

July 6, 2022
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dom DiSalvo	City of Ravenna
Ron Etling	Portage County Commissioners Appointee
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Paige Seech	Stark County Health Department
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Dave White	Summit County Engineer's Office
Joseph Bishop	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Bill Weaver	Black and Veatch
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Mr. Hadley called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The June 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 Update the Akron Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and Fish Creek FPA Boundary in the Cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Stow for the Summit County Pump Station No. 19 Service Area

Mr. LaPlante went through the specifics of this amendment request from the City of Akron. He showed a slide of Amendment Figure 1, which is the amendment location map, and explained that the requested amendment is being driven by a written request on February 12, 2020 from Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services (DSSS) to the City of Akron asking the city to pursue the amendment. He added that NEFCO performed a consistency review for a pending Permit-to-Install (PTI) on April 20, 2021, and notified Ohio EPA that DSSS' proposed Pump Station No. 19 relocation project was not consistent with the 208 Plan. He showed a slide of Amendment Figure 2 (map of existing FPA boundary and prescriptions) and Figure 3 (map of proposed FPA boundary and prescriptions) side-by-side and explained that with the proposed amendment, the FPA boundary would shift westward to place the entire Pump Station No. 19 service area in the Fish Creek FPA; flow and loading would shift from the Akron WRF to the Fishcreek WRF, which has capacity to accept both. He added that there are no proposed wastewater treatment prescription changes, and that the text in Appendix 3-31, Fish Creek FPA, would only change by adding the City of Cuyahoga Falls as a secondary MA and by adding that part of Cuyahoga Falls would be served by the Fishcreek WRF. He went over the four local governments/agencies that would be affected by the amendment and explained that the City of Akron sent a request-for-comment letter to them on January 6, 2022. In response to that letter, the City of Stow requested further review; the City of Cuyahoga Falls had no objection to the amendment but attached comments to its response form; and Summit County Public Health and

DSSS both indicated that they have “no objection” to the amendment. He noted that the City of Akron sent a second letter to these affected government entities on June 14, 2022, and all four indicated that they have “no objection” to the amendment. He also noted that the legal notice was published in the Akron Beacon Journal on January 8, 2022, and no inquiries or comments were received by the City of Akron during the required 15-day public comment period or to date.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff recommends approval of this amendment. He asked the ERTAC if there was a motion to recommend approval of the amendment by the NEFCO Board. Mr. White made that motion. Mr. Hempel seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

NEFCO FY2023 Work Program

FY2023 Water Quality Management Planning contracts with Ohio EPA, status

Mr. LaPlante reported that NEFCO sent the contracts to Ohio EPA’s Northeast District (NEDO) for its review and comment in mid-June, and Ohio EPA’s Central Office was advised of this and said that it will follow up with Ohio EPA-NEDO. Ms. Vanah indicated that she just returned from a trip to Germany and would review the contracts soon.

Areawides/Ohio EPA collaborative FY2022 project on sewer and unsewered areas (PUAs) data collection and mapping

Final draft completed and submitted to Ohio EPA

Mr. LaPlante reported that NEFCO submitted the final draft map of PUAs and associated data to Ohio EPA’s Central Office on June 22nd; and the agency confirmed receipt on June 29th.

Comments from Ohio EPA – pending

Mr. LaPlante noted that while Ohio EPA confirmed receipt of NEFCO’s final draft map of PUAs, further comments from the agency are pending. He indicated that staff will address any comments received from Ohio EPA in a timely manner.

Future step - provide shapefiles to contributing MAs and health districts

Mr. LaPlante noted that the ERTAC previously suggested that NEFCO share the map’s shapefiles with the wastewater management agencies (MAs) and health districts, especially since they contributed data for this project. The committee had indicated that the MAs could use the map when prioritizing sewer projects and completing funding applications; and the health districts could use it to help abate public health nuisances caused by failing household sewage treatment systems and to help guide their decisions regarding dry weather stormwater screening locations. He reported that this could be done after Ohio EPA approves the final product.

Canal Diversion Dam Removal project; fourth no-cost extension to the U.S. EPA grant’s project/budget period end date; status

Mr. LaPlante reported that on June 10th, at the request of Friends of the Crooked River, the subrecipient of NEFCO’s \$800,000 U.S. EPA grant for this project, staff formally requested a fourth no-cost extension to the grant’s project/budget period end date to extend it from June 30, 2022 to October 31, 2022. He noted that the U.S. EPA Project Officer confirmed receipt of the extension request on June 13th, but approval of the extension is still pending.

Summit County Council approves the creation of the Surface Water Management District
Mr. White gave some of the details on Summit County's creation of the Surface Water Management District, which he indicated expands on Summit County's previous stormwater management program. He indicated that ARPA or BIL funding will be used to study a stormwater fee structure for the District.

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' Heritage Festivals this summer will include Festa Italiana, which runs from June 15th through June 17th; and CF OktoberFest, which runs from September 16th through September 18th.

Information items requested

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed item 1: "EPA, Interior Department apply Biden Justice40 equity plan to 137 Federal programs". He indicated that the recent announcement by the two federal agencies shows that there is a real rollout of the Biden Administration's equity effort, which calls for funneling 40% of the overall benefits of clean energy, fighting climate change, affordable housing, and other federal funding to disadvantaged communities; and includes many existing programs funded under last year's BIL, such as addressing wastewater treatment and public drinking water system infrastructure needs, emerging contaminants in drinking water, e.g., PFAS; brownfields, lead service line removal, and environmental justice. Mr. Hadley also briefly discussed items 7 and 15. Item 7 pertains to U.S. EPA legal tools to advance environmental justice; and item 15 pertains to U.S. EPA's efforts under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to transform U.S. recycling and waste management and the agency's request for input regarding three programs: Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program; Model Recycling Program Toolkit and School Curriculum; and Battery Collection Best Practices and Voluntary Battery Labeling Guidelines. Mr. Etling requested copies of items 1, 7, 15, 17, 19, 22, 26, and 27.

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 drew attention to items 1 and 2, which pertain to U.S. EPA's objection to Ohio EPA's renewal of the City of Euclid's NPDES permit limit for phosphorus. Mr. Hadley also indicated that attending the Ohio EPA grant writing workshop on July 27th and 28th, listed as item 5, could give brownfield grant applicants the edge that's needed to win an award over a competing applicant who has less knowledge about grant writing. Ms. Rutledge requested a copy of this item.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

None (the Ohio Legislature is on summer recess).

Other Business

None.

ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

Mr. LaPlante drew the ERTAC's attention to the list.

Next Meeting

Mr. LaPlante said that the next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on August 3, 2022, at the Goodyear Heights Metro Park, Goodyear Heights Lodge – West Room, 2077 Newton Street, Akron, OH 44305. He noted that the City of Akron has generously reserved the meeting location and organized a 40-seat bus tour of 5 Akron Waterways Renewed project sites.