

October 1, 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
Wes Carder	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dominic DiSalvo	City of Ravenna
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Eric Gorczynski	Kent City Health Department
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Kendra Heiser	Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Justin Rechichar	Portage County Health District
Amy Reichlin	Portage County Regional Planning Commission
Julie Reis	Summit County Public Health
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources Department
Tom Sanderson	City of Canton
James Taylor	Summit County Dept. of Community and Economic Development
Eric Akin	Ohio EPA
Ty Clark	Wayne County Planning Department
Gordon Cromley	Portage County Water Resources Department
Will Duck	Portage County Health District
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
David Kohlmeier	CTI Engineering, Inc.
Bryce Pulley	City of Cuyahoga Falls
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 September meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Items

"The City of Kent's Cuyahoga River Clean-up and Legacies Discovered"; Eric Gorczynski, REHS, Environmental Technician, Kent City Health Department; and City of Kent Water Reclamation Division

Mr. Gorczynski gave an overview of the City of Kent's annual public river clean-up events. He noted that the history of the clean-up events dates to the late 1970s, when they were started by the Kent Environmental Council and community members. He added that the City of Kent became involved in the clean-up events in the late 1990s. He discussed the planning process for the clean-ups and showed slides of several trained volunteers removing tires and railroad ties from the Cuyahoga River and loading them into boats loaned to them by the public. Some of his other slides showed a local business volunteering its heavy equipment (backhoe/front end loader and a crane) and operators to transport the removed solid waste and load it into dumpsters to be hauled to a sanitary landfill. He noted that since 2012, the city has removed 550 tires and over 400 railroad ties from the Cuyahoga River, with over 3 tons of solid waste being removed each year. He noted that during one of the clean-up events, volunteers discovered waste oil leaking into the river from an adjacent brownfield site. Ohio EPA's involvement with the remediation of that legacy issue is ongoing.

“Cleaning our River: In & Out of the Water”; Bryce Pulley, Public Utilities and Community Outreach Coordinator, City of Cuyahoga Falls

Mr. Pulley gave an overview of how the City of Cuyahoga Falls approaches community stewardship of its watershed through annual Cuyahoga River clean-ups and public outreach events. He discussed and showed slides demonstrating how the city works to keep the river clean while in the water, through community-oriented clean-ups, river water sampling, stormwater outfall sampling, and education through school field trips. He also discussed and showed slides demonstrating how the city works to keep the river clean while out of the water, through continuing public education and outreach activities, environmental education and sustainability classes and workshops, and by forming a volunteer network of people interested in improving the water quality of the Cuyahoga River.

Messrs. Gorczynski and Pulley concluded their separate presentations by fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2026 Work Program

NEFCO General Policy Board releases the FY2026 201/208 FPA update for public review

Mr. LaPlante reported that following the NEFCO board’s release of the FY2026 FPA update at its regular meeting on September 17th, staff prepared a press release and distributed it on September 26, 2025, to the four major newspapers in the region, noting that the 30-day public review and comment period began on September 26, 2025, and that the last day comments will be accepted is October 26, 2025. He further noted that in addition to the media, the press release was sent to board and ERTAC members and each county and local government in the region. It was also posted on NEFCO’s ‘News’ website. He added that staff prepared a memo to all primary wastewater management agencies (MAs) in the NEFCO region announcing the public review and comment period and sent it to them on September 26, 2025. Staff also filed a legal ad in the major newspaper of each of our counties. He noted that the legal ad was published in the Kent Record Courier, Canton Repository, Akron Beacon Journal, and Wooster Daily Record on September 26, 2025. He reported that no comments related to an FPA update have been received during the first five days of the public comment period.

Website maintenance and updating completed by NEFCO for public notification of the draft FY2026 FPA update

Mr. LaPlante reported that in preparation for the public notification of this year’s FPA update, staff created a new FY2026 201/208 FPA update webpage on NEFCO’s website. He noted that the FY2026 FPA update webpage provides the public with background information on the FPA update process and procedures and explains the economic and environmental benefits of NEFCO having the process and procedures in place for the wastewater management agencies (MAs) to update the FPA boundaries and/or wastewater treatment prescriptions (options) under their jurisdiction. He further noted that after the board’s release of the draft FPA update on September 17th, a link to the webpage was provided with NEFCO’s legal notice soliciting comments on the proposed FPA update. He added that staff also provided a link to the webpage in the press release and in the memo to the region’s MAs. He added that staff designed the website to include a hyperlink to all the MAs’ submitted PDFs of their draft FPA update maps. It also includes a hyperlink to the interactive online draft FPA update map, which was completed before the public comment began on September 26th. He noted that the webpage ‘went live’ on September 26th, after the board’s release of the draft FPA update; and it includes instructions on the various ways the public can submit comments on any or all the MAs’ submitted draft updates.

NEFCO board approves an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan to modify the Fish Creek FPA boundary to allow the Fish Creek WRF to serve a portion of Boston Township

Mr. LaPlante reported that, on September 17th, the NEFCO board approved the Fish Creek FPA amendment in the same format that the ERTAC reviewed on September 3rd when the committee recommended board approval of the amendment, except that the addition of the City of Hudson was

removed from draft Appendix 3-31 Fish Creek FPA for the 'orange' prescription since the City of Hudson was not given the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment as an affected local government. He noted that NEFCO staff added the same draft Appendix 3-31 Fish Creek FPA that the ERTAC reviewed on September 3rd to the draft FY2026 FPA update that was released on September 26th for public review and staff solicited comments on it from the City of Hudson.

Ohio EPA sets a mid-January 2026 deadline for NEFCO and the other Areawides to submit their 208 Plan updates and amendments from 2025 for state certification

Mr. LaPlante reported that Ohio EPA staff recently announced to NEFCO and the other Areawides in the state that they have until January 16, 2026 to submit for state certification their 208 Plan updates and amendments from 2025. He noted that this deadline will allow NEFCO staff the time needed to prepare and submit for state certification our FY2026 FPA update, pending the board's approval of the update at its December meeting after the ERTAC's recommendation to do so. He added that the 208 Plan amendments that will be submitted for state certification on or before the deadline are amendments that the board approved in 2025 for the Mantua FPA, Peninsula FPA, Hudson-Streetsboro FPA, Fish Creek FPA, and Marshallville FPA, and any others that are approved by the board in November or December. He noted that Ohio EPA staff indicated that its public comment period for the Areawides' submitted 208 Plan updates from 2025 is expected to occur in March or April of 2026, as the first step in the agency's state certification process.

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

No information items were requested.

Ohio Environmental Legislation

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed HB 439 regarding surface application of brine from oil and gas wells: to expressly prohibit the surface application of brine from oil and gas wells on roads. He reminded the ERTAC that a few years ago there was an objection to similar legislation from a local manufacturer of a brine-derived deicing product called "AquaSalina[®]", and NEFCO staff had considered inviting that local manufacturer to give a presentation to the ERTAC during that time.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

No Ohio EPA public notices were requested.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

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