

August 3, 2022
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Mary Helen Smith	Portage County Health District
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Scott Ellsworth	Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District
Ron Etling	Portage County Commissioners Appointee
Patrick Gsellman	City of Akron
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Rob Kastner	Wayne SWCD
Jennifer Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Paige Seech	Stark County Health Department
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
James Brandenburg	Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District
Alesha Hill	City of Akron
Katherine Holmok	Environmental Design Group
Brooke Huffman	Wayne SWCD
Joshua Moore	City of Akron
Ricky Papay	Wayne SWCD
Mason Steed	City of Canton
Kelli Stewart	City of Akron
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Chairwoman Smith called the meeting to order. She indicated that the discussion item, listed four items below, would come last after a brief business meeting, which would begin with the following:

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The July 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 for the Brewster Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and the Navarre FPA to modify the FPA boundary and update the wastewater treatment prescriptions for the Justus and Harmon neighborhoods in Sugarcreek Township in the Brewster and Navarre FPAs

Mr. LaPlante went through the specifics of this amendment request from the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District (SCMSD). He showed a slide of Amendment Figure 1, which is the amendment location map, and explained that the requested amendment is being driven by the presence of a large number of failing home sewage treatment systems in the Justus and Harmon neighborhoods, which were identified by the Stark County Health Department and included in

NEFCO's 2016 *Failing Home Sewage Treatments Systems Prioritization Analysis*. He showed slides of Amendment Figure 2, which is a map of the existing Brewster-Navarre FPA boundary and treatment prescriptions, and Amendment Figure 3, which is the proposed FPA boundary and prescriptions. He further explained that the proposed FPA boundary modification will place the Harmon neighborhood in the Brewster FPA from the Navarre FPA, allowing the proposed sewer collection system to move wastewater to the existing Brewster collection system and wastewater treatment plant, which has capacity to accept and treat the additional flow and loading. He noted that in addition to the proposed boundary changes described, this amendment will modify the existing wastewater treatment prescriptions in the Justus and Harmon neighborhoods to reflect the anticipated method of treatment. (The wastewater treatment prescriptions changes are detailed and summarized on a separate page that was provided to the ERTAC with the agenda mailout a week before this meeting.) He went over the five local governments/agencies that would be affected by the amendment and explained that SCMSD sent a request-for-comment letter to them on June 13, 2022, and all five indicated that they have "no objection" to the amendment. He also noted that changes to Appendix 3-17 Brewster FPA, page 3-17-5; and to Appendix 3-24 Navarre FPA, pages 3-24-5 and 3-24-6, pertain to the addition of a written treatment prescription for the orange areas under SCMSD's jurisdiction. He explained that this language is missing in the existing prescription for these FPAs, and a second letter that SCMSD sent to all five affected government entities on July 25, 2022, resulted in no objection to the addition of this language. He added that the legal notice was published in the Canton Repository on June 17, 2022, and no inquiries or comments were received by SCMSD during the required 15-day public comment period or to date.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff recommends approval of this amendment. Chairwoman Smith asked Mr. Ellsworth if the Stark County Board of Health formally declared the Justus and Harmon neighborhoods public health nuisances, which would score more points for funding eligibility through Ohio EPA's process of ranking and choosing priority projects to fund. Mr. Ellsworth indicated that the Stark County Board of Health did not formally declare the two neighborhoods public health nuisances; instead of applying for funds from Ohio EPA, the Stark County Board of Commissioners allocated ARPA funds it previously received. Chairwoman Smith asked the ERTAC if there was a motion to recommend approval of the amendment by the NEFCO Board. Mr. Kastner made that motion. Mr. Jeffers seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

Discussion item (moved to the end of the agenda)

Bus tour of five Akron Waterways Renewed projects, by Genny Hanna, P.E., Environmental Division Manager, Akron, Engineering Bureau, City of Akron, and her staff

Ms. Hanna organized and led this two-hour bus tour, which visited five Akron Waterways Renewed (AWR) projects that have been implemented by the City of Akron to eliminate combined sewer overflows. Ms. Hanna, Mr. Gsellman, and Ms. Holmok provided overviews of each project visited. Wastewater treatment operators, registered environmental health specialists, and attendees from county and municipal governments in the NEFCO region who are involved with wastewater treatment and stormwater management programs benefitted from learning about the creative and innovative AWR projects that have been implemented by the city to eliminate CSOs in a typical year. Highlights from the tour include:

- Stop 1: Hazel Storage Basin, which is a 4.5-million-gallon detention basin that prevents CSOs from occurring at Racks 10 and 11. Its impressive 108-inch-diameter, 300 hp twin screw pumps allow the basin footprint to fill completely, reducing the footprint required by the original federal consent decree.
- Stop 2: Middlebury Separation-Green Project, which eliminated 15.2 million gallons of CSOs from Racks 5 and 7 by constructing a separate new storm sewer that incorporates a terraced, beautifully planted constructed wetland to reduce the flow of stormwater, and by converting the existing combined sewer to a sanitary sewer-only flow.

- Stops 3 through 5 toured the Kelly Green-Kelly Conveyance Project, which includes a unique mix of green infrastructure projects, each beautifully planted with water-tolerant plants with its own interesting theme to engage public involvement and ownership, to reduce the flow of stormwater and CSOs to the Little Cuyahoga River.
 - Stop 3 was at the 5th and Chittenden project
 - Stop 4 was at the 5th and Duane project
 - Stop 5 was at the Kelly and 7th project

Ms. Hanna, Mr. Gsellman, and Ms. Holmok fielded many questions from the ERTAC at each stop.

NEFCO FY2023 Work Program (informational – no oral report was given)

FY2023 Water Quality Management Planning contracts with Ohio EPA; signed and submitted by NEFCO to Ohio EPA’s Central Office for processing

*Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS) – Phase 7; status
ODNR hires Aqua Doc to conduct an aquatic plant inventory*

*NEFCO staff produces online/printed material for aquatic plant inventory underway:
<https://www.nefcoplanning.org/documents/rakes-on-the-lakes/>*

Canal Diversion Dam Removal project: U.S. EPA approves fourth no-cost extension to the grant’s project/budget period end date, extending it to October 31, 2022

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 passed around a list of additional Ohio EPA public notices which were received after the ERTAC meeting mailout. The list included an announcement that Ohio EPA DEFA will host a webinar on August 10th to provide an update on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunities.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

None (the Ohio Legislature is on summer recess).

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 at 9:00 a.m. on September 7, 2022, at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. She then asked Mr. LaPlante to return to the skipped discussion item above, which he did by introducing Ms. Hanna, who provided a brief orientation of each stop that the ERTAC would be visiting on the two-hour bus tour of five Akron Waterways Renewed (AWR) projects.