized some of the challenges they've encountered with this year's FPA update and steps to be taken before the next FPA update begins. Both indicated that reviewing multiple iterations of the 41 .pdf maps was extremely challenging, and staff will insist that the participating MAs include the revision date on each revised map submitted for the next FPA update. Mr. LaPlante indicated that a new challenge discovered after last year's FPA update was ensuring that there are written wastewater prescriptions in the FPA appendix associated with a proposed prescription change on an FPA map. He noted that staff will insist that the MAs participating in the next FPA update include proposed wastewater prescription text when prescription text doesn't exist in an FPA appendix associated with a proposed prescription change on an FPA map.

Staff requests ERTAC subcommittee volunteers to help guide the FY2026 update of the Clean Water (208) Plan Chapter 5: Management of Nonpoint Source Pollution and Stormwater Runoff

Mr. LaPlante made this request. Two stormwater professionals from the region have volunteered to serve on this ERTAC subcommittee. He will welcome others to serve on it.

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

There were no reports from ERTAC members.

Information items requested

While no information items were requested, Mr. Hadley explained that the articles listed on the agenda are usually one to two pages in length and he will provide hard copies of them upon request.

Ohio Environmental Legislation

There was no Ohio environmental legislation to discuss.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

While no Ohio EPA public notices were requested, Mr. Hempel drew attention to Inspiration Hills Camp and Retreat Center in Burbank, Ohio, listed under Draft NPDES Permit Renewals on the agenda, noting that it's situated on 200 acres of beech/maple forest with affordable rental cabins.

Other Business

Mr. Hadley said he wanted to recognize the efforts of the City of Akron, City of Cuyahoga Falls, and Summit Metro Parks regarding the meeting held last week at Gorge Metro Park with U.S. EPA Region 5 Administrator Anne Vogel, Governor Mike DeWine, Representatives Emilia Sykes and Shontel Brown, Akron Mayor Shammass Malik, Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Walters and other project partners

to kick off the long-anticipated Gorge Dam Removal project. He added that it's great to see that funding for this very important project won't be rescinded.

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 **October 1, 2025** at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.