

**August 4, 2021**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Mary Helen Smith	Portage County Health District
Nathan Coey	City of Wooster
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Larry Fulton	Summit County Engineer's Office
Gail Gifford	Portage County Regional Planning Commission
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Trevor Hunt	City of Barberton
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA NEDO
Pete Wearstler	Wayne County Planning Department
Brandon Mantel	Donamarc Water Systems Company
Joseph Hadley, Jr.	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

**Chairwoman Smith called the meeting to order**

**Public Comments**

None.

**Meeting Summary**

The July meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

**Discussion Item**

*"Investigating Water Well Problems and Options for Rehabilitation"*; Speaker: Brandon Mantel, President, Donamarc Water Systems Co.

Mr. Mantel presented an overview of common water well problems that his company encounters and investigates as the operator of record for over 90 public drinking water systems and as the service provider for thousands of private drinking water wells. His presentation included slides of the options available for water well rehabilitation, such a compressed air cleanout of a water well, of which he showed a video. He brought his company's downhole camera, borehole and well casing scouring brush, and other water well investigation and rehabilitation tools for the ERTAC to see. Topics covered included:

- Reasons to investigate a drinking water well
- Investigation tools, including tracing dye, and a downhole camera
- Common water well problems
- Using a pump test to determine the capacity of a well to produce water
- Reasons for reduced capacity in a water well
- Water well rehabilitation methods
- Bacteriological issues with new wells versus older wells
- Physical cleaning and disinfection of wells contaminated with *E.coli*
- Testing to ensure water is safe to drink after the physical cleaning/disinfection process

Mr. Mantel's presentation concluded with him fielding questions.

### **Consideration by the ERTAC of a Recommendation to the NEFCO Board**

*Presentation of the edited draft 208 Plan's Chapter 3, Policy 3-6a and 3-6b to the ERTAC for its consideration of public notification (edited draft Policy provided in advance with agenda mailout)*

Mr. LaPlante gave an overview of the edited draft Policy and showed slides of each page of the draft. He explained in general terms, the layout of the document and how guidance sections were added to help remove any ambiguity in the Policy's criteria. He explained that the ERTAC Policy subcommittee and some of the larger wastewater management agencies that recently provided input on the draft convened directly following the July ERTAC meeting and unanimously recommended that the edited draft Policy be presented to the full ERTAC for its consideration of public notification. He requested that the ERTAC take this action. Mr. Hadley and Chairwoman Smith discussed several reasons why more time by the NEFCO staff and ERTAC members is needed prior to releasing the draft Policy for public notification. Chairwoman Smith suggested that staff compare NEFCO's draft Policy with some of the other Areawides' similar policy and with Ohio EPA's and US EPA's similar policy, if these exist. She also suggested that staff look into any legal ramifications that the NEFCO Board might encounter if it were to approve a contested FPA boundary modification under the revised Policy. After this discussion, the ERTAC's consideration of releasing the draft Policy for public notification was tabled by consensus to allow for more time by staff and ERTAC members.

*Consideration of an ERTAC recommendation of acceptance by the NEFCO Board of NEFCO's standard operating procedures (SOPs) for virtual trainings, to meet Ohio EPA's contact hour requirements for drinking water and wastewater operators (SOPs provided in advance with agenda mailout)*

Mr. LaPlante explained that although ERTAC meetings are now being held in person, to meet Ohio EPA's requirements for drinking water and wastewater operator certification and contact hour/course approval for any future virtual trainings offered by NEFCO, Ohio EPA has requested that NEFCO implement, as SOPs, the same Ohio EPA requirements for virtual trainings that NEFCO has implemented for the past several virtual trainings. He briefly went over the SOPs, which include NEFCO staff documenting attendance, periodic interactivity through poll questions and/or quizzes, and ninety percent screen attentiveness by requesting that the operators turn their cameras on during the virtual trainings. He then asked the ERTAC to consider a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to adopt the SOPs. Chairwoman Smith asked if there was a motion for an ERTAC recommendation to the NEFCO Board to adopt the SOPs as NEFCO's SOPs for any virtual trainings it provides to drinking water and wastewater operators. Mr. Wearstler made that motion. Mr. Demasi seconded it. The motion unanimously carried. Chairwoman Smith added that NEFCO staff should explore becoming an ODH-approved training facility for contact hour/course approval for the REHS/REHSIT credentials, which only requires an annual registration fee of about \$29 per year.

### **NEFCO FY2022 Work Program**

#### **Areawides/Ohio EPA begin collaborative project on data collection and mapping of sewer and unsewered areas**

*Expanded discussion on sewer line data that is needed from the management agencies*

Mr. LaPlante reminded the ERTAC about the specifics of this collaborative project, which he first reported on at the May ERTAC meeting, and then again at the July ERTAC meeting. He reiterated that for this first phase, NEFCO staff will be contacting all the wastewater management agencies (MAs), county health districts, and other stakeholders for data that is needed for the project. He requested that the MAs in attendance begin the process of providing NEFCO staff with currently available sewer line data. He explained that the sewer line data is needed by the end of the calendar year, and it should identify any sewer lines that are force mains or private sewers, which are typically inaccessible for additional connections.

*Expanded discussion on priority areas for needed sewer connections or HSTS upgrades*

Mr. LaPlante requested that the wastewater MAs, the health districts, and other stakeholders in attendance begin the process of identifying any priority areas for needed sewer connections or HSTS upgrades based on the potential for public health nuisances, stormwater monitoring results, and other factors, such as age of systems, parcel size and soil suitability for onsite systems. He noted, as he did at the July ERTAC meeting, that priority areas for needed sewer connections are generally common knowledge to the MAs, the health districts; and other stakeholders, which are not being asked to do an in-depth analysis of priority areas for needed sewer connections. He added that they only need to roughly delineate their priority areas by highlighting or outlining them with a marker on a map, then provide the maps to NEFCO staff by March 31, 2022.

**Election of ERTAC Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. LaPlante reminded the ERTAC that at the July ERTAC meeting, the committee decided to officially hold the election of the ERTAC chair and vice chair at the August 4<sup>th</sup> ERTAC meeting, since this would be the first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020. He indicated that both Chairwoman Smith and Vice Chair Kastner had expressed an interest in being re-elected as chair and vice chair, respectively, provided that other members didn't want to serve in those ERTAC officer positions. Chairwoman Smith asked for nominations for chair and vice chair from the floor. Hearing none, she asked whether there was a motion to close nominations. Ms. Rogalski made that motion. Mr. Fulton seconded it. The motion unanimously carried. Chairwoman Smith then called for two votes: She asked for all those in favor of her continuing to serve as the ERTAC's chair to respond by saying "aye". The committee voted unanimously to re-elect Chairwoman Smith. She asked all those in favor of Mr. Kastner continuing to serve as the ERTAC's vice chair to respond by saying "aye". The committee voted unanimously to re-elect Vice Chair Kastner.

**Save the date: Nimishillen Creek watershed partnership to hold its annual creek clean-up day on September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Stadium Park section of the creek near McKinley Museum; lunch will be served**

Mr. LaPlante reminded the ERTAC that NEFCO completed the state-endorsed Nimishillen Creek Action Plan in 2007 and a draft Action Plan update in 2012. He indicated that the Nimishillen Creek watershed partner's annual creek clean-up was an activity that formed as a result of the Action Plan. He asked the ERTAC members and alternates in attendance to save the date for this year's creek clean-up day, which is September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Stadium Park section of the creek near McKinley Museum.

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

Chairwoman Smith asked for suggestions for speakers and field trips for future ERTAC meetings.

**Information items requested**

Mr. Hadley discussed the Ohio Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program, as created by HB 168, which will award approximately \$250 million for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. The county engineers are assembling and will be submitting their priority project lists to the Ohio Department of Development. Mr. Fulton indicated that the Summit County Engineer's Office is putting together its list. Chairwoman Smith asked whether the ERTAC knew the deadline for submittal of the county engineers' lists. Mr. Demasi indicated that the Summit County Engineer's Office sent the City of Cuyahoga Falls a letter with its internal

deadline stated, not the state's deadline. Mr. Hadley indicated that NEFCO staff will provide more information on the process. The ERTAC discussed information regarding additional funding that's currently available from three other sources:

1. Ohio EPA DEFA's WPCLF (proposals are due at the end of August)
2. County funding directly through the American Rescue Plan Act (Ohio counties will receive a combined \$2.27 billion in direct assistance from ARPA)
3. Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program, which has up to \$500,000 available per nutrient mitigation project utilizing wetlands

#### **Ohio EPA Public Notices requested**

None.

#### **Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced**

Mr. Hadley gave a brief report on HB 349, which proposes to prohibit the construction of a new or modification by expansion of an existing concentrated animal feeding facility under certain circumstances. He also gave a brief overview of HB 364, which proposes to make changes to the application process for the waterworks infrastructure improvement surcharge. He noted that this bill was requested by Aqua Ohio since the company wanted to apply a surcharge. He also gave an overview of HB 365, which proposes to require the Director of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing maximum allowable contaminate levels in drinking water and water quality standards for certain contaminants. He noted that the "certain contaminants" mentioned in the bill include PFAS. He further noted that when other states, such as Massachusetts, established MCLs for PFAS, it resulted in public drinking water systems needing to find new source water, which proved to be challenging.

#### **Other Business**

None.

#### **ERTAC Contact Hour Course List**

Chairwoman Smith drew the ERTAC's attention to the list.

#### **Next Meeting**

Chairwoman Smith said that the next meeting would be held on September 1, 2021, at The Natatorium in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.