

**February 2, 2022**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Mary Helen Smith	Portage County Health District
Ynes Arocho	Ohio EPA
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Gail Gifford	Portage County Regional Planning Commission
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Rob Kastner	Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Doug Darrah	ECS Limited
Dawn Moeglin	Citizen
Jerry Rouch	Ohio EPA
Robert Sobnosky	City of Canton
Dianne Sumego	dms water solutions, LLC
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

**Chairwoman Smith called the meeting to order**

**Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public

**Meeting Summary**

The January meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

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

*Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water Plan to Change the Mantua Facilities Planning Area (FPA) boundary and Wastewater Treatment Prescriptions to the Parcel Level in Shalersville Township in the Mantua FPA (materials provided with the ERTAC agenda mailout one week before the meeting)*

Mr. LaPlante went through the specifics of this amendment request from the Portage County Resources Department (PCWR). He showed a slide of Amendment Figure 1, which is the amendment location map, and explained that the requested amendment would change the wastewater treatment prescription for 5 specific parcels in Shalersville Township near the State Route 44 and I-80 interchange, within PCWR's jurisdiction. He added that there is a pending PTI for a commercial development that will eventually span the 5 parcels, and that the parcel numbers for the five parcels are listed in the amendment memo. He explained that amendment would change the prescription for the five parcels from "Areas that will be Served by a POTW or by Home Sewage and Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems" (green) to Areas Expected to be Served with Sanitary Sewer within the next 20 Years" (orange) as shown in Figures 2 and 3, of which he showed a slide. He further explained that the amendment would also expand the Mantua FPA boundary to include parcels in the State Route 44 corridor; and it would also define the FPA boundary to the parcel level along the Village of Mantua's southern jurisdiction boundary. He noted that PCWR is the primary wastewater management agency for the Mantua FPA and that PCRW has indicated that the WWTP has capacity to accept the additional flow

that would result from the amendment. He further noted that there are four affected local governments/agencies, and they are the Portage County Board of Commissioners, Portage County Health District, Village of Mantua, and Shalersville Township; and that all four of these entities have responded that they have “no objection” to the amendment. He also noted that the legal notice was published in the Record-Courier on January 18<sup>th</sup>, and no comments were received by PCWR; however, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the date of this ERTAC meeting, is the 15-day and last day of the required comment period.

Chairwoman Smith used a laser pointer to discuss the proposed FPA boundary and prescription changes on the slide showing Figures 2 and 3, reiterated some of Mr. LaPlante’s details about the amendment request, and provided additional clarification to the committee. After some discussion from the ERTAC, Mr. LaPlante requested that the committee consider recommending approval of the amendment by the NEFCO Board. Chairwoman Smith asked the ERTAC if there was a motion to recommend approval of the amendment by the NEFCO Board and added that the committee’s recommendation of approval is contingent upon there being no comments in objection to the amendment being received by PCWR by close-of-business on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Jeffers made that motion. Mr. Demasi seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

### **Discussion Item**

*“Ohio’s Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Prospects: Opportunities and Challenges”;* Jerry Rouch, Ohio EPA’s Deputy Director for Infrastructure Funding

Mr. Rouch began his presentation by discussing a slide of the various state and federal water and wastewater infrastructure funding opportunities. He then went into detail regarding the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Clean Water SRF, H2Ohio Initiative funding, and the federal funding that’s available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Topics covered included:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), created by the Clean Water Act
  - In Ohio, called the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), created by the Safe Drinking Water Act
  - In Ohio, called the Drinking Water Assistance Fund or the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA)
- Ohio’s two SRFs
  - Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (for wastewater infrastructure)
  - Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (for drinking water infrastructure)
- How SRFs operate
- Eligible wastewater project examples (funded in 2021)
- Eligible drinking water project examples (funded in 2021)
- Some Ohio EPA initiatives with discounts
  - Combined sewer overflow correction
  - Lead service line replacements
  - Harmful algal blooms and nutrient reduction
  - Regionalization/consolidation/shared services
  - Back-up power at water and wastewater treatment plants
  - Septage receiving
  - Asset management
  - Planning and design loans
- SRF principal forgiveness—what is it?
- H2Ohio funds made available in the 2020-2021 biennial budget (\$172 million)
- Ohio EPA was allocated \$8.675 million per each of these years to address
  - HSTS repair and replacement

- Daycare lead service line replacement
- Water and wastewater infrastructure
- Technology assessment
- Water quality monitoring
- State fiscal year 2022-2023 biennial budget includes \$172 million for H2Ohio
- ARPA
  - Federal law that passed in March 2021
  - Contained \$350 billion in state and local funds
  - Ohio state and local governments received approximately \$11 billion
  - Four main uses of funds, one of which is to make improvements in water, wastewater and broadband infrastructure
  - Ohio passes HB 168 in June 2021, uses ARPA funds for these uses
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act = Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal = Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
  - \$1.2 trillion federal funds allocated for all infrastructure projects
  - Overall, \$60 billion is being administered through U.S. EPA
  - \$44 billion of the U.S. EPA's \$60 billion to be divvied up between 5 different SRF programs
  - Ohio to receive approximately \$1.39 billion over 2022-2026 to administer to the 5 different SRF programs
- Timelines and requirements for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Summary and key points

Mr. Rouch's presentation concluded with him fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

### **NEFCO FY2022 Work Program**

*NEFCO's interactive online 208 Plan map; status of parcel-level data for the region*

Mr. LaPlante reported that with the Wayne County Planning Department's recent contribution of Wayne County's digital parcel data, NEFCO's online 208 map now contains parcel-level data for the entire four-county region. He further reported that the online map's search function is operating properly now and can be used to search for parcels and addresses throughout the region to see how they are represented with respect to the 208 Plan's wastewater treatment prescriptions and which FPA they fall within.

*Areawides/Ohio EPA collaborative project on sewerred and unsewerred areas data collection and mapping; status*

Mr. LaPlante reported that the health districts and affected wastewater management agencies (MAs) in Stark and Wayne Counties agree with the identified priority unsewerred areas for this project and the need to provide sewer service to them, provided the MAs have a voice in scheduling any future sewer projects that may result from this collaborative data collection and mapping project and funding is available. He further reported that Portage County Water Resources (PCWR) agrees that the priority unsewerred areas identified by Portage County Health District (PCHD) that are within PCWR's service area are PCWR's priorities, with the same caveat. He added that as next steps, staff will coordinate with the City of Ravenna and Village of Windham in Portage County to see whether they agree that PCHD's priority areas are also their priorities, and with the wastewater MAs in Summit County to see whether they agree that Summit County Public Health's identified priority unsewerred areas are also the MA's priorities.

*Canal Diversion Dam Removal Project; status*

Mr. LaPlante reported that the project owner's representative, dms water solutions, LLC, recently reported to NEFCO staff that on January 25<sup>th</sup> the prefabricated Archimedes screw

pump was set in place at the construction site. The process reportedly went well. He noted that after some discussion with its contractor, FOCR moved the start-up of the pump from February 17<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>. He indicated that FOCR invited NEFCO staff and select others involved with the project to attend the start-up of the pump and provided safety instructions for entering the site. Ms. Sumego, President of dms water solutions, LLC, was present at this ERTAC meeting and provided additional information on the status of the project.

*Portage Lakes Management Plan: upcoming endorsement by ERTAC and NEFCO Board*

Mr. LaPlante reported that this item is listed on the agenda as a “heads-up” to let the ERTAC know that at an upcoming meeting soon, staff will give the committee a presentation on the draft Portage Lakes Management Plan (PLMP) and ask for its endorsement and a recommendation for the NEFCO Board to endorse it. Mr. Hadley added that the PLMP has been six years in the making and at the request of Ohio EPA, the PLMP rollout is being handled the same as a watershed management plan rollout, i.e., the affected communities will be given the opportunity to endorse the plan.

*NEFCO Sponsored Professional Engineer Education Contact Hours Course and Attendee Tracking 2021 Summary*

Mr. LaPlante indicated that he brought hardcopies of this document to distribute to ERTAC members and alternates upon request.

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

Mr. Demasi reported that the City of Cuyahoga Falls has hired a consultant to address slope stabilization on the Cuyahoga River, upstream from where the dams were removed. He added that these areas are seeing a lot of erosion. He also reported that the City of Cuyahoga Falls has a job posting on its website for a water treatment plant operator. He added that the city’s long-time water treatment plant operator recently retired, and the position is still vacant.

**Information items requested**

While no items were requested, Mr. Hadley mentioned an additional item that wasn’t listed on the agenda and said to see him for the information.

**Ohio EPA Public Notices requested**

No Ohio EPA public notices were requested.

**Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced**

None was recently signed or introduced.

**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 March 2, 2022, at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio