

December 7, 2022
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Rob Kastner	Wayne SWCD
Ynes Arocho	Ohio EPA
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dom Disalvo	City of Ravenna
Ron Etling	Portage County Board of Commissioners Appointee
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Jennifer Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Roger Kobilarcsik	City of Wooster
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Paige Seech	Stark County Health Department
Doug Darrah	ECS Midwest
John Peck	University of Akron
Joe Hadley, Jr.	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Vice Chair Kastner called the meeting to order and reminded the committee that Pearl Harbor was attacked 81 years ago.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The November meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion item

“Using Lake Sediment to Assess Anthropogenic Environmental Impacts: An example from Summit Lake, Akron, OH”; speaker: Dr. John Peck, Professor, Department of Geosciences, University of Akron
Dr. Peck gave an overview of recent hydrologic changes in Summit County. He showed a slide of a graph that showed an increase in extreme rainfall and flow events in the county since July 21, 2003. He showed orthophotos of Yellow Creek in Bath Township, Summit County, from 1994, 2003, and 2015 that demonstrated how more extreme rainfall and flow events have resulted in geomorphic changes to the mainstem of Yellow Creek. He provided details on his study with students examining lake sediment from Summit Lake, Akron, Ohio, to assess anthropogenic environmental impacts. He went over the sediment coring methods and explained how color changes in sediment layers record environmental change. His presentation concluded with a discussion on the geochemistry of Summit Lake’s sediment and sediment responses to human activity, e.g., an internal loading of phosphorus that is released from the sediment into the water column in summer, and the precipitation of calcite that resulted when the lake water became stagnant after industrial water intakes were shut off in the 1980s. Topics covered included:

- Recent hydrologic change
- How we can better achieve healthy functioning environments
- Sediment as recorders of land use change
- Sediment as recorders of environmental change

- Coring the sediment record
- Summit Lake environmental history
- Summit Lake now
- Seasonal water column
- Seasonal sedimentation
- Seasonal water column and sedimentation
- Sediment record of Summit Lake
- Historical assessment of Summit Lake by using the sediment record

Dr. Peck's presentation concluded with him fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2023 Work Program

Procedures for annual facilities plan updates; draft white paper and timeline

Mr. LaPlante went over the draft procedures for annual FPA updates. He noted that once NEFCO finalizes the procedures, submittals of annual facilities plan updates by the MAs will be strictly voluntary, and NEFCO's processing of the updates will be different from the current process for proposed 208 Plan amendments. He reminded the ERTAC that there's a need for some 'ground rules' so the update process can proceed efficiently. He also reminded the committee that NEFCO currently lacks the resources to do all the GIS mapping work and the efficiency of the update process, at least initially, will depend on ability of the MAs to handle the GIS mapping of their respective updates prior to their submittal to NEFCO. He showed a slide with examples of the mapping, and indicated that other suggested ground rules pertain to these four scenarios:

- When the initiator of an FPA update is a wastewater management agency (MA) for a **municipal** FPA and the area being updated is unincorporated, the update will not proceed unless the **county** MA agrees in writing to the boundary and/or wastewater prescription modification.
- When the initiator of an FPA update is an MA for a **municipal** FPA and the area being updated is within an adjoining **municipal** FPA, the update will not proceed until there is a mutual agreement to the boundary and/or wastewater prescription modification.
- When the initiator of an FPA update is a **county** MA and the area being updated is an unincorporated area within a **municipal** FPA, the update can proceed without the municipality agreeing to it; and the municipality will be able to comment during the public comment period.
- When the initiator of an FPA update is a **county** MA and an unincorporated area within an adjoining **county** is being updated, the update will not proceed unless that affected county MA agrees in writing to the boundary and/or wastewater prescription modification.

He also went over a slide of the response form that the update-requesting MA should send to the affected MA with jurisdiction in the proposed update area. He noted that NEFCO will depend on the MAs to handle the information notification of each local government affected by a proposed update. He further noted that all affected MAs, as well as county and local governments/agencies, and citizens will have the opportunity to comment during a public comment period prior to staff seeking the ERTAC's endorsement of the FPA updates, then seeking the Board's approval of them. Mr. Kastner commented that the Wayne County Planning Commission now only has a response of being neutral regarding such matters. Mr. LaPlante responded that under NEFCO's 208 Plan update/amendment process, planning commissions aren't asked to provide a response, but county commissioners will be asked to respond to a proposed update in an unincorporated area, and in that case, if the response form doesn't indicate an agreement or 'no objection' to the proposed FPA modification, the FPA update should not proceed. Ms. Rutledge pointed out that there are two very similar responses for the update-affected MA to check off on the response form. Mr. LaPlante thanked her and noted that the response form will be revised accordingly to reflect only one of those responses.

NEFCO's desired format for GIS mapping of Clean Water (208) Plan amendments by MAs

Mr. LaPlante explained that to 'finalize' NEFCO Board-approved 208 Plan amendments, in the past, NEFCO has requested that the amendment-requesting MAs send the shapefiles of the FPA changes to NEFCO. He clarified that NEFCO only desires the shapefiles for the parcels or areas within the FPA

that changed with the amendment, not the shapefiles for the entire county, as some MAs have recently sent to NEFCO.

Canal Diversion Dam Removal project; NEFCO requests grant closeout

Mr. LaPlante reported that, as authorized by the NEFCO Board at its November 21st meeting, on November 30th, staff sent a budget amendment and formal written request to the USEPA Region 5 Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) to close out this grant. He noted that the GLNPO Project Officer confirmed receipt of the budget amendment and the request on December 2nd and indicated that he started the amendment process.

NEFCO's to distribute map of priority unsewered areas, with disclaimer statement

Mr. LaPlante indicated that NEFCO's GIS specialist is working on adding the agency's disclaimer statement to the map of priority unsewered areas (PUAs) from the FY2022 Areawides/Ohio EPA collaborative sewer and unsewered areas mapping project. He noted that this should be completed in the next few days, after which he would be immediately sending the link to the map to the contributing wastewater management agencies and local health districts that requested the map.

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

Mr. Etling requested copies of items 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health Public Notices requested

Mr. Hadley noted that after the ERTAC mailout for this meeting, Ohio EPA announced, on December 1st, that the agency is holding a Triennial Review of its Water Quality Standards, which is part of its process of evaluating whether changes are needed to these rules. He added that the Ohio EPA will be holding a webinar on the Triennial Review on December 19th and anyone that wants more information can contact NEFCO staff. No Ohio EPA or Ohio Department of Health public notices were requested.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed HB 464, which was introduced to eliminate public water system asset management program requirements and to require the Director of Environmental Protection to rescind rules governing that program. He indicated that the bill's sponsor wanted to reduce the burden on smaller public water systems. He further indicated that Ohio EPA clarified that the bill would only prevent the agency from requiring transient noncommunity public water systems with less than 25 transient people coming through the business, e.g., gas stations, ice cream shops, etc., to submit an inventory of system components regularly. He added that Ohio EPA has stated that the agency is neutral on the bill, and the Ohio Campground Owners Association is a proponent of it.

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 January 4, 2023, at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.