

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

**Attendance**

Mary Helen Smith	Portage County Health District
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Ron Etling	Portage County Commissioners Appointee
Dominic Disalvo	City of Ravenna
Larry Fulton	Summit County Engineer's Office
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Rob Kastner	Wayne SWCD
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
Paige Seech	Stark County Health Department
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Mason Steed	City of Canton
Carter Bailey	AQUA DOC, Inc.
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Maia Peck	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

**Chairwoman Smith called the meeting to order.**

**Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**Meeting Summary**

The August meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

**Discussion item**

*"Aquatic vegetation/harmful algal blooms management"; Carter Bailey, Portage Lakes Management Study partner and aquatic biologist with AQUA DOC, Inc.*

Mr. Bailey gave an overview of management strategies for aquatic vegetation and algae, including harmful algal blooms (HABs), in lake ecosystems. He discussed in detail, where aquatic plants and algae grow and why. His presentation covered how certain invasive species of aquatic plants, such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, can spread through fragmentation and can lead to habitat loss due to a crowding out of the native species of plants. He explained how blue green algae and other algae can spread in a lake ecosystem and how to manage algae through proper wastewater treatment, the implementation of watershed action plans to reduce nutrient loading; and through mechanical/physical, chemical, and biological controls. His presentation also covered how to test for and manage cyanotoxin that can be associated with blue green algae; and it covered cyanotoxin's public health impacts when it is present in public drinking water systems. Topics covered included:

- Three major growth types of aquatic vegetation
- Where do aquatic plants grow and why?
- Methods of aquatic plant management

- Watershed management
- Mechanical/physical control
- Chemical control
- Biological control
- Licensing requirements for herbicide and algaecide applicators in the State of Ohio
  - ODA licensing requirements
  - Ohio EPA licensing requirements
- Active ingredients in herbicides
- Active ingredients in algaecides
- North Reservoir Eurasian Watermilfoil Case Study in Portage Lakes, Summit County
- Collecting, analyzing, interpreting water quality data before/after herbicide applications
- Three major algal growth types
- Where does algae grow and why?
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
  - What are they
  - How do we control them?
- Roaming Shores HABs Case Study
- Cyanotoxin (microcystin) analysis

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

### **NEFCO FY2023 Work Program**

#### *Election of ERTAC Chair and Vice Chair*

Mr. LaPlante explained that both Chairwoman Smith and Vice Chair Kastner indicated that they would run for re-election, but only if other ERTAC members didn't want the opportunity to serve as these officers of the committee. He then asked if there any other nominations for ERTAC chair and vice chair. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion to re-elect Mary Helen Smith as the ERTAC's chair and Rob Kastner as the ERTAC's vice chair. Mr. Givins made that motion. Ms. Kiper seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion passed.

#### *FY2022 NEFCO Work Program Completion Report is available upon request*

Mr. LaPlante explained that the SFY2022 NEFCO Water Quality Management Planning Completion Report contains a summary of activities and each work product from the organization's two SFY2022 contracts with Ohio EPA, Ohio SFY2022 biennium budget funding and 604b contracts. He further explained that NEFCO provides the completion report to Ohio EPA at the end of each state fiscal year to partially meet its obligations for the two contracts. He asked attendees at this meeting to contact him if they wish to receive a copy of the completion report.

#### *FY2022 ERTAC meeting agendas and summaries are available upon request*

Mr. LaPlante asked attendees at this meeting to contact him if they wish to receive copies of the FY2022 ERTAC meeting agendas and summaries. He explained that NEFCO provides these to Ohio EPA at the end of each state fiscal year to partially meet its obligations for the two Water Quality Management Planning contracts mentioned above.

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

Mr. LaPlante reminded newer ERTAC members in attendance at this meeting that NEFCO is the recipient of an \$800,000 USEPA grant for this project, and Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR) is the grant's subrecipient and local implementor. He added that as requested by FOCR, on June 10<sup>th</sup>, staff sent a formal request to USEPA to extend the project/budget period end date from June 30, 2022 to October 31, 2022. He reported that this extension was finally

approved by USEPA Region 5 on July 12<sup>th</sup> with no lapse in the grant. He noted that while the entire \$800,000 has been expended and both dams were removed in 2020, FOCR needed the grant's project/budget period extended to allow it to continue using Supplemental Environmental Project funds from Ohio EPA to complete the installation and start-up of the screw pump that's needed to return the flow of river water to the adjacent historic section of the Ohio and Erie Canal within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He mentioned that at the beginning of this month, FOCR and the project owner's representative reported that the project team ran the screw pump on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> during work hours without the bar screen over the discharge pipe outlet and had no issues. The team started the pump again on August 17<sup>th</sup> to run continuously, as it was designed to do. In the early hours of August 18<sup>th</sup>, the pump shut down. Several fuses in the electrical panel were blown. FOCR's contractor subsequently did some troubleshooting at the site to determine any electrical issues, which continue to persist. Coordinating with the electrical panel manufacturer to get its electricians to the site to do continued troubleshooting has been slow due to the vacation season.

### **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 agenda items 3, 5, 6, and 8-10.

### **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 agenda item G-1, "*Ohio EPA hosts webinar on NPDES Permitting New and Proposed Rules and Policies*", September 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Mr. LaPlante added that this webinar is approved for 1.0 wastewater operator contact hour and 1.0 contact hour for registered environmental health specialists. The list included an announcement that the PowerPoint from the webinar that Ohio EPA DEFA hosted on August 10<sup>th</sup> to provide an update on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunities is also available. Chairwoman Smith noted that Ohio EPA is changing its HSTS general NPDES permit Notice-of-Intent (NOI) for coverage procedures, requiring that health districts and homeowners submit NOI forms and fee payments electronically. Ms. Rogalski noted that Ohio EPA staff met with Summit County Public Health staff for the initial training on the new procedures. Ms. Vanah commented that Ohio EPA is moving toward the goal of having all forms and fee payments submitted electronically through its eBiz website.

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

None.

### **Other Business**

Mr. LaPlante advised the ERTAC regarding the upcoming Wooster FPA update. Ms. Kiper noted that the Wayne County Planning Commission's Intergovernmental Review (IGR) process has new rules that require the Wayne County Planning Commission to remain neutral when reviewing proposed 208 updates or amendments. Mr. Hadley added that the IGR process is Wayne County's process, it's not the same as NEFCO's 208 update and amendment process. He explained that the Wayne County Planning Commission is not considered an affected entity under NEFCO's process. Mr. LaPlante added that NEFCO's process has a standard response form for affected entities to complete. Chairwoman Smith asked staff to provide future agenda items regarding the difference between a 208 update versus an amendment, and on the status

of the initiation of an annual update of facilities planning areas for those management agencies wishing to participate in it.

**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 October 5, 2022, at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.