

**October 5, 2022**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Rob Kastner	Wayne SWCD
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Stephanie Deibel	Summit SWCD
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dominic Disalvo	City of Ravenna
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Patrick Gsellman	City of Akron
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Jennifer Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Jay Jordan	Stark SWCD
Amos Sarfo	Portage County Health District
Doug Darrah	ECS Midwest
Joshua Emanuelson	Ohio Department of Agriculture
John Timmons	Ohio Department of Agriculture
Erica White	Ohio Department of Agriculture
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

**Vice 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 item**

*“Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Watershed Program: Purpose, Projects, and Potential Impacts in the NEFCO Region”*; Guest speakers: Watershed Managers John Timmons (Region 2), Erica White (Region 5), and Josh Emanuelson (Region 6)

Mr. Timmons, Ms. White, and Mr. Emanuelson gave a joint presentation on the recently created ODA Watershed Program that was authorized last fall by House Bill 7. Their presentation included an introduction to the ODA Watershed Program management team, and an introduction to the program objectives and timeline. It also included a discussion on the importance of stakeholder engagement, and a report on the characterization of the three watersheds in the NEFCO region designated with a 6-digit hydrologic unit code, i.e., the three “HUC 6 watersheds” in the NEFCO region.

Topics covered included:

- Seven ODA watershed managers for the seven HUC 6 watersheds in the state
- ODA Watershed Program Development
- Objectives and timeline – House Bill 7 directives
- Year 1 (2022) program objectives and timeline

- Regional watershed plans: foundation for water quality efforts
  - Regional watershed planning principles
  - Long-term objectives of the program
    - Prepare for potential H2Ohio expansion and other programs
    - Coordinate regional water quality initiatives
    - Support local watershed planning and implementation
  - Stakeholder engagement – it's essential for watershed management success
  - Watershed characterization highlights for the HUC 6 watersheds in the NEFCO region
    - Region 2 land cover (Lake Erie basin portion of the NEFCO region)
    - Region 5 land cover (Tuscarawas/Ohio River Basin portion of the NEFCO region)
    - Region 6 land cover (Mahoning/Ohio River Basin portion of the NEFCO region)
  - Next steps – identify and assess appropriate BMPs based on the completed characterization
- Mr. Timmons', Ms. White's, and Mr. Emanuelson's presentation concluded with them fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

### **NEFCO FY2023 Work Program**

#### *Discussions on the difference between a 208 Plan update and an amendment; potential implementation*

Mr. LaPlante explained that NEFCO employs its efficient 208 Plan amendment process when there is an urgent situation, such as a pending PTI or public health nuisance, driving a wastewater management agency's (MA's) requested facilities planning area (FPA) boundary or wastewater treatment prescription modification. He further explained that a situation such as where an MA simply desires to make changes to its FPA to reflect current conditions or to plan for the next 20 years, would be likely be defined by NEFCO staff as a 208 Plan update. He informed the ERTAC that due to an increased interest by the NEFCO region's MAs to do the latter, and due to NEFCO having limited resources to manage both requested 208 Plan updates and amendments, potential implementation of a different process to handle update requests from the MAs is being considered.

#### *Discussion of the procedures for submittals of annual facilities plan updates*

Mr. LaPlante indicated that under NEFCO's SFY2023 Water Quality Management Planning contract with Ohio EPA that utilizes state biennium funds, staff has written a draft whitepaper that addresses how NEFCO will initiate an annual Clean Water (208) Plan update process that includes voluntary updates to be submitted by wastewater management agencies (MAs) who wish to update the boundaries and/or wastewater treatment prescriptions of their respective 201/208 facilities planning areas (FPAs). He informed the ERTAC that the draft whitepaper lays out the annual update process and procedures and contains steps to be included in the update process by the MA, including soliciting input by update-affected MAs within the FPA being modified, and a review of the draft update by those MAs. He added that it also includes steps to be performed by the MA requesting an FPA modification to produce the updated FPA map in a GIS format that is compatible with NEFCO's GIS format. Ms. Rutledge requested that staff produce map templates in NEFCO's format for the MAs to use for their proposed FPA updates. Regarding the update deadline, Mr. LaPlante noted that it will be sequenced through the development of a timeline, a draft of which has also been completed, to include a 30-day public review period and NEFCO Board approval of the Plan updates so that the updates can be submitted for state certification to the Ohio EPA Central Office by its December deadline. Mr. Hadley asked Ms. Rutledge how she would get a feel for the townships not wanting growth without NEFCO requiring responses to a request-for-comment letter from them as it does for FPA amendments. She indicated that she already has a feel for this after (for example) Shalersville Township objected to the Mantua FPA amendment at the beginning of this year until Portage County Water Resources confirmed in writing that it wouldn't require mandatory sewer tie-ins for existing homes resulting from the proposed force main extension along State Route 44 north of the Ohio Turnpike to the Mantua WWTP. Mr. LaPlante concluded by adding that drafts of the whitepaper and timeline are currently under internal review and are expected to be presented to the ERTAC for its review at its November or December meeting.

*Draft 208 Plan Chapter 4: The Management of Home Sewage Treatment Systems, Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems, and Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems; status Request for subcommittee volunteers to review the draft and provide input to staff*

Mr. LaPlante gave the status of the 208 Plan's draft Chapter 4. He indicated that edits from the previous draft from 2016 and more recent edits have been combined into one document. He noted that recent changes in Ohio EPA's 2022 general NPDES permit for household sewage treatment systems have been added to the draft and more recent changes regarding the way Ohio EPA is requiring the local health districts and homeowners to submit the Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the general permit and submit the permit fee are being added. He asked for subcommittee volunteers to review the draft and provide input to staff when it's ready to be presented to the subcommittee later this year. Ms. Rogalski indicated that she would volunteer again to be on the subcommittee. Mr. LaPlante indicated that he would follow up with other past subcommittee members to see whether they would want to participate with the review again.

*Canal Diversion Dam Removal project; status*

Mr. LaPlante reported that after several fuses in the river water pump station's electrical panel were blown after the pump test in August, Friends of the Crooked River's (FOCR's) contractor subsequently did some additional troubleshooting and determined that the pump's variable frequency drive (VFD) failed and needs to be replaced under the manufacturer's warranty. He explained that the VFD allows the screw pump's discharge rate to be reduced from its maximum discharge rate of 20 cubic feet per second, which may not always be needed, to a lower discharge rate. He added that FOCR reported to NEFCO that due to continued delays caused by the ongoing pandemic, a new or refurbished VFD won't be available to be installed until well after the USEPA grant's current project/budget period end date, which is October 31, 2022. He informed the ERTAC that with input from the project partners, NEFCO staff has been discussing the next steps for the grant with the USEPA Region 5 Great Lakes National Program Office's (GLNPO's) project officer.

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

Mr. Demasi reported that this year's clean-up series in the City of Cuyahoga Falls has so far resulted in 2,300 pounds of debris being removed from the Cuyahoga River and adjacent areas. He noted that the final clean-up of the year will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Valley Vista Park at Portage Trail Extension West and Valley Road. He also reported that there will be a public meeting on the Gorge Dam Removal Project on Monday, October 31, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Natatorium.

Mr. Gorczynski reported that the City of Kent collected three tons of solid waste this year from the Cuyahoga River and adjacent areas. That material was a legacy issue for a long period of time.

### **Information items requested**

No items were requested.

### **Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health Public Notices requested**

While no Ohio EPA or Ohio Department of Health public notices were requested, Mr. Hadley mentioned that two additional (information items) PFAS notices that were released after the ERTAC mailout, one pertaining to the State of California's recent ban on PFAS in cosmetics, and another pertaining to the State of Massachusetts recently ordering a compost facility linked to PFAS contamination of groundwater and drinking water wells to cease operations. He asked anyone wanting these notices or the ones listed to contact staff.

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

None.

**Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**ERTAC Contact Hour Course List**

Vice Chair Kastner drew the ERTAC's attention to the list.

**Next Meeting**

Vice Chair Kastner said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 2, 2022, at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.